

**ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
(23.08.2020)**

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

Holy God,
you liberate the oppressed
and make a way of salvation.
Unite us with all who cry for justice,
and lead us together into freedom;
through our Lord and Liberator, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

READINGS

Psalm 138
Thanksgiving and Praise
Of David.

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the gods I sing your praise;
I bow down towards your holy temple
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your
faithfulness;
for you have exalted your name and your word
above everything.
On the day I called, you answered me,
you increased my strength of soul.

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,
for they have heard the words of your mouth.

They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
for great is the glory of the Lord.
For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly;
but the haughty he perceives from far away.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;
you stretch out your hand,
and your right hand delivers me.
The Lord will fulfil his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures for ever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Matthew 16: 13-20

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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.

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