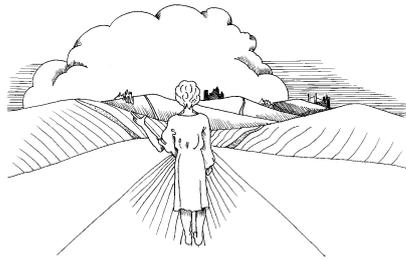


## THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

*'Running the way of God's commandments'*



### The Gathering

#### THE GREETING

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.** (1 Tim. 1:2)

#### A HYMN may be sung

St Paul wrote these words to the church at Philippi:

Beloved, this one thing I do:  
forgetting what lies behind and  
straining forward to what lies ahead,  
I press on toward the goal for the prize  
of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.  
Let us hold fast to what we have  
attained. (Phil. 3:13-14, 16)

#### PRAYER

Father God,  
as we journey home to you,  
and face the changes and challenges  
of life on the way,  
send your Holy Spirit among us now  
that together we may grow  
in faith, hope and love,  
united to him who is The Way,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### PENITENCE

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud  
of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight,  
and the sin that clings so closely, and let us  
run with perseverance the race that is set  
before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and  
perfector of our faith .... (Heb. 12:1-2)

We confess our sins to God in penitence and  
faith, saying:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour,  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.

We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may serve you  
in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### The GLORIA, the VENITE, a SONG or RESPONSES may be used

#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray ... (silent prayer)

Almighty and everlasting God,  
increase in us your gift of faith  
that, forsaking what lies behind  
and reaching out to that which is before;  
we may run the way of your commandments  
and win the crown of everlasting joy;  
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.**

### The Liturgy of the Word

#### THE SCRIPTURE READING(S)

*(After the reading)*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to N.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*(After the reading)*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### THE SERMON

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us declare our faith in God:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by  
the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come  
to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**                      **Amen.**

(The Apostles' Creed)

## **The Prayers**

### **INTERCESSIONS**

*(Special thanksgivings and prayers ...)*

Father God, we pray for your holy catholic apostolic Church;  
that all may be one in Christ,  
our risen Saviour.

Grant that every member of the Church may  
grow in knowledge of you, and faithfully serve  
you; that your Kingdom may come  
and your will be done.

We pray for bishop Libby, all clergy and lay  
workers; that they may be faithful ministers  
of your truth and grace.

We pray for our Queen and all who hold  
authority in the nations of the world;  
that there may be justice and peace  
on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we  
plan and do; that our works may bring glory to  
your Name.

Fill us with compassion for those who suffer  
from any grief, trouble or injustice;  
that they may be delivered from distress.

We remember with thanksgiving those who  
have died ... We praise you for your saints  
who have entered into eternal rest;  
may we also come to share in your  
eternal joy.

In a moment of silence, let us pray for those  
we most deeply care about ...

Merciful Father,

**accept all these prayers for the sake of your  
Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**A HYMN may be sung**

## **CONCLUDING PRAYER**

Lord, be thou a bright flame before me.

Be thou a guiding star above me.

Be thou a smooth path below me.

Be thou a kindly shepherd behind me.

Today – tonight – and forever.                      **Amen.**

(St Columba)

## **THE BLESSING or THE GRACE is said**