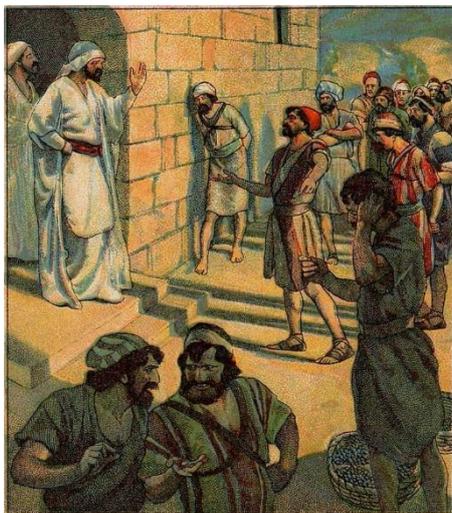


FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 2020
ALL SAINTS WITLEY: LITURGY OF THE WORD



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

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

HYMN

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
he whose word cannot be broken
formed thee for his own abode.
On the Rock of ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
ever flows their thirst to assuage:
grace which, like the Lord the giver,
never fails from age to age?

Round each habitation hovering,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering,
showing that the Lord is near.
Thus they march, the pillar leading,
light by night and shade by day;
daily on the manna feeding
which he gives them when they pray.

Saviour, if of Zion's city
I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy name.
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
all his boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasure,
none but Zion's children know.

COLLECT

Lord God, defend your Church from all false teaching, and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

CONFESSION

Let us confess our sins.

We have not always worshipped God, our creator.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We have not always followed Christ, our Saviour.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We have not always trusted in the Spirit, our guide.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

ABSOLUTION

May the Father forgive us by the death of his Son, and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit all our days.
Amen.

READINGS

New Testament: Philippians 1. 21 – 30

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Gospel: Matthew 20. 1 – 16

'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

SERMON

Ben Cahill-Nicholls

CHOIR ANTHEM *Teach me, O Lord*

Words: Psalm 119. 33

Music: Thomas Attwood, 1765–1838

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes:
and I shall keep it unto the end.

PRAYERS

Father of all, teach us to pray with our hearts as well as our lips, with our actions as well as our thoughts.

Bless those who are trying to be reconciling agents wherever war and terrorism is part of daily life. Be with the victims of war, the soldiers forced to fight against their better judgment, civilians losing home, limbs or life, and those who are persecuted for their beliefs.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for anyone who is finding life difficult at the moment; the unemployed or work-weary, those trying to break a drug habit, coping with mental illness, or facing a difficult diagnosis. We pray for those who have no faith to guide and encourage them and those who are struggling with life for whatever reason.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for our family, our friends, our neighbours, and all who live and work in Witley. We pray for the pupils, staff and governors of Barrow Hills, King Edward's and Rodborough Schools and our own church schools, Witley and Chandler.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Lord God, your Son cared for everyone equally, healed the sick and encouraged those in need. We pray for anyone we know who is unwell or in need of prayer, for those facing difficult decisions about their health and future, and especially for those we name in our hearts today ... (*silence*).

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

For ourselves and those we love, we seek the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the challenging and healing love of Christ, and the never-ending love of God.

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Heavenly Father, to you be given all trust and thanksgiving, love and praise, today and forever.

Amen.

THE PEACE

Christ came and preached the gospel peace to those who are far off and those who are near.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

HYMN

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour
first-begotten from the dead,
thou alone, our strong defender,
liftest up thy people's head.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Jesu, true and living bread.

Here our humblest homage pay we,
here in loving reverence bow;
here for faith's discernment pray we,
lest we fail to know thee now.
Alleluia, alleluia,
thou art here, we ask not how.

Paschal Lamb, thine offering, finished
once for all when thou wast slain,
in its fullness undiminished
shall for evermore remain,
Alleluia, alleluia,
cleansing souls from every stain.

Life-imparting heavenly manna,
stricken rock with streaming side,
heaven and earth with loud hosanna
worship thee, the Lamb who died,
Alleluia, alleluia,
risen, ascended, glorified!

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

NOTICES

BLESSING

May God keep you in all your days.
May Christ shield you in all your ways.
May the Spirit bring you healing and peace.
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Piano Voluntary

