

Trinity 11 Sunday 23rd August 2020

Opening Antiphon

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

Serve the Lord with gladness!

Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the Lord, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

For the Lord is good;

his steadfast love endures forever,

and his faithfulness to all generations.—Psalm 100

Call to worship:

The Lord our God, the Almighty reigns

Let us rejoice and shout for joy, giving God the glory

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Prayer of Preparation

Loving God, we have come to worship you.

Help us to pray to you in faith,

to sing your praise with gratitude,

and to listen to your word with eagerness;

through Christ our Lord. Amen

Penitential Rite

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden,
to ask for his forgiveness and peace.

For behaving just as we wish,
without thinking of you;

Father, forgive us:

save us and help us.

For failing you by what we do,
and think and say;

Father, forgive us:

save us and help us.

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you
by temptations in the world about us;

Father, forgive us:

save us and help us.

The almighty and merciful Lord
grant *you* forgiveness of all *your* sins,
time for amendment of life,
and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

Lord God, heavenly King,

almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature
by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

1st Reading: Romans 12:1-8 (NIV)

A Living Sacrifice

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. **2** Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test

and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Humble Service in the Body of Christ

3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. **4** For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, **5** so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. **6** We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; **7** if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; **8** if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Response:

**For I'm building a people of power
And I'm making a people of praise
That will move through this land by My Spirit
And will glorify My precious name**

**Build Your church, Lord. Make us strong, Lord.
Join our hearts, Lord, through Your Son
Make us one, Lord In Your Body
In the kingdom of Your Son**

Words and music Dave Richards

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia.

Your words are Spirit Lord and they are life

You have the words of eternal life. *Jn 6:63:68*

Alleluia

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 16:13-20 New International Version (NIV)

Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

15 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. **18** And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. **19** I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

20 Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Jesus asked Peter

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”
Peter answered, “You are the Christ - the Son of the living God”

We may be inclined to hear too much as Peter declares “you are the Son of the Living God” - for Peter at this point does not mean by that - that Jesus is the Second Person of the Trinity. No one as yet thought that the coming King would himself actually be divine - but rather that the Messiah that they waited for would be God’s special representative - King by divine appointment.

However Peter’s statement is a very risky political statement - it represents a huge political challenge - If Jesus was the true King then what of Herod and even Caesar? If this is faith - then it is also treason... and that is reason enough to tell the disciples not to tell anyone...

And in the moment where Peter tells Jesus who Jesus is - Jesus turns to tell Peter who Peter is. Peter’s confession becomes the moment of Peter’s commissioning... his call to service.

“Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

I wonder what Peter thought about that - how he understood what Jesus said? Or did he like Mary, ponder these things in his heart. I suspect that Peter didn’t feel much like a rock at this point - and when we look at the things he still has to

learn, the mistakes he will make we may not think that rock is the best description of this man either...

But we have a God who believes in us before we ever believe in Him!!!

Peter, with his declaration of faith, is the starting point of the community of believers; He is the first of many who will joyfully and eagerly proclaim what God alone has made known - that Jesus Christ is Lord - the Messiah - the one who was to come. **And** Peter is the first of the followers of Jesus who will inherit his mission to preach and teach the Gospel, to make God's kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. I don't know about you, but Jesus' question to Peter leaps off the pages of this Gospel as a question to me.

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"

As a post resurrection and trinitarian people the declaration of faith that we make is likely to be different from Peter's ... Our answer to "Who do you say that I am?" You are the Christ the Son of the Living God has taken a whole new perspective We proclaim this Jesus as Immanuel - **God with us**

The declaration of faith that we make should have us on our knees in awe and wonder. We say it so easily, so casually, so often, that I think we rarely pause to realise what we are actually saying.

When we say and we hold that...

.. “God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

... we make a breathtaking statement of faith, and one no less political or counter cultural than Peter’s. And in many parts of world with the same deadly potential.

If Peter’s statement of faith made him the rock, the first of the followers to inherit Jesus’s mission to preach and teach the Gospel to make God’s kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven, then we are the rocks and stones and the pebbles... of now ... of today.

