

As we come to a short time of prayer and reflection for the third 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

Last week, the gospel warned of the hostility the disciples might face in the world. This week stands in stark contrast: Jesus encourages his disciples to rejoice when they receive a welcome in his name: when they are welcomed, the God they serve is welcomed too. Very often we spend a lot of time thinking about what we need to be doing to make God's love known in the world. Today we are asked to think, with some humility about how we enable others to welcome God through us when we accept and receive their hospitality.

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, especially times when we have overlooked the welcome of others.

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:

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; 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 forever. Amen.

We listen to a reading from the Gospel of Matthew 10:40-42

The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon : see additional attachment

Let us pray:

Gracious God, we pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout the world. Help us to bring your love to all those amongst whom we live: both in our service to them, and in the way we receive their love and care.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Father of all, we pray that all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of being your children: for a gentler attitude to the use of the gifts of creation, for the end of injustice, oppression and war, and for the healing of the nations from the pandemic, and all that impedes common flourishing.

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 for a spirit of mutual

care to prevail as lockdown eases, with needs of the most vulnerable remaining our main concern.

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