

Morning Worship for Trinity Sunday

Preparation

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts:
the whole earth is full of his glory.

Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength;
ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name.

The whole earth is full of his glory.

The Lord shall give strength to his people;

the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts:

the whole earth is full of his glory.

Opening Prayer

Holy God,

faithful and unchanging:

enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth,

and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love,

that we may truly worship you,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Cast your burden upon the Lord:

And he will sustain you.

Create in us clean hearts O God:

And renew a right spirit within us.

Cast us not away from your presence:

And take not your Holy Spirit from us.

Give us the joy of your saving help:

And sustain us with your life-giving Spirit.

Blessed be the Lord day by day:

The God of our salvation who bears our burdens.

We confess our sins.

God the Father forgives us in Christ

and heals us by the Holy Spirit.

Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness,

all slander and malice,

and confess our sins to God our redeemer.

(cf Ephesians 4.30,32)

Come, let us return to the Lord and say:

Lord our God,

in our sin we have avoided your call.

Our love for you is like a morning cloud,

like the dew that goes away early.

Have mercy on us;

deliver us from judgement;

bind up our wounds and revive us;

in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May almighty God,

who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,

bring you his pardon and peace,

now and for ever. **Amen.**

Praise

O Lord, open our lips:

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Let us worship the Lord:

All praise to his name.

Gloria in Excelsis

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.

The word of God

A reading from 2 Corinthians 13:11-end

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

A reading from the gospel of Matthew

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.' (Matthew 28:16–20)

A reflection by Revd Stephen Burge

A lot of preachers tend to approach Trinity Sunday with a deep sense of trepidation; it is, after all, something of a theological minefield and there is a pervading fear of being caught out committing of heresy. Yet, I have always felt that if we ignore the theological intricacies and complexities of how the Trinity works, and think instead about what God has done for us, the Trinity is much easier to grasp. The words of Grace, the prayer that we have been saying every week at the end of Morning Prayer, is one of the most succinct, beautiful and powerful descriptions of the Trinity; one that encapsulates all that God has done for us.

I have always liked and appreciated the words of the Grace, but they have taken on a whole new meaning and resonance during lockdown – the idea that even though we are physically apart we are together in Spirit, has been a great comfort. Perhaps that should be no surprise because the words of the Grace have been a great comfort to many over the centuries since Paul wrote them. They are, indeed, very beautiful words: 'The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen.' (2 Cor 13:13)

Grace is a word that appears a lot in St. Paul's letters and can be easy to forget how powerful a word it is. For Paul, humans had

erected great barriers of sin between themselves and God. To bring us into a better relationship with God and to break down that barrier, God sent Jesus into the world. Through Jesus' suffering on the cross, when he took on the sins of the whole world, Jesus enabled us to enter into a relationship with God, a relationship in which we could flourish and receive the great benefits that God gives us. It is through Christ's passion that we can be forgiven for all the things that we have done wrong and the barrier between us and God in broken down. The Grace we give thanks for, is the comfort of being forgiven.

Paul then turns to the love of God. When I hear these words, I always think of Jesus' words in John's Gospel, 'God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.' (Jn 3:15). What God wants for all of us is for us to have a relationship with Him and God sent his only Son, Jesus, into the world so that we can. And this relationship is a personal relationship that we have with God. We can often feel dwarfed by the world around us, which is so vast; yet God knows us intimately, he calls us by name, and places us in his care. The creator of the heaven and the earth, of all things visible and invisible, loves us deeply and personally.

Paul ends with the communion or fellowship of the Holy Spirit. As with grace, the idea of the fellowship can be more profound than we might think. When Paul talks of fellowship, he does not simply mean a sense of unity in prayer with each other, but fellowship with the Spirit is what draws us into the love of God.

Last week, we heard Luke describe the miraculous things that the Holy Spirit let the disciples do: when they spoke, everyone heard them in their own language. We too can often want to be given a miraculous sign that God is with us. We can also sometimes feel deficient because we haven't heard a great voice from on high telling us what to do. But it does us good to remember that the Spirit works in many ways and works in our lives in many ways too. If we have ever felt touched or moved by God, we have been in fellowship with the Spirit, just as the disciples were; if we have ever felt a deep sense of knowing within ourselves that something is right, then we have been in fellowship with the Spirit; if we have ever had the feeling that we are in the right place at the right moment to do something or receive something from God, then we have been in fellowship with the Spirit. The Spirit is how we feel and experience God in our lives: it is what

binds us holds us together with God, and it is what sustains us along life's way.

