

As we come to a short time of prayer and reflection for the second Sunday after Trinity, may we become aware that we are in the presence of God: Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen

The Lord be with you

Today's gospel follows on from the passage we heard last week, and brings home to us the radical bravery of those who laid the foundations of the early church. Jesus warns his friends of the opposition they will face as they become witnesses to his gospel. This does not make comfortable reading but it does ask us to think about how central our own faith is to our lives and invites us to renew our commitment in faith.

As we prepare to reflect on the gospel let us take a moment to review the last week, to notice when we felt close to God and give thanks for those times, and to offer to God for healing and forgiveness those times when we have resisted and rejected the way of love Jesus teaches us.

When we have turned away from you and ignored your will for our lives, Lord have mercy.

When we have behaved just as we wished, without thinking of you, Christ have mercy.

When have failed you by what we do and say, Lord have mercy.

May the God of love and power, forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen

Let us pray:

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and our into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.

Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

We listen to a reading from the Gospel of Matthew 10:24-39

The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon : see additional attachment

Let us pray:

Gracious God, we give thanks for all whose courage and commitment our own faith has depended on: those who through centuries have professed the love of God revealed in Jesus that we may know it now. We ask your protection and blessing for all whose faith puts them in danger today and for wisdom and enthusiasm for those whose faith is surrounded by apathy.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Father of all, we continue to pray for the efforts across our world to ease and end the Covid 19 pandemic: for scientists, medics and all those who lead the nations through such difficult days. We pray for an end to the inequalities and injustices that cause disproportionate suffering in some groups in our own society and across our world.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gracious God, we pray for our families, friends and neighbours, giving thanks for all who serve our local communities as teachers, doctors and health workers, carers and all who are make sure we have the essential goods we need. We ask your blessing on all

who feel vulnerable and isolated, and on those who need to remain at home, even as rules change,

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Loving Lord, We bring to you in our hearts all who we know to be suffering at this time: through illness, injury or any kind of distress. Help them to have a sense of your presence with them. Bring them wholeness of body, mind and spirit, and the healing that is according to God's will,

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.

And we pray for God's blessing:

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