

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
(13.09.20)**

GREETING

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

Hold out your hands, God of grace, and receive all that we offer.
Take our lives, our love and all that we bring in faith today,
and use us and our gifts for the well-being of the world.
Amen.

WELCOME

CONFESSION

God, who does not turn away from the truth about our life,
even unto death,
we confess that we have far less courage.
We often pretend to ourselves,
we often pretend to others,
and sometimes we even try to pretend in your presence.
If we are afraid to see who we have become,
if we are too grieved about our lives
to ask for forgiveness,
or if we are too proud to ask others for forgiveness:
Stand before us in the truth of your costly grace.

When our lives celebrate comfort and complacency
instead of the journey of faith,
when we close off the reality of the lives of others
because it demands a response we will not give:
Speak before us in the truth of your costly grace, Jesus Christ.
Speak into our hearts in new ways,
the ways of your faithfulness to us, O God.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Even as we pray,
the life of Jesus
moves towards all that would destroy us,
healing, loving and bringing grace.
We are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

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.

READINGS

Romans 14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ

died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written,

‘As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.’
So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

‘For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.” And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, “Pay what you owe.” Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you.” But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, “You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?” And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.’

REFLECTION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us affirm our faith together:

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.

We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE PEACE

Let love be genuine. Never pay back evil for evil.
As far as it lies with you, live at peace with everyone.

Romans 12.9,17,18

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught his disciples, so we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

BLESSING

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,
wherever he may send you.
May he guide you through the wilderness,
and protect you through the storm.
May he bring you home rejoicing
at the wonders he has shown you.
May he bring you home rejoicing
once again into our doors.
Amen.

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

NOTICES

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

Greeting, Confession and Assurance of Pardon adapted from Dorothy McRae-McMahon, *Liturgies for the Daily Life* (SPCK, London, 2004) Copyright © Dorothy McRae-McMahon 2004. Used with permission of the author.

Collect, Peace & Affirmation of Faith from *Common Worship: Times and Seasons* copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2006

Blessing taken from Morning Prayer from Northumbria Community's Celtic Daily Prayer published by Collins. Used with permission.