

Sunday October 17

We have come together as the family of God in our Father's presence to offer him praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive his holy word, to bring before him the needs of the world, to ask his forgiveness of our sins, and to seek his grace, that through his Son Jesus Christ we may give ourselves to his service.

So, let us be still as we come into the presence of God.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

Give thanks to the Father, who has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and made us partakers in the inheritance of the saints in light.

We light this candle as a reminder that Jesus Christ is the light of the world. A light no darkness can quench

The candle is lit,

I weave a silence on to my lips
I weave a silence into my mind
I weave a silence within my heart
I close my ears to distractions
I close my eyes to attractions
I close my heart to temptations

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. Amen.

HYMN

Thou, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard,
and took their flight;
hear us, we humbly pray,
and, where the Gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray,
let there be light!

Thou who didst come to bring
on thy redeeming wing
healing and sight,
health to the sick in mind,
sight to the in-ly blind,
O now to all mankind,
let there be light!

Spirit of truth and love,
life-giving holy Dove,
speed forth thy flight!
Move on the waters' face
bearing the lamp of grace,
and, in earth's darkest place,
let there be light!

Holy and blessed Three,
glorious Trinity,
Wisdom, Love, Might;
boundless as ocean's tide,
rolling in fullest pride,
through the world far and wide,
let there be light!

J Marriott

CONFESSION

May your loving mercy come to me, O Lord,
and your salvation according to your word:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light to my path:

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

O let your mercy come to me that I may live,
for your law is my delight:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The Lord enrich us with his grace, and nourish us with his blessing; the Lord defend us in trouble and keep us from all evil; the Lord accept our prayers, and absolve us from our offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

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PRAYER FOR TODAY

God, the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church: by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the joys of eternal life; 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

CANTICLE: A song of mercy and truth

O God, will you not give us life again,
that your people may rejoice in you?

Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

Truly, his salvation is near to those who fear
him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Mercy and truth are met together,
righteousness and peace have kissed each
other;

Truth shall spring up from the earth
and righteousness look down from heaven.

Righteousness shall go before him
and direct his steps in the way.

**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.**

READING

The reader says

The reading is from Mark 10:35-45

After the reading, the reader says

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

It's always sad when you find your heroes have feet of clay, that they are ordinary people. The bible depicts people warts and all. The disciples were no different to us, they had their faults, failings, squabbles, and petty ambition. In our reading we have a picture of a mother pushing her boys forward.

Why did she do it? Perhaps because they were too frightened to speak for themselves. After all, it was an understandable ambition, after all Jesus going places. The man who was marked for the top. Not that they really understood what that meant. If Jesus was continually talking about heaven then why couldn't they be at his right hand?

James and John were not alone. The disciple's response was one of indignation. 'Who do they think they are?' Perhaps, they wished they'd thought of it first. Jesus responding to all of them asked a searching question – 'do you know what you are asking? Are you able to drink the cup I drink?' Blithely they say 'yes'.

To have an ambition to serve God is great. To be concerned about rewards is to distort our calling. The key to this passage is that true greatness is found in servanthood. Jesus was among us as one who serves. And he calls us to follow him, as servants.

When we say 'yes' to God we don't know what the future holds only that he holds the future and he is the one who will be faithful and sustain us, come what may. In 44AD James was martyred as part of the great persecution under Herod Agrippa. He got to drink of the cup that Jesus drank from. By then he had learned the lesson of being a servant.

Brother, sister, let me serve you,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant, too.

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HYMN

Rejoice, the Lord is King:
Your Lord and King adore!
Mortals, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore.

Refrain;

Lift up your heart, Lift up your voice!

Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When He has purged our stains,
He took his seat above;

His kingdom cannot fail,
He rules o'er earth and heav'n;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus giv'n:

He sits at God's right hand
till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command,
and fall beneath his feet.

INTERCESSIONS

Lord Jesus Christ, you have called us, make us worthy of our calling. Let us see you in others and let others see you in us. Open our hearts that we might be sensitive to the needs of others and make us ready to help and show your care and compassion. May your church be a community of welcome, healing and wholeness, known for the way in which we serve the needs of the world.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

As the world faces dramatic changes due to climate change, guide and direct those who will gather in Glasgow for the COP 26 talks, that they may make decisions which address the crisis. Give to the leaders of nations and industry the will to implement changes which will impact for good on the lives of all.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We continue to pray for the places throughout the world where there is war and unrest. For the victims of violence and for those who care for them. Guide and direct those who seek peace, reconciliation and understanding that they may have courage and strength to face the challenges set before them as they seek to bring peace where there is no peace.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the communities in which we live, for the people who willingly serve others through their actions, whether seen or unseen. May our villages and towns be places of welcome, love and care.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We pray for all those who face illness and suffering that they may know the peace of Christ and for all who care for them that they may have patience and strength. At this time we remember especially.....

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We also pray for those who mourn that they may find your comfort. And we give thanks for all those who by their life and witness have encouraged us along the way of Christian discipleship.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Lord of life, hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.

Father God, we are your children

Rejoicing in God's new creation, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has 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,**

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**and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

HYMN

Be thou my vision, o lord of my heart,
Be all else but naught to me, save that Thou art;
Be Thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true word,
Be Thou ever with me, and I with Thee, Lord;
Be Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Be Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight;
Be Thou my whole armour, be Thou my true might;
Be Thou my soul's shelter, be Thou my strong tower:
O raise Thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I need not, nor man's empty praise:
Be Thou mine inheritance now and always;
Be Thou and Thou only the first in my heart:
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after victory is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be Thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

CONCLUDING PRAYERS

Heavenly Father, you have called us to be your servants. It is not for us to know the path that you have chosen for us. Grant to us the strength to walk in the way that you have set out before us that in all we say and do we may fulfil our calling as the children of God. To the glory of your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Orebeck Benefice Pilgrim's Prayer is a sign of our unity in Christ and our pilgrimage together as individuals and churches

Open our hearts to your love, Father God, as we journey with you;

Renew us each day, as we dwell in your presence.

Encourage us when we feel downtrodden,

Bring us comfort when we are sad.

Enliven us so that we may always be ready to serve You, and

Care for others in the strength of God's love.

Kindle, we pray, all that works towards the coming of your kingdom. Amen

THE BLESSING

May God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life;
May Jesus the risen Lord fill you with his love and peace for the coming days
And may the Holy Spirit equip you for every good work;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and all those you love, and evermore. Amen.

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