

Sunday 14 September 2025

13th Sunday after Trinity

Morning Worship

Led by Philip Dean, LLM

<https://zoom.us/j/82311473640>



Preparation

O Lord, open our lips

All and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Rejoice in the Lord always,

All and again I say, 'Rejoice'.

cf Philippians 4:4

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, creator of all,
to you be glory and praise for ever.

You founded the earth in the beginning
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

In the fullness of time you made us in your image,
and in these last days you have spoken to us
in your Son Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.

As we rejoice in the gift of your presence among us
let the light of your love always shine in our hearts,
your Spirit ever renew our lives
and your praises ever be on our lips.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

Hymn - Praise my soul, the King of heaven

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise the everlasting King.

2 Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same for ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia, alleluia,

glorious in his faithfulness.

- 3 Father-like he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hands he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes:
Alleluia, alleluia,
widely as his mercy flows.
- 4 Angels, help us to adore him,
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space:
Alleluia, alleluia,
praise with us the God of grace.

Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847) (Public Domain)

Confession

Jesus says, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'
So let us turn away from our sin and turn to Christ, confessing our
sins in penitence and faith.

**All Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing
and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore us to the joy of your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

cf Psalm 51

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse us from our sins,
and restore us in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Word of God

Psalm 51:1-10

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, in your great goodness; ♦
according to the abundance of your compassion blot out my offences.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness ♦
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I acknowledge my faults ♦
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned ♦
and done what is evil in your sight,
- 5 So that you are justified in your sentence ♦
and righteous in your judgement.
- 6 I have been wicked even from my birth, ♦
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- 7 Behold, you desire truth deep within me ♦
and shall make me understand wisdom in the depths of my heart.
- 8 Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; ♦
wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, ♦
that the bones you have broken may rejoice.
- 10 Turn your face from my sins ♦
and blot out all my misdeeds.
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.

Let us meditate on verse 7 of this psalm. How do we apply this verse to our life?

The Prayer for Psalm 51

Take away, good Lord, the sin that corrupts us;
give us the sorrow that heals
and the joy that praises
and restore by grace your own image within us,
that we may take our place among your people;
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Readings by Clare Crang

Exodus 32:7-14

⁷ The Lord said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; ⁸ they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " ⁹ The Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. ¹⁰ Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

¹¹ But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, "O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " ¹⁴ And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

For the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 15:1-10

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

¹⁵ Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ⁴ "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. ⁶ And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbours, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ Just so, I tell

you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

⁸ “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it?

⁹ And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbours, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ ¹⁰ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon by Rev Claire Robertson

Today’s gospel reading about the lost sheep and the lost coin is written by Luke, the physician and friend of St Paul. St Luke is known for his compassion for those who were on the edges of society. In his gospel, it is those who are the “sinners” and outcasts who listen to Jesus. The religious establishment, in contrast, is made up of those who are continually criticizing him.

In the time of Jesus there were a number of different Jewish groups. The two most mentioned in the gospels are the Pharisees, who were interested in maintaining the religious traditions of their faith, and the Sadducees whose members were mainly aristocrats who wanted power in the political arena.

On this occasion it is the Pharisees and teachers of the law who are finding fault with Jesus for eating with tax collectors and sinners. The Pharisees felt it was their role to ensure that the Jewish Law was kept. This meant ensuring that the Ten Commandments given to the Jewish nation on Mount Sinai were observed, along with over 600 additional regulations that had become part of their tradition since then.

Many of these regulations were to do with what one ate, how it was prepared and with whom one ate. The Pharisees were very concerned with purity laws. They did not want their fellow Jews to eat contaminated food and they did not want them to mix with the wrong sort of people.

Tax collectors were definitely the wrong sort of people. They were Jews who worked on behalf of the Roman occupying power to collect taxes from their own Jewish countrymen to give to the Romans. Their job involved socializing with non - Jews or Gentiles, who in the eyes of the Pharisees, would be seen as “sinners”. To enter the house of a Gentile, let alone eat with them made a Jew “unclean”.

When the Pharisees and Teachers of the Law saw Jesus meeting and eating with these people they were scandalised. This was not how a Jewish rabbi was supposed to behave. So Jesus tells them a parable in which he playfully casts them as shepherds who had 100 sheep and had lost one. The job of a shepherd in Jesus’ time was dirty and dangerous – not a job that one would associate with the immaculately dressed Pharisees who were very conscious of their status and dignity.

Jesus is trying to teach the Pharisees to take themselves a little less seriously. He is modelling for them how they should be looking after the people in their care – by seeking out and welcoming those who are lost because every single person is precious to God. At the same time he is addressing those who are on the margins of society and reminding them that God cares for each one of them.

The Pharisees get a bad press in Luke’s gospel, but we do know from John’s gospel that some of them were keen to listen to Jesus – Nicodemus, who in chapter 3 meets Jesus secretly at night, and Joseph of Arimathea, who after the crucifixion asks Pilate for Jesus’ body and lovingly lays it in his own tomb. We are told in John 19:38 that Joseph was a disciple of Jesus, but a secret one because of his fear of the Jewish leaders.

How many other Pharisees, I wonder, were secret disciples of Jesus, but by failing to speak up for Jesus and his message of compassion, truth and peace, when the criticism started, allowed their leaders to stray so completely off the right path that they handed Jesus over to the Roman occupying power to be crucified. Their leaders had become lost sheep rather than shepherds!

