

Welcome to a short time of prayer and reflection for the nineteenth Sunday after Trinity. Let us be still and recognise we are in the presence of God: Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen

The Lord be with you

“Give to God the things that are God’s” Jesus says in today’s gospel. It is in answer to a question that could have taken him to a complex set of political and theological issues which we will reflect on in a minute, but as we come consciously into God’s presence in prayer and reflection let’s just pause with that instruction:

Give to God the things that are God’s: what are the things of God in our lives that we are called to give?

When have we withheld the gifts that God has given us?

We ask God’s forgiveness for the times we fail to give freely to God what we have received freely:

Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord hear my voice Lord have mercy

If you Lord, were to mark what is done amiss, Lord who could stand? Christ have mercy

But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered. Lord have mercy

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits for him: in his word is my hope.

May Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive you your sins and bring you to everlasting life Amen

Let us pray:

O God, forasmuch as without you

we are not able to please you;

mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit

may in all things direct and rule our hearts;

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.

We listen to a reading from the Gospel of Matthew 22: 15-22
The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon : see additional attachment

Let us pray:

Gracious God,

We thank you for calling us into the body of Christ, the church. Renew us as we worship that we may bear witness to you as we give thanks for all that you give us. Forgive and heal the failure of the church to live according to the love you desire us to bring to the world. Bless and guide us all in meeting the challenges that the pandemic has brought with your wisdom and your love.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for all who exercise power in the world: rulers, corporate bodies and those of great wealth: inspire them with eyes to see the impact of their decisions and hearts that guide them to compassion and generosity of spirit in all they do.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for all those with whom we share our lives, asking your blessing on our families and friends. We pray for our communities in the town and villages of the Mission Community,

for our town and parish councils and all who take a role in serving our communal life. We pray for all who volunteer for charitable activity and all the non-profit organisations that make such a difference through times of strain: may their generosity inspire others to join their efforts.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Tender God, we bring our prayers for all who suffer. We raise to you in our own hearts any who we know to be ill, injured in distress, at home, in hospital or in a hospice. We pray for all whose mental health is being undermined by the anxiety or restrictions of this time. Bless with the comfort of your presence and such healing that is according to your will all we name in our hearts, and those we cannot name because their pain is known only to you.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Eternal God, we commend to your everlasting love all who have died: those we love and see no longer; those who have died recently and those whose anniversary of death falls around now. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We gather all these intercessions in the prayer Jesus gave us:

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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory. Forever and ever, Amen.

Giving thanks for the communion we share through baptism with one another and with God in Christ Jesus our Lord we make an act of spiritual communion in the words of this prayer:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. As I cannot receive you sacramentally today, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

And we pray for God's blessing on each other and all who we love and pray for:

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen