

Sunday 24 October 2021
The Last Sunday after Trinity
Led by Michaela McNeill, ALM



Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
and also with you.

Opening Prayers

Lord, speak to us
that we may hear your word.
Move among us
that we may behold your glory.
Receive our prayers
that we may learn to trust you. Amen.

Hymn – Amazing Grace! sung by St Martin's Voices

- 1 Amazing grace! – how sweet the sound –
 that saved a wretch like me!
 I once was lost, but now am found,
 was blind, but now I see.

- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
 and grace my fears relieved;
 how precious did that grace appear
 the hour I first believed!

- 3 Through many dangers, toils and snares
 I have already come;
 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
 and grace will lead me home.

- 4 The Lord has promised good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we first begun.

Prayer of Penitence

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:
fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:
fill us with your Spirit.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:
fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Meditation

We will now concentrate on these words from Psalm 34:

¹ I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

² My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.

³ O magnify the LORD with me,

and let us exalt his name together.

4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.

5 Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.

6 This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD,
and was saved from every trouble.

7 The angel of the LORD encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.

8 O taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.

Bible readings

Hebrews 7.23 to the end

Furthermore, the former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office;²⁴ but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.²⁵ Consequently he is able for all time to save those who approach God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

²⁶ For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.²⁷ Unlike the other high priests, he has no need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for those of the people; this he did once for all when he offered himself.²⁸ For the law appoints as high priests those who are subject to weakness, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.

Mark 10.46 to the end

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside.⁴⁷ When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have

mercy on me!”⁴⁸ Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”⁴⁹ Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.”⁵⁰ So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.⁵¹ Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.”⁵² Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

Sermon by Rev Claire Robertson

In the 1980s when Bernard D’Ascoli, a boy who had been blind since he was three, reached the finals of Leeds international piano competition the news hit the headlines and many television interviews followed. When interviewers asked him about the difficulties of being a blind pianist he said he considered it an advantage as he listened better. As concert pianists play from memory he explained he was able to learn all his scores in Braille. Through courage, determination and inspiration he had gained equality, with his fully sighted peers. He was a pianist who happened to be blind – not a blind pianist.

One of the highlights of 2021 for me has been watching the amazing athletes in the Paralympics from Tokyo and hear their inspiring stories.

The Paralympic values are courage, determination inspiration and equality which reminded me of Bernard’s story.

The athletes’ stories are equally inspirational and gave us an insight into how important it is to encourage others to develop their talents and to find ways to be inclusive in our society and our church communities.

How do we do that?

The gospel story gives us a clue – where listening well to others features rather prominently.

We hear that Bartimaeus is at the roadside begging when Jesus

with a large crowd around him prepares to leave the city. Bartimaeus summons up courage and shouts at the top of his voice to Jesus. He gives Jesus the title “Son of David” and asks for help. The Jewish people know that their Messiah, the longed for Saviour will be descended from King David so Bartimaeus is showing his faith in Jesus and with simplicity and expectancy asking for help.

He must have a pretty loud voice because he is heard above the noise of the moving crowd! People with disabilities, in first century Palestine, are tolerated as beggars but they are not supposed to draw attention to themselves in this way and people in the crowd are clearly embarrassed by him because they tell him to be quiet.

But Jesus is listening. He is just starting out on a journey, a journey that will save the world, but he finds time to stop and to ask the crowd to call Bartimaeus. Whenever we ask Jesus for help he listens to us too and call us to him. Sometimes, as in this story, he may call us and send a messenger with the call.

Jesus’ action changes the attitude of the crowd towards Bartimaeus. Instead of being embarrassed and disapproving the people are now interested and encouraging .This reminds me that even one voice spoken in solidarity with those who ask for help can influence others.

The effect on Bartimaeus is transformational. He throws his cloak aside, which is probably one of his most important possessions for keeping him warm at nights, he leaps to his feet and comes to Jesus. His whole focus is on Jesus.

Here, at last, is someone who is taking time to listen to him.

At this point Jesus asks him “What do you want me to do for you?” He asks Bartimaeus what he wants- he doesn’t tell him - he asks him and listens to the reply.This empowers Bartimaeus.

“Teacher,“ he says “I want to see”.

Spiritually, Bartimaeus is already quite clear sighted. He has acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah and he trusts him to help him.

Jesus heals him, affirming his faith and says “Go” giving Bartimaeus the freedom to leave. Bartimaeus has voiced one need, in his case his wish to have his sight restored and been listened to. But his deeper need is to be a follower of Jesus and he immediately follows Jesus along the road.