Do we feel we can speak to our leaders and peers when we see injustice done or are we too frightened like Nicodemus and Joseph?

Jesus set out his manifesto in Luke 4.18-19, to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to captives and to let the oppressed go free. What is Jesus asking us to do to make our world a better place? In John's Gospel, Chapter 10, Jesus refers to himself as the Good Shepherd who will lay down his life for his sheep. His sheep recognise his voice and he calls them by name.

Jesus calls each one of us by name but in order to respond we need to practise listening to him so we recognise his voice. As a musician I've had lots of music teachers who have shown me different ways to listen.

When I was 11 I had an amazing teacher called Jean Merlow. She was about five feet tall, very extrovert and smoked cigars! Her catch phrase was "If I had to give a lesson in one word that word would be listen".

Over the years she taught me how to listen better in many different ways—one way was to realise that the space or silence between notes, which musicians call rests, is as important as the notes themselves.

To demonstrate this I am going to sing two phrases from the score of Pirates of the Caribbean. Because I think they could definitely be thought of as lost sheep!

So with rests the melody sounds like this (sung phrase on audio recording)

And without rests: (sung phrase without rests)

You can hear that without enough silence the music loses its distinctiveness and it is very difficult to recognise. I have found that if I don't find time for silent prayer in the day recognising Jesus' voice in my life becomes much more difficult.

If we stop listening to Jesus we all become like lost sheep. But when we hear and respond to his voice he calls us all to be shepherds and to go out to find lost sheep. We know this because St Peter calls the church a royal priesthood. Everyone, through their baptism, shares in the collective priesthood of the church. Therefore each one of you is commissioned as a shepherd by Jesus to look for lost sheep.

But in order to know which lost sheep Jesus wants us to find we need to listen to his voice. Amen

Responsory

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;

All by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.

All We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.

We preach Christ crucified,
the power of God and the wisdom of God.

All By your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.

God forbid that I should glory,
save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you;
by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.**

cf 1 Corinthians 1 and Galatians 6

Apostle's Creed

**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 prepared by John Crang

This morning's gospel reading reminds that: Jesus was always sensitive to all: people living on the edge, outsiders normally shunned, people who

were abhorrent to Jewish religious leaders, people considered unclean, dishonest and sinful. Nevertheless Jesus sought them out; or they found him.

We pray for the Church, for the World, and We thank God for his goodness.

Dear God, when we do something wrong, we wander away from your love. We thank you that you are always ready to forgive us and lead us back to you.

We pray today for all those who live with feelings of regret, remorse of guilt about the wrong things they have done. Help them, and all those imprisoned by their conscience to repent and to be forgiven. Lead them back to the peace of your loving care, Father God.

Lord, in your Mercy, **Hear Our Prayer**

Dear God, when we do something wrong, we wander away from your love. We thank you that you are always ready to forgive us and lead us back to you.

We pray today for all world leaders who make firm decisions about money, war and social justice. May they show by their policy-making, real care for the poor and weak, for those who are sick and vulnerable. Enable them to see beyond self-interest and end war, to negotiate lasting peace in areas of conflict and anger in your world. May people who are victims of war be led back to you.

Lord, in your Mercy, **Hear Our Prayer**

Dear God, when we do something wrong, we wander away from your love. We thank you that you are always ready to forgive us and lead us back to you.

We pray that your Church, with its privilege of power and office might lead many people and show the way back to you. In the Christian church throughout the world, we have immense potential power and huge capacity to act for good. May we help and support the search for God by all, young and old, through the wilderness of temptations. That there will be rejoicing when the lost are found.

Lord, in your Mercy, **Hear Our Prayer**

Dear God, when we do something wrong, we wander away from your love. We thank you that you are always ready to forgive us and lead us back to you.

We pray that we may care much better for your beautiful creation. Father God, teach us to care for it as we should. Just like the lost sheep or the lost coin, help us to appreciate both what we have and what we might lose by being careless of our environment. May we rejoice in the restoration of your beautiful world and work to improve it one step at a time.

Lord, in your Mercy, **Hear Our Prayer**

Lord, help us turn back to you. Reach out and save us. You are our father, and we are your children. You have always loved us, and we thank you for your ceaseless care and for all you do in our lives.

Merciful Father, **accept these Prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen**

The Collect

Almighty God,
who in the passion of your blessed Son
made an instrument of painful death
to be for us the means of life and peace:
grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ
that we may gladly suffer for his sake;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

All Amen.

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

Hymn - The King of love my shepherd is

- 1 The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
and he is mine for ever.
- 2 Where streams of living water flow
my ransomed soul he leadeth,
and where the verdant pastures grow
with food celestial feedeth.
- 3 Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home rejoicing brought me
- 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.
- 5 Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and O what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!
- 6 And so through all the length of days
thy goodness faileth never:
good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house for ever.

Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877) (Public Domain)

Notices

Closing words

**Lord our God,
on the first day of creation
you made the light that scatters the darkness.
Let Christ, the light of lights,
hidden from all eternity,
shine at last on your people**

**and free us from the darkness of sin.
Fill our lives with joy
as we go out to welcome your Son at his coming.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.Amen.**

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,
and keep us in eternal life.

All Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.