



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 13th July 2025

4th Sunday after Trinity

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

"Those who have truly decided to serve the Lord God should practice the remembrance of God and uninterrupted prayer to Jesus Christ, mentally saying: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner." - St. Seraphim of Sarov

Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. (Matthew 6: 9-13)

"Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise."
(James 5: 13)

Hymn STF 83

1] Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise the everlasting King!

3] Fatherlike he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Praise him! Praise him!
Widely yet his mercy flows!

2] Praise him for his grace and favour
to his people in distress.
Praise him, still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Praise him! Praise him!
Glorious in his faithfulness!

4] Angels, help us to adore him;
you behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Praise him! Praise him!
Praise with us the God of grace!

Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)

Prayers

Jesus says: 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'

Let us come to the Lord Jesus. Let us seek his rest. We pray for all in authority, that they will be respectfully conscious of the weight on their shoulders, and that they will act responsibly for the people they serve. We pray for them in their personal lives, with the worries and cares that only they see.

We pray for our friends, family, colleagues. We pray that as we walk alongside them, you will use us to bring them close to you, and they will learn of your love.

We pray for all entrusted with the gift of teaching children and young people; for those who struggle to learn and for those denied an education; we pray for more resources, more opportunities, more equality.

We pray that we might be sensitive to the needs of those around us – the people we see every day, perhaps as fleetingly as at the shops, or in the bus queue. We have no idea what burdens they are carrying, or if they need a kind word from you that only we can give.

We pray that we will see the positive in people, even when it's hard, and reach out to encourage them. We pray for healing where there is injustice and division; for those places where there is violence, war and unrest, where the future is full of mistrust and fear.

We pray for those who are displaced, those seeking sanctuary and shelter, those who don't have enough food or clean water; those who are trafficked and abused.

Risen Christ, breaking the bonds of evil and death, shine on us, and those for whom we pray, with your eyes of compassion and glory. Let your light flood the darkness in us and in our world, and make us bearers of your healing for people, your delight in this planet, and your outrageously generous forgiveness, on which we all depend, through Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Reading: Colossians 1:1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people - the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world - just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Hymn STF 518

1] Father, hear the prayer we offer:
not for ease that prayer shall be,
but for strength that we may ever
live our lives courageously.

2] Not for ever in green pastures
do we ask our way to be;
but the steep and rugged pathway
may we tread rejoicingly.

3] Not for ever by still waters
would we idly rest and stay;
but would smite the living fountains
from the rocks along our way.

4] Be our strength in hours of weakness,
in our wanderings be our guide;
through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be thou at our side.

Love Maria Willis (1824-1908)

Reflection

Colossians 18 verse 9: 9: ... since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives ..

We have two sets of praying going on here: Paul and his companions praying regularly and persistently for the Colossians and those who are prayed for, in their turn, praying too. The church in Colossae is facing some serious problems of disruptive false teaching. But interestingly, Paul does not pray for their circumstances to change. Instead, he prays for their spiritual maturity, the implication being that suffering and discomfort can refine us and shape us in Christ's image. Easy words to say but desperately difficult to put in practice! I don't know about you but praying for wisdom and understanding when we are under the cosh for whatever reason is hard indeed. Of course, it rather depends what we mean by prayer. If we expect prayer only to be carefully articulated words, then that is not always going to happen. I well recall when my mother was in her final few days how I used to come home after a visit and, grief stricken, certainly did not feel remotely capable of articulating my own words of prayer let alone open a prayer book and read. But I listened to music, particularly a lovely piece by Margaret Rizza:

Calm me Lord, as You calmed the storm
Still me Lord, keep me from harm
Let all the tumult within me cease
Enfold me, Lord in Your peace

Letting words and music wash into us and around us is as much prayer as attending to the carefully crafted words of church liturgy or joining ourselves to the extempore prayers of a preacher. We are all different in our make-up and in our likes and dislikes and the prayer that is likely to work for us will vary accordingly.

Personally, I love the poetry of good liturgy and I can lose myself in music and in the beauty of nature. So those are my prayerful moments even if not always formulated as conventional prayer. God speaks to us and relates to us as we are and where we are.

So may the Spirit of truth form us into a wise and understanding people, so that we may know the ways of our God and apply this knowledge to every aspect of our lives, as individuals and as a church body.

The Collect

O God, the protector of all that trust in thee, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy; that, thou being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things eternal: Grant this, O heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake our Lord. Amen

Hymn STF 566

1] Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in endless praise.

2] Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.

3] Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee.

4] Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

5] Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6] Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879)

And now, may the God of peace,
who brought back again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
equip you with all you need for doing his will.

May he produce in you,
through the power of Jesus Christ,
all this is pleasing to him.
To him be glory forever and ever. Amen

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