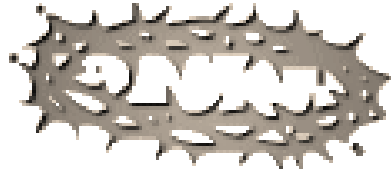


A Service of the Word for 15th November



Welcome and Opening Responses

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.
You have given us a share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Open our eyes to behold your glory
and free our tongues to join their song:

**Great and wonderful are your deeds, Lord God almighty;
just and true are your ways, King of the ages.
To you be praise and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

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

Mark 1.14

**O King enthroned on high, filling the earth with your glory:
holy is your name, Lord God almighty.
In our sinfulness we cry to you to take our guilt away,
and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution

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. **Amen.**

Collect

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Psalm 90.1-8, 11,12

- 1 Lord, you have been our refuge ◆
from one generation to another.
- 2 **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the earth and
the world were formed, ◆ from everlasting to everlasting
you are God.**
- 3 You turn us back to dust and say: ◆
'Turn back, O children of earth.'
- 4 **For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday, ◆
which passes like a watch in the night.**
- 5 You sweep them away like a dream; ◆
they fade away suddenly like the grass.
- 6 **In the morning it is green and flourishes; ◆
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**
- 7 For we consume away in your displeasure; ◆
we are afraid at your wrathful indignation.
- 8 **You have set our misdeeds before you ◆
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

11 Who regards the power of your wrath ◆
and your indignation like those who fear you?

12 **So teach us to number our days ◆
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: **As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.**

Reading Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia. Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord. Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heaven. **Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew 25.14-30. Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples, ¹⁴“The kingdom of heaven is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then 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.” ²¹His 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.” ²²And 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.” ²³His 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.”

²⁴Then 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; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.” ²⁶But 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? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.

²⁹For 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. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

At the end the reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

Often the stories Jesus tells us are just that, stories used to explain a point, or encourage us to think. This story of the man who divided his money between 3 servants, each given a descending amount of money to use wisely in his absence raises all sorts of questions if we try to take it literally. So don't!

Instead try to ponder what gifts do you have?

Some things will be obvious, I can think of several people who would agree a certain St Buryan lady is extremely talented with her needles! Others will agree on the talent of the local artist. While others will want to point out the stunning beauty of someone's garden.

The thing is that these people are like the first and second men, who took the “talents” – the money and invested it. They doubled it, in

using their skills they brought not only joy and contentment to themselves but also to others.

Other folk have a great skill, and yet life circumstances means that they lack the time, or opportunity to practice their talent regularly. But when they do, they also bring great joy. I will spare the blushes of those I am thinking about for this!

Finally, there is the man whose fear was so great that he would rather hide the talent than risk using it. How I wonder are we like this man, choosing to listen to the voices in our heads that say “we cannot do this” or not grasping the courage to try to use our gift, our skill.

So often when taking a funeral service I hear folk talk about the deceased with some regret that although they were a great artist or musician, chef or swimmer, they rarely if ever found the time to do that thing that was their gift, their skill. What made them special, and unique was given to them by God as surely as the talents were given to the men in this story.

When we don't make space and time to do the things that are a gift from God for us, then we are like the child in the stories of old who refused to unwrap gifts because the package was so pretty, and so never enjoyed the gift inside!

So how might you be able to use the skills you have over this period of lockdown, how might you feel if you were able to have a go at that thing you love doing, which makes you feel alive. Remember Irenaeus said “The Glory of God is a human being Fully Alive” Go and be the glory of God!

The Creed

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God has raised him on high,

and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

cf Philippians 2.6-11

Prayers of Intercession by Lucy Ellis

Father God, we join one another in demonstrating our faith in you. You have shown faith in us by sending your Son to be our Saviour. Give us the strength of faith to follow you without being diverted by the pressures and temptations of the world.

Let the abundance of the life your Son has promised be centred on you, Lord, starting and ending with divine things and bringing the human things we live by and the things we want to rectify, into sharper focus. We pray for all people that they may hear and believe the word of God.

Lord in Your Mercy Hear Our Prayer.

We pray for our archbishops, our bishops, and clergy in our parishes as they lead our Church in its mission. We pray for all sovereigns and political leaders, that they may imitate the righteous rule of Christ. We pray for the world and for peace and that fractured relationships between nations can be improved gradually over time with each new generation.

As we honour you, so may we respect and stand in awe of your creation, Lord.

We marvel at the mountains and the oceans, we find endless interest in the wildlife, and we give thanks for the sun and the rain. Help us not to underestimate the forces of nature or the ways in which we can damage nature by our actions.

God of forgiveness and justice, who gives us our daily bread; who watches over us, day and night; who knows our every need and

every failing: grant us we pray, the gift to forgive others as you forgive us.

Lord in Your Mercy

Hear Our Prayer.

We pray for the life of our communities and for all people in their daily life and work here as they work to adapt to new circumstances. We pray for the young and for our schoolchildren and all those who support them.

We pray for the elderly, those who may be lonely and those who fear the winter months. Wherever there is distress we ask, Lord, that your loving embrace brings comfort.

We give thanks for the comfort and unconditional friendship that pets bring.

Look with tender care on those who are sick in mind, body or spirit, remembering especially those in urgent need of our prayers who we bring into our minds now.

We give thanks for those who now rejoice in the fellowship of your saints; and we commend our loved ones whom we now mourn to your almighty love, that they too may rest in peace and rise in glory.

Lord in your mercy

Hear Our prayer

Lord God, Deal gently with our hopes and fears, nurture the people you would have us be and bring colour to our lives and dreams. Smile on the work of our hands, fashion our vision for the future and fan the wind of change. Creator God, who makes all things new, challenge the drabness of our lives and transform our poverty into the riches of your grace. Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

In confidence let us pray for the coming of the kingdom among us.

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.

Final Prayer and Blessing

God the Father, help us to hear the call of Christ the King and to follow in his service, whose kingdom has no end; for he reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, one glory. Amen.

Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will, that you may reign with him in glory; and may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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