Worship for 20th June

TRINITY 3

Jesus came as a servant, giving his life as a ransom for many. We humble ourselves before him today, and strengthen our resolve to listen for God's call in our lives amid all the distractions, fears and temptations that beset us.

Invitation to Confession*:*

Mindful of all the times we have fallen on our journey, let us bring before the Lord everything that troubles our heart and impairs our communion with God.

> We do not always prioritise your call on our lives.
> Lord, have mercy.
>
> We are fearful when we forget to put our trust in you.
> Christ, have mercy.
>
> We are proud of our achievements and knocked sideways by our failures.
> 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 God,
> you have broken the tyranny of sin
> and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts
> whereby we call you Father:
> give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,
> that we and all creation may be brought
> to the glorious liberty of the children of God;
> 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 the Book of Ezekiel (17:22-24 NRSV)

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it
on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. All the trees of the field shall know that I am the Lord. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the Lord have spoken; I will accomplish it.

Psalm - 92:1-4 (NRSV)

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;
to declare your steadfast love in the morning,
and your faithfulness by night,
to the music of the lute and the harp,
to the melody of the lyre.
For you, O Lord, have made me glad by your work;
at the works of your hands I sing for joy.

How great are your works, O Lord!
Your thoughts are very deep!
The dullard cannot know,
the stupid cannot understand this:
though the wicked sprout like grass
and all evildoers flourish,
they are doomed to destruction for ever,
but you, O Lord, are on high for ever.
For your enemies, O Lord,
for your enemies shall perish;
all evildoers shall be scattered.

Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia!
A great prophet has appeared among us;
God has visited his people. Alleluia!

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark (4:26-34 NRSV)

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he

was. Other boats were with him. A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'

Thought for the Day

The storms of life may not aways still, but neither ought they define us. Despite all our trials, we are here to be of some "definite service", as John Henry Newman said, and to remain focused on our life's work and mission, whatever external forces might distract us.

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

God our saviour,
look on this wounded world
in pity and in power;
hold us fast to your promises of peace

won for us by your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Blessing

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining
and whose power we cannot comprehend:
show us your glory as far as we can grasp it,
and shield us from knowing more than we can bear
until we may look upon you without fear;
And may the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be upon us, now and evermore. Amen.

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