

Order of Service

Opening: God's love has been poured into our hearts. We dwell in God and God in us. Give thanks to the Lord and call upon God's name. Make known God's deeds among the peoples. Sing to God, sing praises to God. And speak of all God's marvellous works. Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God almighty, who was and is and is to come! (BAS p. 98-99)

Alleluia! The Spirit of the Lord renews the face of the earth. O come, let us worship (BAS p. 48)

Readings & Reflection: (see information by Sunday)

Affirmation of Faith: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

Intercessions: In peace we pray to you, Lord God. For all people in their daily life and work; for our families, friends, and neighbours, and for all those who are alone. For this community, our country, and the world; for all who work for justice, freedom, and peace. For the just and proper use of your creation; for the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression. For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble; for those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and needy. For the peace and unity of the Church of God; for all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth. For Todd, our bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers; for all who serve God in the Church. For our own need and those of others. Hear us, Lord. For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We will exalt you, O God our king; and praise your name for ever and ever.

We pray for those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to you alone, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them; who put their trust in you. (BAS p 126-127)

Gracious God, you have heard the prayers of your faithful people; you know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking. Grant our requests as may be best for us. This we ask in the name of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect: (see information by Sunday)

The Lord's Prayer

Closing: May the God of peace enable us to do God's will in every kind of goodness, working in us what pleases God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen. (BAS p. 55)

Information by Sunday**Sunday, May 23, 2021 – Pentecost**

Readings: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Reflection: *This feast day is often considered the Birthday of the Church. This is the moment when the followers of Jesus finally step out of the upper room and embody the message of Jesus Christ in a way that it is hard for the world to ignore. This is what Jesus promises in the Gospel reading from John. The readings from Acts and Romans give further insights into how this moment transformed the believers.*

The Spirit remains active in the Church today. How does the Spirit transform believers today? What signs do you see of this transformation? How might one tell stories about the effect of the Life-Giving Spirit in our world today?

Collect: *Almighty and everliving God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal, keep us in the unity of your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (BAS p. 345)*

Sunday, May 30, 2021 – Feast of the Holy Trinity

Readings: Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

Reflection: *In the Gospel, Jesus tells Nicodemus “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen;” What testimony is revealed in today’s readings? How does Isaiah, the psalmist, the author of the letter to the Roman’s, and Jesus himself proclaim what they have known and seen? Why is such testimony important? In what ways do we continue the tradition of testifying? To whom might you testify this week?*

Collect: *Father, we praise you: through your Word and Holy Spirit you created all things. You reveal your salvation in all the world by sending to us Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Through your Holy Spirit you give us a share in your life and love. Fill us with the vision of your glory, that we may always serve and praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (BAS p. 346)*

Sunday, June 6, 2021 – Pentecost 2

Readings: 1 Samuel 8:4-11, 16-20; Psalm 138; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35

Reflection: *In the first reading we learn that the Israelites wanted a king. They ignored the wisdom of Samuel when he told them they were rejecting God as the Sovereign who Reigns over them. They ignored the warnings about the implications of their desire on their lives. They wanted what they wanted and millennia later we are invited to read this as a cautionary tale – be careful what you wish for.*

How do the other readings reveal the extent to which this lesson was learned – or perhaps ignored? To what extent do people of faith continue to focus on asking for what we want and ignoring what could be revealed if we had a better understanding of the larger picture? In what ways are we still challenged to reflect upon what we wish for and recognise the Sovereignty of God?

Collect: O God, you have assured the human family of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (BAS p. 360)

Sunday June 13, 2021 – Pentecost 3

Readings: 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Psalm 20; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17; Mark 4:26-34

Reflection: God's ways are not the same as human ways. God sees and understands the world so intimately that God recognises gifts and possibilities in people and things too often overlooked. Who and what in today's readings would likely have been overlooked by human beings? How does God's inclusion of these individuals and things change our perspectives? What might we be overlooking that could be transformed if we looked as God does?

Collect: Almighty God, without you we are not able to please you. Mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (BAS p. 362)

Sunday June 20, 2021 – Pentecost 4

Readings: 1 Samuel 17: 32-49; Psalm 9:9-20; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

Reflection: Storms can be a powerful metaphor for the challenges and changes of life. There are also 'giants' we may face in our desire to embody faith. What story might you tell about the distractions, challenges, and struggles of life that feel giant or storm-like for our context? How do we enable the storms of injustice, prejudice, and inequality to continue to rage and impact the life and well-being of others? How might our continued efforts to turn towards God and seek the One who calms the storm contribute to the transformation needed for us to entered into the storms and potentially be the answers to the prayers of others?

Collect: O God our defender, storms rage about us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us all from unbelief; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever. Amen. (BAS p. 363)

Sunday June 27, 2021 – Pentecost 5

Readings: 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

Reflection: The second letter to the Corinthians includes a challenge to those hearing it to use the gifts available to them in the creation of a fairer world. At the time, this challenge was an invitation for the Church in Corinth to provide financial support for the struggling Church in Jerusalem. Some two millennia later we know that the world is not fair. There are still those who needlessly die in wars and conflicts as Saul and Jonathon once died. There are those who, like the woman with the hemorrhage and the little girl who was ill, are considered unclean and ignored by society. There are many injustices that persist. How does today's psalm offer hope in the face of injustice? How does the reading from the second letter to the Corinthians remind us that we have role to play in sharing our gifts and creating a world where: 'The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little'?

Collect: Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love fulfills the law. May we love you with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and all our strength, and may we love our neighbour as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (BAS p. 365)