Just as Peter’s statement of faith was accompanied by a commissioning from Jesus so is ours. Hear again what we read from St Paul this morning:

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. We all have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.”

This list of gifts is by no means exhaustive - if your gift is art or craft or music, if it is listening or supporting or hospitality, if it is prayer or intercession, if it is washing and ironing or cleaning, if it is the wonders of modern technology . . . and so

on . . . then lay your gifts at the service of the living God and the spread of the Gospel. . .

We may feel more like jellies and blancmanges than pebbles or stones or rocks, but in making our statement of faith - and in laying down our lives in worship and thanksgiving and then in service - **we will be transformed, God will build his church** and the gates of the underworld will not prevail against it...

Response. Take my life and let it be

**Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my voice, and let me sing
Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee,
Filled with messages from Thee.**

**Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure-store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for Thee.**

Frances Ridley Havergal (1874)

Our Declaration of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

cf Philippians 2.6-11

**Intercessions: Prepared and led for us by Gillian Marshall
Davies, Lay leader of Worship, St Mary's Meppershall**

Let us pray to our Father.

Heavenly Father, we pray for the Church. We thank you for sending your only Son, Jesus Christ and revealing him as the Messiah and Son of the living God. Thank you for giving Peter the keys of the kingdom of heaven after he was so solid and brave in his faith that he became the rock upon which the Church was built here on earth.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Father as we present ourselves before you in prayer, help us to focus fully on you in body, mind and spirit. You know Lord that we are not perfect and that sometimes we end up 'going through the motions' of worship and not serving you fully like we should. Bring our focus back to you Lord so that we can continue to serve you with our whole self.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

We pray especially at this time for the church and the challenges it faces amidst the coronavirus pandemic across the world. We pray for the world leaders and those in authority who are making the decisions and trying to tackle the ongoing devastating effects this virus continues to cause.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

Father God, as places of worship open their doors again locally, across the country and the world, we pray and ask that it might always provide a solid foundation upon which we can anchor our lives. Let us remember the Christians who put their lives at risk because of their faith. We pray for strength and safety of people who, facing violence, verbal or physical abuse or death continue to have an unwavering faith.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, give them courage and hope in their troubles; and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Let's pause for a moment to call to mind anyone in our lives currently suffering...

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Merciful God, we remember those who have gone before us and those who are saddened by their passing. Be with the bereaved in their loneliness and give them the faith to look beyond their present troubles to your Son Jesus Christ who died and rose again.

Let's pause for a moment to call to mind anyone personal to us...

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

Faithful God, forgive us when we turn to you only when things trouble us and when we forget to thank you for your blessings and bounty. Help us to recognise all the wonderful things in your world for which we should be grateful and send us out into the coming week ready to show our gratitude in all that we do and say.

Merciful Father accept these prayers for the sake of you Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Let's pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in Heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Notices and Birthdays

The BLESSING and SENDING

**God of power,
may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,
may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,
may the gifts of your Spirit equip us
to serve and worship you
now and always. Amen. *And the blessing.....***

Go into the world
to walk in God's light,
to rejoice in God's love
and to reflect God's glory. **Amen.**

Final acclamation:

**Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising.
Give me joy in my heart, I pray.
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising.
Keep me praising till the break of day.**

Refrain:

**Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King of kings!
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King!**

