

## Worship for 25th October

# LAST AFTER TRINITY

Today Jesus debates with some Pharisees about the commandments of God and about the identity of the long-awaited messiah. May we hold fast to our faith in Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the Holy One of God.

### Invitation to Confession:

We are called to love the Lord our God with everything we are, but so often we fail. But we have a merciful and generous God who reaches out to us with his forgiveness when we turn to him wholeheartedly.

When we have acted unjustly with others.  
Lord, have mercy.

When we have spoken ill of others for our own benefit.  
Christ, have mercy.

We have carried hatred and grudges in our hearts.  
Lord, have mercy

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

### Collect of the Day

Blessed Lord,  
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:  
help us so to hear them,  
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them  
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,  
we may embrace and for ever hold fast  
the hope of everlasting life,  
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### A reading from the Letter to the Thessalonians (2:1-8 NRSV)

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully maltreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as

God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

### **Psalm 1 (NRSV)**

Happy are those  
who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  
or take the path that sinners tread,  
or sit in the seat of scoffers;  
but their delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and on his law they meditate day and night.  
They are like trees  
planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season,  
and their leaves do not wither.  
In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so,  
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.  
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;  
for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.

### **Gospel**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Speak Lord, your servant is listening for you have the message of eternal life. A!

### **A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (22:34-46 NRSV)**

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 'Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?' He said to him, ' "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.'

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: 'What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?' They said to him, 'The son of David.' He said to them, 'How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, "The Lord said to my Lord, 'Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet' " ?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?' No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

## Thought for the Day

The command to love God with all our heart, should and mind seems like a good and decent goal to attain. But what about loving our neighbour as ourself? How easy is this, and how well do we truly do it? May God help us to live as people of love, seeking the needs of others before ourselves.

## Intercessions

*Take some time to reflect on your life this week. Where do you need God's presence and help? Give thanks for where you feel you have received it and pray for those situation - places and people - who are in particular need at this time.*

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

## An Act of Spiritual Communion

**Our Father, who art in heaven...**

## Act of Reception

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

## Final Prayer

**Generous God,  
you give us gifts and make them grow: though our faith is small as mustard  
seed, make it grow to your glory  
and the flourishing of your kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Blessing

May the God of hope fill us with every blessing,  
that we may share in every good work. Amen.

