

PRAYER IN THE HOME

TRINITY 18: SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 2020

GATHERING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us light a candle to remember that God is with us.

Jesus, speak to us:

That we may hear your voice.

Holy Spirit, come to us:

That we may know your love.

Father, receive our prayers:

That we may deepen our trust in you.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

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.

COLLECT for the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

God, our judge and saviour,
teach us to be open to your truth
and to trust in your love,
that we may live each day
with confidence in the salvation which is given
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PSALM 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;

³ he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley I fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me.

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I
shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

BIBLE READING Matthew 22:1-14

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them.

⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹'But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.'

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

- *What words in that reading do you particularly remember and why?*
- *Who or where in the world does this reading remind you of?*
- *Was the reading intended to have an effect on what you think, what you do or what you believe?*

SERMON Rev Ian Luke-Macauley: <https://stbcc.co.uk/sermons>

INTERCESSIONS & CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray for the Church, for the world and for all those in need.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your gift of life.
Break down any barriers which prevent us from being at peace with you, and fill your Church with love.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Father, we thank you for the diversity and richness of your world.
We pray for all victims of our world's mistakes and evils
and ask your guidance and courage for our leaders.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Father, we thank you for the joy of our families and friendships and remember households where relationships are strained.
We pray for those we love and worry about, and those who love and worry about us, commending one another to your keeping.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Father, we thank you for the medical research that has brought healing and quality of life to so many, and we pray for the scientists' ongoing work. We pray for all who work in our hospitals, hospices and care homes and for all the people in their care.
We remember those who are anxious or afraid and ask for your protection and peace of mind.
Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,
to the mercy and protection of God.

Merciful Father:

**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Trusting in the compassion of God,
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.**

The Lord bless you and watch over you,
the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you,
the Lord look kindly on you
and give you peace.

Amen.