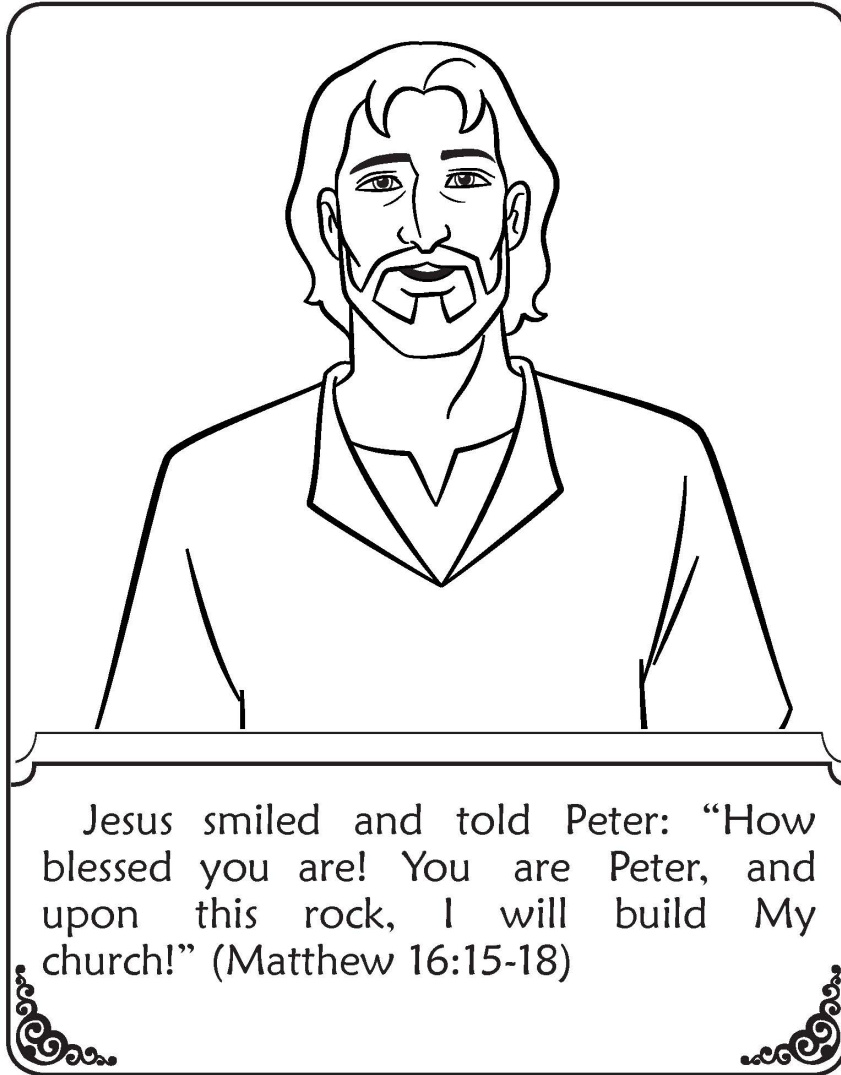
**Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting.
Give me peace in my heart, I pray.
Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting.
Keep me resting till the break of day. [Refrain]**

Give me love in my heart, keep me serving.. [Refrain]

Give me oil in my lamp keep me burning.... [Refrain]

Traditional

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Who did Peter say Jesus is?

"You are, the
"

Who do you say Jesus is?

I AM
JESUS
 Holy One
 King of Kings
 Emmanuel
 Messiah
 Prince of Peace
 Savior
 Everlasting Father
 Lord of Lords
 Deliverer
Name Above All Names
 Redeemer

Peter's Confession of Christ

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Matthew 16:15 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 16:13-20 (NIV)



I W H Q O X N F C T Z V D L M
P V V P O E U A Z F U I B O M
E R Y G V M S T S P S Y D R N
O X O A R J R H B M E G O O M
P P E P G E D E L G N T S C S
L H I I H E L R B I S P E K E
E K F R S E Y I K A V U V R U
U T E S W I T J J O P I M O W
M H E Y O E Q S E A A T N P I
T L C T S A J I Z R H J I G M
B A H Y P R P J S I E K O S L
X P R J N T F E J A D M A H T
I L I B U H D J L A J P I X N
J J S Y L A J G A T E S T A T
G L T E H U I S A C H U R C H

CHRIST
BLESSED
LIVING
JOHN

EARTH
KINGDOM
ROCK
HEAVEN

SON
CHURCH
FATHER
PETER

PROPHETS
GATES
HADES
KEYS

PEOPLE
BAPTIST
ELIJAH
JEREMIAH