The words of the Grace show us that God brings us into life, that God redeems us through the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross, and that God sustains us and unites in fellowship with Him through the Spirit. Our experience of God as our creator, redeemer and sustainer changes us, makes us new, and turns us into the people that we are called to be.

So how should we respond? We should respond with faithful and thankful hearts for the unending grace and abounding love that God bestows on us. This is what worship is all about – it is about recognizing God as our creator, redeemer and sustainer. A second, equally important, response is to share the news and joy of that grace and love with others. When Jesus told his disciples to go and 'make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' (Matt 28:19) this is what he is calling us to do. He calls us all to rejoice and share in the Good News of Jesus, but, above all, we are called to share the grace, love and fellowship that God has given us with all whom we meet.

Our faith

Let us declare our faith in God Father, Son and Holy Spirit

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession led by Barbara Morton

Father we know that you hear us when we pray in faith. Hear us now as we pray for our local parishes and their clergy as they seek to lead us in spreading the Gospel of Christ here in Eaton Bray. We pray for Elizabeth our queen and thank you for her example of leadership throughout her life. We pray for your church throughout the world that they may show your love to others even where it is difficult to be a Christian. We pray for all taking part in Thy Kingdom Come. May our prayers help to heal the world. Keep us strong in faith and love. Give us all the joy of the knowledge that we belong to you and nothing can separate us from your love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our world, especially for areas where there is war or famine. We pray especially at this time for America and its people. May the struggle for equality finally be won. We pray for all those who live in fear because of their colour. We pray that those who would oppress them will realise that you love all your children, and all are of equal value in your eyes. We recognise that we have many blessings in this country – help us to appreciate all that we have, especially the support and medical aid which is so freely available to us. We pray that you will help us to use our advantages for the good of all, not just ourselves. Help us not to worry for the future, but to trust in your goodness to us, knowing that you will always care for your children. May we be the instruments of aid for those needing help, both in our local community and further afield. We pray for our local foodbanks as they help members of our communities who are in need. We pray that soon they will cease to be necessary. We think of those people who are homeless and pray that they will receive the help they need.

We pray for our government, that they will promote policies which ensure that all people have a home and enough to live on. May they look to you for guidance through the pandemic. In all matters of daily life, give us Your light and Your truth to guide us in our ways so that we may seek Your will in our lives and impact the world around us for Your Kingdom. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those who may be suffering from illness at this time, whether physical or mental. We pray especially for all those suffering from the virus, that if it is your will, they will recover. We pray for those in pain and thank you for the medical staff who attend them. Comfort those who feel that they may never be well again, and give them healing. We pray for those suffering from mental illness, especially those who are depressed and cannot see a way forward.

We pray for all those who are lonely, unable to form friendships or maintain relationships. Help us to see who needs a kind word or a visit and to act accordingly. We pray for all those on our prayer board and prayer list, and for all known personally to us.

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

We remember all those who have recently died. We pray for their loved ones who mourn their passing, that they may have the knowledge of your love and care. We give thanks for the knowledge that you have promised that death is not the end for us, but merely the beginning of a wonderful new existence. Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

A prayer for the coronavirus pandemic

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

We join together with Christians throughout the world in the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Conclusion

The Collect for the day

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the

eternal Trinity and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity: keep us steadfast in this faith, that we may evermore be defended from all adversities; 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.

You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honour and power.

For you have created all things,
and by your will they have their being.
You are worthy, O Lamb, for you were slain,
and by your blood you ransomed us for God.
From every tribe and language and nation,
**you have made us to be a kingdom and priests
serving our God.**

To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
**be blessing and honour and glory and might
for ever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 4.11;5.9b,10,11)**

We end with the words of the Grace, an ancient Christian prayer of fellowship, remembering that although we are not together in person, nothing can separate us from the love of God found in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all evermore. Amen.**



Please let us know if you want us to pray for you either individually or if you would like to be included in the Prayer Chain.

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Reverend Stephen Burge

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Times and Seasons: The Liturgical commission of the Church of England