

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2020: Trinity 19

Luke the Evangelist

Welcome to Praying Together but Separately

**HYMN: FORTH IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND GATHERING BEFORE GOD**

I am in the presence of the Living God, Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, you called Luke the physician whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul:

By the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel give your Church the same love and power to heal; 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

**PSALM 147:1-7**

*R Great is our Lord and mighty in power*

Alleluia.

How good it is to make music for our God,

How joyful to honour him with praise.

The Lord builds up Jerusalem

And gathers together the outcasts of Israel **R**

He heals the broken hearted

And binds up all their wounds.

He counts the number of the stars

and calls them all by their names

Great is our Lord and mighty in power;

His wisdom is beyond all telling. **R**

The Lord lifts up the poor,  
but casts down the wicked to the ground.  
Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;  
Make music to our God upon the lyre **R**

**CONFESSION**

What God has prepared for those who love him, He has revealed to us through the Spirit; For the Spirit searches everything. Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord, who has prepared good things for those who love him. Cf 1 Corinthians 2.9

Come let us return to the Lord:

**Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call.**

**Our love for you is like the morning cloud,**

**Like the dew that goes away early.**

**Have mercy on us: Deliver us from judgement,**

**Bind up our wounds and revive us;**

**In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

May the God of love bring us back to himself,  
forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us declare our faith in God.

**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.**

## REFLECTION

Ask God to speak to you through the passages that we are about to read.

## BIBLE READINGS:

Isaiah 35: 3-6

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.*

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

## **We cannot measure how you heal** *sung by St Martin's Voices*

- 1 We cannot measure how you heal  
or answer every sufferer's prayer,  
yet we believe your grace responds  
where faith and doubt unite to care.  
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross,  
survive to hold and heal and warn,  
to carry all through death to life  
and cradle children yet unborn.
- 2 The pain that will not go away,  
the guilt that clings from things long past,  
the fear of what the future holds,  
are present as if meant to last.  
But present too is love which tends  
the hurt we never hoped to find,  
the private agonies inside,  
the memories that haunt the mind.

- 3 So some have come who need your help,  
and some have come to make amends,  
as hands which shaped and saved the world  
are present in the touch of friends.  
Lord, let your Spirit meet us here  
to mend the body, mind and soul,  
to disentangle peace from pain  
and make your broken people whole.

*John L Bell (born 1949) and Graham Maule (1958-2019)*

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## **Epistle 2 Timothy 4:5-17**

*A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy*

As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully. As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept good faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. Do your best to come to me soon, for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry. I have sent Tychicus to Ephesus. When you come bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, also the books, and above all the parchments. Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will pay him back for his deeds. You also must beware of him, for he strongly opposed our message. At my first defence no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth.

## **Gospel: Luke 10: 1-9**

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.*

The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet on one on the road.

Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

### **SOME THOUGHTS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:**

**HYMN** God of hope and Lord of healing – Margaret Rizza  
*sung by St Martin's Voices*

*(O) God of hope and Lord of healing, we come to you in prayer.  
In our living and our dying, you promise to be there.*

For the weak we ask your courage, and your patience for the strong;  
stay with those whose pain is sharpest and those enduring long.

*Refrain*

O provide for all the weary your precious gift of sleep;  
with the glad let us be joyful, and weep with those who weep.

*Refrain*

Come to meet your praying people, be with us as we kneel;  
come to help us, God our Saviour, for you alone can heal.

*Refrain © Christopher Idle/Jubilate Hymns Ltd*

## **PRAYERS**

Almighty and loving God,  
Great and wonderful, true and faithful,  
We come before you with thanksgiving,  
To proclaim praise  
And celebrate your unfailing love and mercy  
In the midst of uncertainty.

We bring you our worship,  
As a token of our gratitude and expression of our faith;  
As a way of acknowledging your goodness and guidance,  
and your presence with us at all times.

Loving God, today we want to dedicate ourselves again to your service,  
To reaffirm our loyalty to Christ and his Church,  
And especially our own church family  
Whether we are worshipping together in person, online,  
Or in our own homes.

Speak to us today, we pray,  
So that, familiar though our words may be,  
They may stir and challenge our hearts.

Be present among us at this time,  
So that we catch a new sense of your purpose,  
And a new vision of the future you would lead us to. Amen  
*Inspired by 'Prayer for All Seasons', Nick Fawcett, published by Kevin Mayhew, p.207*

**A PRAYER CONCERNING THE CORONAVIRUS** God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen

### THE ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (INTRODUCED BY A CHORUS BY NICHOLAS)

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament, I  
love You above all things, and desire to receive You into my soul. Since I  
cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least into my  
heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself  
wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

### THE 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 with you, and those you love, and remain with you for ever more.

**Amen**

Go in the peace of Christ: Thanks be to God.

### HYMN: O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING *sung by St Martin's Voices*

- 1 O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my dear Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of his grace.
- 2 Jesus - the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease;

'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life, and health, and peace.

- 3 He speaks; and, listening to his voice,  
new life the dead receive;  
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice;  
the humble poor believe.
- 4 My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim  
and spread through all the earth abroad  
the honours of thy name.