

Sunday 9 August 2026
Morning Worship for the
Tenth Sunday of Trinity
Led by Michaela McNeill, ALM
<https://zoom.us/j/82311473640>



Greeting

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

And also with you.

Hymn - Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

- 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.
- 2 Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.
- 3 To all life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish, but naught changest thee.
- 4 Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight
all laud we would render: O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908)

Jesus said: Ask, and it will be given you;
search, and you will find;

knock, and the door will be opened for you.

For everyone who asks receives,

and everyone who searches finds,

and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

If you know how to give good gifts to your children,

how much more will the heavenly Father

give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

(Luke 11:9-10, 13)

Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, give us the desire to seek first God's will in all things.

Grant us the honesty to confess our sins, and the humility to receive your forgiveness. Help us to listen to your Word, and show forth your love, in lives of service and sacrifice. **Amen**

Penitence

In God's holy presence let us examine

the words of our mouths,

the deeds of our bodies,

and the desires of our minds, confessing our sins to him.

When we are quick to criticize others,

but slow to praise them.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

When we bear grudges,

and find it hard to forgive

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

When we think we alone are right,

and impose our views on others

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

When we let evil go unchallenged,
and are afraid to speak the truth
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

When we are preoccupied with ourselves,
and give little attention to others
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

When we trust in material things
more than in God's unfailing love
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Readings by Ann Griffiths

I Kings 19:9-18

⁹ At that place Elijah came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' ¹⁰ He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'

¹¹ He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer

silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' ¹⁴ He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' ¹⁵ Then the Lord said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.'

For the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 14:22-33

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

²⁸ Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' ²⁹ He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried

out, 'Lord, save me!' ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?'

³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.

³³ And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection by Sue Nelms

Let us pray

Now, O Lord, take my lips and speak through them; take our minds and think through them; take our hearts and set them on fire with love for you. Amen.

Our readings today have much both to say, and for us to think about. So often preachers choose to speak about one of the day's readings but today we have two that seem to be singing from the same song sheet so to speak.

The first reading from the book of Kings features Elijah, one of God's prophets. He had been having a really difficult time doing God's work and, as a result, was exhausted and hungry. God had sent him an angel with food and water to prepare Elijah for the long journey to Mount Horeb, also known as the mount of God. Once there, he is told to go out onto the mountain to wait for God. There he first encounters a huge wind, something you might expect to signify God's awesome presence, but God was not in the wind. Next Elijah encounters an earthquake, another feature you might think that God would use to show off his awesomeness, but God was not in the earthquake. This was followed by fire – another symbol of overwhelming power but God was not in the fire. God finally appeared to Elijah in the sound of silence and then He refreshed and prepared Elijah to return to doing His work.

In our second reading from Matthew's gospel, the main story again

follows a heavenly feeding, this time the feeding of the 5,000. Then Jesus dismisses the crowds and makes the disciples set off in a boat across Lake Galilee so that he has time to spend alone on the mountain with God. When Jesus had finished praying and was finally ready, he set off to meet up with the disciples. There is no mention at all of how he physically intended to meet up with them because they had set off by boat across the lake, but we learn that on that night he simply appears to walk off across the water. This actually turned out to be very helpful for the disciples because Lake Galilee is quite an unpredictable place, with the lake being in the lee of the mountains and quite prone to storms suddenly blowing up out of nowhere, and that is what had happened to the disciples that night.

Consequently, at that moment the disciples realised that they were in trouble. Despite some of them being experienced fishermen, they were in difficulty on the lake and struggling to control the boat against the wild wind and the waves. Perhaps because they were focussing on their own problems, they had temporarily forgotten about Jesus, so when they saw the figure coming towards them through the dark across the water their first thought was that it was a ghost! We are used to them thinking silly things, but I must admit to a modicum of sympathy for them as I suspect that some of us in their position might also have jumped to this conclusion rather than thinking it was Jesus on his way towards them. Again, I don't know where or how they expected Jesus to meet up with them but I suspect that walking across the water wasn't at the top of their list of possibilities!

Seeing their panic Jesus tells them not to worry now. He is with them. They still have their doubts, however, so Peter challenges Jesus to invite him to walk towards him across the water, so he does. Trusting in Jesus, Peter steps out in faith and walks on the water, but then he gets distracted and starts to sink so he cries out to Jesus to save him, which Jesus does, whilst challenging them for doubting. As Jesus and Peter climb into the boat, the wind and waves drop and become calm again.