Throughout the gospels we hear of Jesus taking time to go up a mountain or to go to a quiet place to listen to God in the silence. This enabled Jesus in the middle of a busy day with a crowd around him to hear the voice of Bartimaeus who needed him.

We also, if we are to hear the voices of others, in a busy timetable, need to make time to be silent and listen to God. As Bernard D’Ascoli pointed out, listening is an essential factor in being a musician it is also essential in Christian discipleship. Amen

Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,**

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Intercessions by Fiona Whelan

Heavenly Father, as we come to the close of this week for many of us times are difficult and uncertain. Many are struggling carrying the workload of more than one person. In times of emotional or physical hardship, it is easy to feel hopeless; to feel like things will never get better. But, as the Bible says, with You all things are possible. We come to you this morning with thanks and praise for all the many wonders of our world and the many gifts we have but often aren't aware of. We pray for healing to still our minds and the minds of those for whom we pray in these difficult times. Lord, lift us up for Your blessings today. We pray that you will anoint us with strength and self-care today, tomorrow, and always. We pray that You will grace us with patience and wisdom. We pray that You will encourage us throughout the day
Lord in Your Mercy, **hear our Prayer.**

Dear Lord we pray for Alison and her family safely settled in Launde Abbey, and we pray for the parishioners in Hardwick and Dry Drayton waiting for her replacement. We ask for Your strength and guidance for all who make up the Lordsbridge Team, whether leading services, teaching or quietly in the background organising things. During this period of Interregnum, help us all to consider coming forward and supporting the Team as they enable us to worship in these challenging times. Let us be still and listen to what the Holy Spirit is calling us to do. As we seek a new Team Rector, we ask for Your wisdom and guidance for those who may be called to apply and for those who will be selecting the new Rector. Thy will be done.
Lord in Your Mercy, **hear our Prayer.**

Dear Lord, we pray this morning for Your strength for all who are frightened and feeling alone. For those worried about how they

will cope financially in the months to come. For those ill or worried about loved ones. For those lonely and fearing the isolation that sometimes comes with darker nights. For those fearful and anxious but unsure why. Father we offer up to You now all the many fears that we carry silently inside us. Guide us, strengthen us, and hold us in Your love. Through You, all things are possible.

Silence is kept

Lord in Your Mercy, **hear our Prayer.**

Dear Lord, Grant us the compassion to look around us and see where we might do Your will. The peace and stillness to hear the Holy Spirit speak to us. To hear the lonely person who needs a friend. The troubled person in need of our prayers, the neighbour, stranger, colleague or friend unable to ask for help but so desperate for a moment of kindness and peace. Let us use the eyes, the hearts, the minds and hands created in Your heavenly image to do Your will here on earth.

Lord in Your Mercy, **hear our Prayer.**

Dear Lord, it is our will to surrender to you everything that we are and everything that we're striving to be. We open the deepest recesses of our hearts and invite Your Holy Spirit to dwell inside of us. We offer you our life, heart, mind, body, soul, and spirit. We surrender to you our past, present, and future problems. We ask You to take hold over every aspect of our life. We surrender to You all our hurt, pain, worry, doubt, fear, and anxiety, and we ask You to wash us clean. We release everything into Your compassionate care. Please speak to us clearly, Lord. Open our ears to hear Your voice. Open our hearts to commune with You more deeply. Help us to recognise the feel of Your loving embrace. Open the doors that need to be opened and close the doors that need to be closed. Please set our feet upon the straight and

narrow road that leads to everlasting life. Through You all things are possible.

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of Your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen**

The Collect

Blessed Lord,
who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning:
help us so to hear them,
to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them
that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word,
we may embrace and for ever hold fast
the hope of everlasting life,
which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

Hymn I heard the voice of Jesus say sung by St Martin's Voices

I I heard the voice of Jesus say:
'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down

thy head upon my breast.'
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad,
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say:
'Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink and live.'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say:
'I am this dark world's Light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk,
till travelling days are done.

Horatius Bonar (1808-1889) (CCLI 2598000, One License 80909)

Conclusion

Eternal God,
our beginning and our end,
accompany us in this day's journey.
Dawn on our darkness,
open our eyes to praise you for your creation
and to see the work you set before us today.
Take us and use us
to bring to others the new life you give in Jesus Christ
our Lord. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen