

**COLLECT, READINGS AND REFLECTION**  
**SUNDAY 24 July 2022- 6<sup>th</sup> after Trinity**

**COLLECT**

Merciful God,  
you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our  
understanding:  
pour into our hearts such love toward you  
that we, loving you in all things and above all things,  
may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire;  
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.

**Psalm 138**

- 1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; ♦  
before the gods will I sing praise to you.
- 2 I will bow down towards your holy temple and praise your name,  
because of your love and faithfulness; ♦  
for you have glorified your name  
and your word above all things.
- 3 In the day that I called to you, you answered me; ♦  
you put new strength in my soul.
- 4 All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, ♦  
for they have heard the words of your mouth.
- 5 They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, ♦  
that great is the glory of the Lord.
- 6 Though the Lord be high, he watches over the lowly; ♦  
as for the proud, he regards them from afar.
- 7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you will preserve me; ♦  
you will stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;  
your right hand will save me.
- 8 The Lord shall make good his purpose for me; ♦  
your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever;  
forsake not the work of your hands.

## Colossians 2. 6-15

### Fullness of Life in Christ

<sup>6</sup> As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives<sup>[a]</sup> in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

<sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe,<sup>[b]</sup> and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. <sup>11</sup> In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision,<sup>[c]</sup> by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; <sup>12</sup> when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God<sup>[d]</sup> made you<sup>[e]</sup> alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> He disarmed<sup>[f]</sup> the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

*Alleluia, **Alleluia.***

*Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home in you; through him give thanks to God the Father.*

**Alleluia.**

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to **Luke, Chapter 11, verses 1-13.***

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**11** He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' **2** He said to them, 'When you pray, say:

Father,<sup>[a]</sup> hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.<sup>[b]</sup>

**3** Give us each day our daily bread.<sup>[c]</sup>

**4** And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.'<sup>[d]</sup>

### **Perseverance in Prayer**

**5** And he said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; **6** for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him." **7** And he answers from within, "Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything." **8** I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

**9** 'So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. **10** For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. **11** Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for<sup>[e]</sup> a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? **12** Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? **13** If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit<sup>[f]</sup> to those who ask him!'

*This is the Gospel of the Lord*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## ***A Reflection from Hannah....***

In the Jesus Storybook Bible- which is a paraphrase of scripture for young children- the opening line of the Lord's Prayer is 'Hello Daddy'. That may jar somewhat! It feels very uncomfortable, perhaps far too familiar, much too informal. Yet it is a faithful translation of the opening line that Jesus gives us in response to that famous question from his disciples- 'Lord, teach us to pray.'

When we pray, says Jesus, the first thing we are to do is to position ourselves in our rightful place. This was a new thing compared to all that had gone before in the practice of prayer- it was made possible only through Christ. Because of Jesus, we are to address God as Abba, Father- in other words, we step into the place that Jesus occupies. We are adopted sons and daughters of God, heirs to the kingdom, just as Jesus is. This takes guts. Everything in us might want to say 'no, no, we cannot possibly take the place of Christ- we're not worthy, we're not the same as him, we just can't do that, it's too much, too audacious, too bold, too presumptuous.'

We can protest, but there is no escaping it- in prayer, our relationship with God is enabled through Christ. He prays in us, and in order for that to happen, we must stand where Jesus stands, and claim our place as children of God, siblings of the great high priest. In that process, our priestly role of bringing this broken and hurting world before the God of love becomes real.

The Lord's prayer- our pattern for all our prayers- makes sure that we do not approach the throne of God selfishly. It is a prayer that connects the whole of creation, that longs for justice and reconciliation. That interconnectedness is particularly important to remember just now, as this week's heatwave is a reminder that the whole world is facing a very big challenge- not just humanity, not just some places- the climate emergency is a global one.

In the Lord's prayer we are reminded that we are brothers and sisters in Christ, together. I cannot say my daily bread has been given until everyone has not gone hungry- that's the meaning of praying 'give us' rather than 'give me'. I cannot expect God's forgiveness without living a life of reconciliation myself, in which I forgive those who have wronged me. Those miraculous things- radical forgiveness, a commitment to social justice, the breaking in of heaven on earth- are all made possible when we stand where Jesus stands as we pray, allowing and enabling his eternal prayer to be prayed through us, to grow into every part of us, to transform us and to transform the world.