

ARCH Group's aim: "To show our love for God and You"

Weekly Notices

11th August 2024

Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Today's Collect

God of glory, the end of our searching, help us to lay aside all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom, and to give all that we have to gain the pearl beyond all price, through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Today's Post Communion Prayer

Lord of all mercy, we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace: by our communion keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel and preserve us from all sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Next Week's Services: Sunday 18th August 2024

10.30 am

Church Lench

Benefice Communion

*Please remember **Caring Hands** while you're shopping and add an extra item or two to your basket. They need toiletries and toilet rolls, tins and dried goods, and items that can be cooked via a kettle, single-ring hob or microwave*
ESPECIALLY DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

For Prayer

All-seeing and everloving God,

help us to see others as your children, cherished by you.

Lord, we lift to you our world leaders. It is so easy to be critical of them, to believe what we read in the papers or on social media rather than seeing them as people just like us with needs like ours. In an increasingly unstable world we ask you to give them wisdom and integrity. Help them to put the needs of their country before their own desires. We pause for a moment of silence now, as we try to imagine what it must be like to walk in their shoes.

All-seeing and everloving God,

help us to see others as your children, cherished by you.

We pray for countries at war or suffering long periods of unrest, particularly Ukraine and the Middle East. It's so easy for people to take sides and fight rather than try and see the world from the perspective of others. We pray that a new desire to love and treasure others may sweep this planet, bringing in a new reign of peace.

All-seeing and everloving God,

help us to see others as your children, cherished by you.

We thank you for those who sweep our streets, empty our bins and clean our shops, workplaces and hospitals. We pray for your strength and reassurance for our over-stretched NHS and for tired teachers trying to have a summer break. We pray for the unemployed and those on zero hours contracts struggling to make ends meet. And, Lord, we pray for the 'onlys', the people overlooked by society or considered insignificant. We ask that we, as a church, may find ways to help the disadvantaged in our communities in the short-term whilst praying that our government may have the courage to find long-term solutions.

All-seeing and everloving God,

help us to see others as your children, cherished by you.

We come before you, Lord, in sorrow that so many people in our world are abused or neglected because of their race, colour or gender. We ask your forgiveness for any part we have played in preventing your world from being a place of harmony and stability. We lift up the millions of refugees fleeing unsafe homes. We pray for the migrants trying to cross the channel and we pray too for those who exploit them. We ask you to give strength and courage to all those fighting for justice in our world. We ask you to give

For Prayer (continued)

us all the eyes to see everyone as made in your image with equal worth. And we especially pray for the authorities dealing with rioting and uninformed prejudice against those on the edges of society.

All-seeing and everloving God,

help us to see others as your children, cherished by you.

Finally, Lord, we commit to you those who live around us. We picture them in our minds now as we bring them to you for blessing: our friends, our neighbours, the people who walk their dogs past our house, those we say 'hi' to in the street or at the station or on the bus but don't know their names. We pray for those who live behind closed doors that we never see, those we used to spend time with who, for whatever reason, we don't see anymore. And we pray for those whom we avoid... Lord, you know them all by name and we thank you for each of them and for the way they touch our lives. Give us the grace to be good neighbours, willing to go the extra mile for all these people who are, underneath it all, just the same as us.

All-seeing and everloving God,

help us to see others as your children, cherished by you.

This Week's First Reading: *1 Kings 19:4-8*

⁴Elijah went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: 'It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.' ⁵Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, 'Get up and eat.' ⁶He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. ⁷The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, 'Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.' ⁸He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

This Week's Psalm: *Psalm 34:1-8*

- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
- 2 My soul shall glory in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.
- 3 O magnify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.
- 4 I sought the Lord and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.
- 5 Look upon him and be radiant and your faces shall not be ashamed.
- 6 This poor soul cried, and the Lord heard me and saved me from all my troubles.
- 7 The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him and delivers them.
- 8 O taste and see that the Lord is gracious; blessed is the one who trusts in him.

This Week's Second Reading: *Ephesians 4:25-5:2*

²⁵Putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. ²⁶Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labour and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and

Ephesians 4:25-5:2 continued

wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³²and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

This Week's Gospel Reading: *John 6:35, 41-51*

³⁵Jesus said to the crowd, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

⁴¹Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.'⁴²They were saying, 'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven"?'⁴³Jesus answered them, 'Do not complain among yourselves. ⁴⁴No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God." Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. ⁴⁶Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

Next Week's First Reading: *Isaiah 49:8-16a*

⁸Thus says the LORD: In a time of favour I have answered you, on a day of salvation I have helped you; I have kept you and given you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages; ⁹saying to the prisoners, 'Come out', to those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves.' They shall feed along the ways, on all the bare heights shall be their pasture; ¹⁰they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them. ¹¹And I will turn all my mountains into a road, and my highways shall be raised up. ¹²Lo, these shall come from far away, and lo, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene. ¹³Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the LORD has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his suffering ones. ¹⁴But Zion said, 'The LORD has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me.' ¹⁵Can a woman forget her nursing-child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. ¹⁶See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands.

Next Week's Psalm: *Psalms 55:1-26*

- 1 Hear my prayer, O God; hide not yourself from my petition.
- 2 Give heed to me and answer me; I am restless in my complaining.
- 3 I am alarmed at the voice of the enemy and at the clamour of the wicked;
- 4 For they would bring down evil upon me and are set against me in fury.
- 5 My heart is disquieted within me, and the terrors of death have fallen upon me.
- 6 Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and a horrible dread has overwhelmed me.
- 7 And I said: 'O that I had wings like a dove, for then would I fly away and be at rest.
- 8 'Then would I flee far away and make my lodging in the wilderness.

Psalm 55:1-26 continued

- 9 'I would make haste to escape from the stormy wind and tempest.'
- 10 Confuse their tongues, O Lord, and divide them, for I have seen violence and strife in the city.
- 11 Day and night they go about on her walls; mischief and trouble are in her midst.
- 12 Wickedness walks in her streets; oppression and guile never leave her squares.
- 13 For it was not an open enemy that reviled me, for then I could have borne it;
- 14 Nor was it my adversary that puffed himself up against me, for then I would have hid myself from him.
- 15 But it was even you, one like myself, my companion and my own familiar friend.
- 16 We took sweet counsel together and walked with the multitude in the house of God.
- 17 Let death come suddenly upon them; let them go down alive to the Pit; for wickedness inhabits their dwellings, their very hearts.
- 18 As for me, I will call upon God and the Lord will deliver me.
- 19 In the evening and morning and at noonday, I will pray and make my supplication, and he shall hear my voice.
- 20 He shall redeem my soul in peace from the battle waged against me, for many have come upon me.
- 21 God, who is enthroned of old, will hear and bring them down; they will not repent, for they have no fear of God.
- 22 My companion stretched out his hands against his friend and has broken his covenant;
- 23 His speech was softer than butter, though war was in his heart; his words were smoother than oil, yet are they naked swords.
- 24 Cast your burden upon the Lord and he will sustain you, and will not let the righteous fall for ever.
- 25 But those that are bloodthirsty and deceitful, O God, you will bring down to the pit of destruction.

Psalm 55:1-26 continued

26 They shall not live out half their days, but my trust shall be in you, O Lord.

Next Week's Gospel Reading: *Matthew 6:25-34*

Jesus taught his disciples, saying: ²⁵Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you— you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

³⁴So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.'