

# THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

'Grant us the help of your grace'



Grace, meaning 'favour' or 'gift' (translating the Latin *gratia* and the Greek *charis*) refers to God's unconditional love for the world, shown in the gifts he gives to the human race – life, food, intelligence, friendship and, above all, forgiveness and the new life in Christ. None of these things are earned or deserved. They are simply gifts – to be received humbly and gratefully.

## The Gathering

### THE GREETING

Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord be with you. **And also with you.** (1 Tim. 1:2)

(A HYMN may be sung)

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing:  
**it is the gift of God.** (Eph. 2:8)

God's love has been poured into our hearts  
**through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.** (Rom. 5:5)

### PRAYER

**Gracious God,**  
**as we gather here to worship you,**  
**make us thankful for your special gifts,**  
**aware of our many failings,**  
**humble to receive forgiveness,**  
**and open to the Holy Spirit**  
**who fills us with your life and love,**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(SONGS may be sung)

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### PENITENCE

The grace of God has appeared bringing salvation to all. (Titus 2:11)

As we celebrate the grace and goodness of God, we remember our sins and weaknesses:

Father God, we confess that we often take the gifts of your creation for granted, and use them chiefly to further our own interests ...  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Saviour Christ, we confess that we often give in to the selfish desires of our hearts, and the uncaring ways of the world ...  
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, we confess that we often close our minds to your influence, and fail to bear good fruits in our lives ...  
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

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.**

(The GLORIA, the VENITE, a SONG or RESPONSES may be used)

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray ... (silent prayer)

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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. **Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### THE SCRIPTURE READING(S)

(After the reading)  
This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM/HYMN or SCRIPTURAL SONG

### THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

(After the reading)  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### THE SERMON

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God:

### INTERCESSIONS

(Special thanksgivings and prayers ...)

We pray to you our Father in heaven:

We give thanks for your grace that bestows on us many gifts of life and love, forgiveness and fortitude.  
**Renew us with the Holy Spirit.**

We give thanks for all that we receive from the life and people of this church.  
**Inspire the bishops, clergy and lay ministers who serve your people.**

We give thanks for Christ's call to follow him, and to bear witness to God's Kingdom.  
**Give us boldness to stand up for our beliefs, and perseverance in the face of hostility.**

We give thanks for our country, our Queen and those who have authority in this and other nations.  
**Strengthen all leaders to serve the people with integrity, wisdom and faithfulness.**

We give thanks for people of goodwill and high principles.  
**Bless all who promote justice and reconciliation throughout the world.**

We give thanks for this astonishingly beautiful and bountiful world.

**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.** (from Eph. 3)

(A HYMN may be sung)

## The Prayers

**Give us the determination to protect it from abuse.**

We give thanks for the support and care of our families and friends.  
**Enlarge our love to include those who are lonely or troubled.**

We give thanks for what health we have.  
**Bring healing, patience and hope to those who suffer pain and infirmity.**

We give thanks for those who have died, and pray for those left behind.  
**May we, with them, have a place in your eternal Kingdom.**

Merciful Father, **accept all these prayers in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

(A HYMN may be sung)

### CONCLUDING PRAYER

**Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, and make us continually to be given to all good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(Collect from Common Worship)

(THE BLESSING or THE GRACE is said)