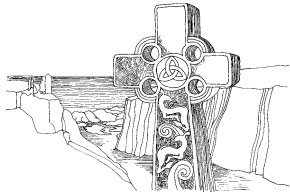


THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

'Worship in spirit and in truth'



Today's Collect, quoting Jesus' words in John 4:24, asks God to help us worship him 'in spirit and in truth'. This means celebrating God's love for his world, within a true and spiritual relationship to him as the Father – not within an old, rigid tradition. This new, living relationship has been opened up for us by Jesus Christ. We come to the Father only through him.

The Gathering

THE GREETING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

(A HYMN may be sung)

O Lord, open my lips:
and my mouth will declare your praise.

(Ps. 51:15)

Jesus said: 'God is spirit,
**and those who worship him must worship
in spirit and truth.'**

(John 4:24)

St Paul wrote:
'Sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to
God: do everything in the name of the Lord
Jesus,
**giving thanks to God the Father through
him.'**

(Col. 3:16-17ff)

PRAYER

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

(SONGS may be sung)

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PENITENCE

We have gathered here to worship God,
conscious of our unworthiness to do so.
Using words of St Augustine, we pray:

Lord Jesus, our Saviour, let us come near.

Our hearts are cold, **Lord have mercy.**
Warm them with your selfless love.

Our hearts are sinful, **Christ have mercy.**
Cleanse them with your precious blood.

Our hearts are weak, **Lord have mercy.**
Strengthen them with your joyous Spirit.

Our hearts are empty, **Christ have mercy.**
Fill them with your divine presence.

Lord Jesus, our hearts are yours,
**possess them always and only for
yourself. Amen.**

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray ... (silent prayer)

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened
for us a new and living way into your
presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast
wills to worship you in spirit and in truth;
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 affirm our faith in God:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom
we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son who
took our human nature, died for us, and rose
again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy
Spirit, who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

(A HYMN may be sung)

The Prayers

INTERCESSIONS

(Special thanksgivings and prayers ...)

Father God, who knows our needs before
we ask, hear our prayers for all people:

Give grace to those who minister in your
Church: Bishop N., the clergy and all lay
ministers ... Anoint them with the Holy Spirit
for their work in building up the body of
Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain our Christian brothers and sisters in
other places who are persecuted ... Deliver
those who are in prison for their beliefs.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide our Queen and government and the
leaders of the nations in all their decisions ...
Bring reconciliation to situations where there
is deep and bitter conflict, and new oppor-
tunities for all to make the most of their lives.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Enlighten all who are engaged in scientific
research. May their work promote the life,
health and well-being of the world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless the work of our local schools ... Give
teachers the skill, enthusiasm and patience

to inspire the young to learn.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be with those whose work is very
demanding or unrewarding ... Give
employers understanding of their needs.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be close to those who are unwell, frail or
disabled ... Bless all who bring healing and
care, and who sustain hope.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We remember with thanksgiving those who
have died ... Strengthen all who grieve, with
comfort, faith and peace, for Jesus' sake.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(A HYMN may be sung)

CONCLUDING PRAYER

In our hearts and homes
we pray for the love of God the Father.

In our living and caring
we pray for the grace of God the Son.

In our coming and going
**we pray for the power of God the Holy
Spirit. Amen.**

(THE BLESSING or THE GRACE is said)