

Service of the Word for Pentecost 24 /Proper 33

Introduction

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Welcome

Opening Responses

Come! Rejoice! For the Holy One is here.

We stand on holy ground.

Come, children of God! Just as you are.

Receive God's grace, hope, courage and sustaining love.

We come to be nourished by God's Word.

Come! Listen. For God is still speaking.

We come to hear the Spirit's call.

Come! Let us bring God our praises

We come to lift our eyes, hearts, and voices; to bless the Lord

Amen.

Adapted, Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson, Worship Words

Hymn

Be thou my vision

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 heir,
Be thou in me dwelling, and I in thy care.

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight,
Be thou my whole armor, 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 heed not, nor all the world's praise,
Be thou my 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 vict'ry is won,
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Tune: Slane; Words: Irish 8th Century, tr. M. Byrne

Confession & Absolution

Saving God, we come before you now
Hear us as we pray

When we are your children,
and fail to live in peace.
Forgive us and help us

When we are your voices
and choose to be silent.
Forgive us and help us

When we are your feet
and walk a different road.
Forgive us and help us

When we are your hands
and choose to help only ourselves
Forgive us and help us

Forgive us, for ignoring your love,
for brushing aside your hand
and trusting our own wisdom.

Adapted from John C Birch Faith and Prayer

Silence

God, who is both power and love,
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Anthem *Gabriel Jackson* Creator of the stars of night

Collect

Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to be the light of the world. Free us from all that darkens and ensnares us, and bring us to eternal light and joy; through the power of him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Reading Judges 4.1-7

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, after Ehud died. So the Lord sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim. Then the Israelites cried out to the Lord for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly for twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgement. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, 'The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you, "Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin's army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand."' '

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 123

To you I lift up my eyes,
to you enthroned in the heavens.
As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters,
and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,
So our eyes look to the Lord our God,
until he show us his mercy.

**Our eyes look to the Lord our God,
until he show us his mercy.**

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy,
for we have had more than enough of contempt,
Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich,
and of the derision of the proud.

**Our eyes look to the Lord our God,
until he show us his mercy.**

Reading I Thessalonians 5.1-11

Concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, 'There is peace and security', then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Hymn **The race that long in darkness**

**The race that long in darkness pined
Have seen a glorious light;
The people dwell in day, who dwelt
In death's surrounding night.**

**To hail thy rise, thou better Sun,
The gathering nations come,
Joyous as when the reapers bear
The harvest-treasures home.**

**To us a Child of hope is born,
To us a Son is given;
Him shall the tribes of earth obey,
Him all the hosts of heaven.**

**His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
For evermore adored;
The Wonderful, the Counsellor,
The great and mighty Lord.**

**His power increasing still shall spread;
His reign no end shall know:
Justice shall guard his throne above,
And peace abound below.**

Tune: Dundee; Words: J. Morison (based on Isaiah 9)

Gospel Matthew 25.14-30

When it is announced: **Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

Jesus said to his disciples, 'The Kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." '

At the end: Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.
Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sermon The Revd Professor Paul Foster

Anthem *Composer [Title]*

Affirmation of faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

[Common Worship]

Intercessions

*Prayer is offered for the world and all its people,
particularly for those who suffer and those in need,
and for the Church and its calling.*

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has commanded and taught us,
we are bold to say:

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**

Closing Prayer

O Lord as we look to you and experience your mercy, may the eyes of our hearts be enlightened to know the hope to which you have called us, the glorious inheritance that you have given us and your power that is at work within us, through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Based on Psalm 123 /Ephesians 4

Hymn From glory to glory advancing

**From glory to glory advancing, we praise thee, O Lord;
Thy name with the Father and Spirit be ever adored.
From strength unto strength we go forward on Sion's highway,
To appear before God in the city of infinite day.**

**Thanksgiving and glory and worship and blessing and love,
One heart and one song have the saints upon earth and above.
O Lord, evermore to thy servants thy presence be nigh;
Ever fit us by service on earth for thy service on high.**

Tune: Sheen; Words: Liturgy of St James Tr. C Humphreys

Blessing & Dismissal

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ. Amen.

Voluntary