

Morning Prayer
Sunday 13th September – 14th Sunday after Trinity

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,
according to your judgement give us life.

We reflect on our failings in the past week.

**Holy God,
Holy and strong,
Holy and immortal,
Have mercy on us.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.
Silence may be kept.

**As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Word of God

Old Testament Reading – Ruth 4: 1-11

Meanwhile Boaz went up to the town gate and sat down there just as the guardian-redeemer he had mentioned came along. Boaz said, 'Come over here, my friend, and sit down.' So he went over and sat down.

² Boaz took ten of the elders of the town and said, 'Sit here,' and they did so. ³ Then he said to the guardian-redeemer, 'Naomi, who has come back from Moab, is selling the piece of land that belonged to our relative Elimelek. ⁴ I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line.'

'I will redeem it,' he said.

⁵ Then Boaz said, 'On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property.'

⁶ At this, the guardian-redeemer said, 'Then I cannot redeem it because I might endanger my own estate. You redeem it yourself. I cannot do it.'

⁷ (Now in earlier times in Israel, for the redemption and transfer of property to become final, one party took off his sandal and gave it to the other. This was the method of legalising transactions in Israel.)

⁸ So the guardian-redeemer said to Boaz, 'Buy it yourself.' And he removed his sandal.

⁹ Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, 'Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelek, Kilion and Mahlon. ¹⁰ I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, Mahlon's widow, as my wife, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from his home town. Today you are witnesses!'

¹¹ Then the elders and all the people at the gate said, 'We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the family of Israel. May you have standing in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading – Ephesians 1 : 3-11

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will – ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfilment – to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

O my God, in you I trust.

You are the God of my salvation,

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

In you I hope all the day long.

O my God, in you I trust.

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,

for they are from everlasting.

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;

O my God, in you I trust.

from Psalm 25

Benedictus

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors,
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68–79

Glory to the Father, and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

The Sermon

Prayers

our prayers are led, and may include the response:

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer.

**Keep us, good Lord,
Under the shadow of your mercy
In this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
And lift up all who are brought low;
That we may rejoice in your comfort
Knowing that nothing can separate us from your love,
In Christ Jesus our Lord
Amen.**

Collect

**Merciful God,
Your Son came to save us
And bore our sins on the cross:
May we trust in your mercy
And know your love,
Rejoicing in the righteousness
That is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Trusting in the compassion of God,
Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us
“Our Father, who art in heaven ...”

Hymn

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

Timothy Dudley-Smith
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The Conclusion

The Blessing, followed by:

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour and the majesty:
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.**

Yours, Lord, is the kingdom:
and you are exalted as head over all.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

We are continuing our very brief services of Holy Communion
(sharing bread only, and with no singing) in our churches.
These are not affected by the new restrictions being brought in.

Today's service is at Kirkby Malzeard Church at 11.15.

There will also be a Communion at Winksley Church at 10.30 am on Wednesday (this is a
change from the previously advertised venue).

Face coverings are now compulsory in church services.