

Worship for 18th October

TRINITY 19

In our worship we proclaim that God is Lord over creation We come to give what belongs to God – the honour due to His name, our loyalty, and our lives.

Invitation to Confession:

When we are no longer faithful, God meets us in the Jesus, to forgive, and lead us home. Let us now open our hearts and confess our need of healing.

When we lose confidence in the power of God
and think we can make it through on our own.
Lord, have mercy.

When we lose sight of the sovereignty of God and let other activities or people
become the total focus of our lives.
Christ, have mercy.

When we forget our service of God and simply pursue our own interests.
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

Almighty and everlasting God,
increase in us your gift of faith
that, forsaking what lies behind
and reaching out to that which is before,
we may run the way of your commandments
and win the crown of everlasting joy;
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 for ever.. Amen.

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (45:1-7 NRSV)

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him— and the gates shall not be closed: I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. I am the

Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things. .

Psalm 96:1-9 (NRSV)

O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous works among all the peoples.
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.
For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.
Honour and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts.
Worship the Lord in holy splendour;
tremble before him, all the earth.

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 (22:15-22 NRSV)

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, 'Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?' But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, 'Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.' And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, 'Whose head is this, and whose title?' They answered, 'The emperor's.' Then he said to them, 'Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's.' When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Thought for the Day

Yes, we are all meant to be loyal and law-abiding citizens. But as Christians our ultimate duty is not to whosoever's head is on a coin, or who is taking their turn in government at

any one time. Our ultimate loyalty is to God in Jesus Christ, the One who gives us the message of eternal life: the life of the Kingdom.

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.