So we have lots to ponder on. One outstanding point of both passages is that God is not only found in the obvious things such as humans and their behaviour but he is also found in the elements that fill our world but are not seen, such as the various aspects of the weather. In the gospel reading as Jesus climbs back into the boat the wind and waves submitted to his will and calmed down. None of the disciples had the power and authority to command the wind and waves to obey them. If they had, then they would not have been in the panic they were in.

Similarly, in the reading from Kings, God could have chosen to show his power and authority by being present in the wind, the earthquake or the fire and no-body would have been surprised. Instead God chose to be in the silence. It is too easy to think of God's power being in the big, extravagant displays in our natural world, but his presence is also in the understated elements such as the silence. Creator God spoke the world into existence, his presence is everywhere in creation.

However, what really struck me in these two narratives was not simply the hugeness of God's authority over creation. It was the unconditional love of God for people who were in a really difficult place.

In our first reading Elijah was exhausted and full of self-pity. God's response was first to take time to rebuild Elijah's strength with plenty of food, drink and rest before meeting with him, reinvigorating him and inspiring him to do more work; this time not on his own but with his own disciple, the young man Elisha. God knew what Elijah was capable of, how far he could go, and was there to support Elijah when he needed it.

In the gospel reading, Jesus knew just how much his disciples could cope with at any time. Whilst several of them understood the life of a fisherman, it did not mean that they were oblivious to the dangers of sailing on Lake Galilee and the chance of unexpected storms blowing up. Jesus calmed the wind and the waves because he had authority over them. He understood Peter's need to know that it was Jesus on

the water rather than a ghost, and also understood that Peter's faith in him was strong, yet at the same time fallible enough to allow him sometimes to lose his focus on Jesus and therefore sink into the water. With hindsight we are all aware of the weaknesses, the intermittent frailty, sometimes stupidity of the disciples, but yet they went on to sow the seeds of what we now know as Christianity because they had faith in God. Today, we too, may also have faith in God, but I suspect that any one of us is capable of feeling exhausted and full of self-pity like Elijah, desperate, or losing our focus on God even though we love him just like Peter loved Jesus. However, the really good news for us is that today God is there for us just as he was for both Elijah and Peter. It may not be instantly obvious – like taking time to look for God's presence in the still of the quiet rather than in the noise of the storm. Or it may require some effort from us, like Peter needing to keep his focus on Jesus as he stepped out of the boat towards him in faith.

Our lives can be challenging. It can be easy for us to lose our focus. However the good news for us is that God is here for us, even if we do not find it easy to see him or focus on him. Fortunately for us, his love for us is bigger than we might appreciate. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us proclaim our faith in God:

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.**

Intercessions by Michaela McNeill

When I say the words 'Father, your Kingdom come', please would you respond with the words '**your will be done**'.

Father in heaven, we pray that your will may be done on earth as in heaven: We pray for the Church: for bishop Sarah, for ministers and all your people; for the Holy Spirit's gifts as we seek to serve you; for wisdom and courage as we communicate the Gospel to people who have no room for God; for growth in commitment among us.

Father, your Kingdom come, **your will be done.**

We pray for our King and country, and for all the nations of the world: for leaders who are dedicated to serving the people; for wisdom as they deal with difficult issues; for reconciliation where there is hatred and conflict; for justice to the poor and the excluded.

Father, your Kingdom come, **your will be done.**

We pray for the people among whom we live and work: for our families who need our time and affection; for any friends who feel hurt or let down; for the neighbours who long for someone to call; for those at work who suffer from stress or poor management.

Father, your Kingdom come, **your will be done.**

We pray for all whose lives are blighted by illness, pain or frailty; for all who are enslaved to addictive habits; for all who find life bleak without the person they love; for all who bring care, encouragement and healing

to those who suffer.

Father, your Kingdom come, **your will be done.**

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died and commend them and all people to your mercy and peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

The Collect for the Tenth Sunday of Trinity

Let your merciful ears, O Lord,
be open to the prayers of your humble servants;
and that they may obtain their petitions
make them to ask such things as shall please you;
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 forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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,
and the glory are yours now and forever.
Amen.**

Hymn – Holy, Holy, Holy

- 1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!
- 2 Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert and art and evermore shalt be.
- 3 Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy, there is none beside thee
perfect in power, in love, and purity.
- 4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
all thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

Reginald Heber (1783-1826) (Public Domain)

Notices

Concluding Prayer

**The Father's love enfold us,
the grace of Christ uphold us,
the Holy Spirit guide us;
one God to walk beside us. Amen.**

The Grace

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