



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 10th August 2025

8th Sunday after Trinity

*compiled by Michael Winter - Local Preacher
& Anglican Lay Minister*

From Psalm 32:

We wait in hope for the Lord; He is our help and our shield.

In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.

May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you.

Let us pray

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake:
when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair,
that we may trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Christ, as a light
illumine and guide me.

Christ, as a shield
overshadow me.

Christ under me;
Christ over me;
Christ beside me
on my left and my right.

This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;
in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.
This day be within and without me,
lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.

Christ as a light;
Christ as a shield;
Christ beside me
on my left and my right. **Amen**

Hymn - StF 113 (verses 1,2 & 6)

1] O worship the King, all glorious above;
O gratefully sing his power and his love:
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendour, and girded with praise.

2] O tell of His might, O sing of His grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space;
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
And dark is His path on the wings of the storm.

6] O measureless might, ineffable love,
While angels delight to hymn you above,
Your ransomed creation, thought feeble our praise,
In true adoration our voices we raise.

Robert Grant (1779-1838)

Confession

In baptism we died with Christ,
so that as Christ was raised from the dead,
we might walk in newness of life.
Let us receive new life in him
as we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Jesus Christ, Our friend and Redeemer,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.
We have lived by our own strength,
and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone,
and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

The Lord's Prayer

Reading - Luke 12: 32-40

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him."

Hymn - StF 563

1] O Jesus, I have promised
To serve you to the end;
Lord, be for ever near me,
My Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If you are by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If you will be my Guide.

2] O let me feel you near me;
The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
The tempting sounds I hear;
My foes are ever near me,
Around me and within;
But Jesus, now draw nearer,
And shield my soul from sin.

3] O let me hear you speaking
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
To hasten, or control;
Lord, speak, and make me listen,
O guardian of my soul.

4] O Jesus, you have promised
To all who follow you,
That where you are in glory
Your servant shall be too;
And, Jesus, I have promised
To serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow
My Master and my Friend.

John Ernest Bode (1816-1874)

Reflection

I'm cheating a bit in my reflection this week by quoting from the Episcopalian priest, Michael K. Marsh. My excuse, apart from a funeral and a service to prepare at the same time as the home service, is that in searching for a reflection on today's Gospel reading he puts things far better than I could. So with thanks to the internet and the recently retired Rev. March, over to him:

"Sometimes it seems like life is nothing more than waiting. As children we wait for Christmas, summer vacation, and to grow up. As adults we wait for just the right job, that special someone who will make our life complete, a promotion, retirement. Some people wait for the diagnosis, others for a cure. Some wait for the day the pain will stop and the grief will end. Others wait for the answer to their prayers. Many of us wait for that day when we have enough time, enough money, enough freedom, and the day we will live happy ever after.

When I look at my waiting, I realise that I generally don't wait in the present. I either move into the past or into the future. The great tragedy is that in doing so I lose the present moment. That's part of what makes waiting so painful and difficult.

Waiting in the future most often brings fear and anxiety about what will happen. We are haunted by the unknown and lack of control. Waiting in the past brings sadness, anger, or guilt about things that have happened, or the things done and left undone. As difficult as our present circumstances may be, that's the only place where we can ever be fully alive. It is the only place we can truly experience God.

When we move out of the present – either way, into the past or the future – we not only postpone life; we deny life. We deny our resurrection. We desecrate the sacrament of the present moment. We have refused the gift of God's kingdom.

Everyone, everywhere, in every age waits. Jesus does not eliminate waiting. If anything, it sounds like just the opposite. He tells the crowd, "Be like those waiting for their master to return."

Today's gospel is not, however, simply about passing time. It is about presence and being present. Jesus sees waiting as an act of faithfulness; the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

So we are mistaken if we think today's gospel describes an absent God, a God who left some time ago, for whom we wait. We are equally mistaken if we think we are waiting for a God who lives out in the future.

Jesus is teaching us how and where to wait. He's inviting us to be present to the One who is always already present. He's inviting us to listen for the knock, to watch, and to be alert. He's inviting us to be present to the reality of God in each other, in the world, and in ourselves. This is the God who is present in the ordinary circumstances of our lives, even in our waiting.

We might be tempted to ask, "So where is God in all our waiting?" But maybe the better question is, "Where are we?"

The Collect

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Hymn - StF 531

1] What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!

2] Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness:
take it to the Lord in prayer.

3] Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.

Joseph Medlicott Scriven (1819-1886)

Prayer of Blessing

May the Lord bless you and keep you;
May the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you;
May the Lord lift up his continuance upon you, and give you peace.
And may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit,
be amongst us, and remain with us always. Amen