

01 May 2022

## Hymn tis 147 To god be the Glory great things he has done

The Lord be with you. **And also with you .**

### Sentence of the Day

To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever. Revelation 5.13

### 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.**

### The two great Commandments

The Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment.

And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

**Lord, have mercy on us: and write your law in our hearts by your Holy Spirit.**

### Prayer of the day

Christ our friend, you ask for our love in spite of our betrayal:

give us courage to embrace forgiveness, to know you again, and to trust ourselves in you. **Amen.**

### Acts 9.1-20

<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

<sup>3</sup> As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?'

<sup>5</sup> 'Who are you, Lord?' Saul asked. 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' he replied. <sup>6</sup> 'Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.'

<sup>7</sup> The men travelling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. <sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes, he could see nothing. So, they led him by the hand into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> For three days he was blind and did not eat or drink anything.

<sup>10</sup> In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, 'Ananias!' 'Yes, Lord,' he answered. <sup>11</sup> The Lord told him, 'Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. <sup>12</sup> In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.'

<sup>13</sup> 'Lord,' Ananias answered, 'I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.'

<sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to Ananias, 'Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. <sup>16</sup> I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.'

<sup>17</sup> Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord – Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here – has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.'

<sup>18</sup> Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again.

He got up and was baptised, <sup>19</sup> and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. <sup>20</sup> At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

### Psalm 30

- <sup>1</sup> I will exalt you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up from the depths:  
and have not suffered my foes to triumph over me.
- <sup>2</sup> O Lord my God, I cried to you: and you have made me whole.
- <sup>3</sup> You brought me back, O Lord, from the land of silence:  
you saved my life from among those that go down to the Pit.
- <sup>4</sup> Sing praises to the Lord, all you his faithful ones: and give thanks to his holy name.
- <sup>5</sup> For if in his anger is havoc, in his good favour is life:  
heaviness may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.
- <sup>6</sup> In my prosperity I said 'I shall never be moved: your goodness, O Lord, has set me on so firm a hill.'
- <sup>7</sup> Then you hid your face from me: and I was greatly dismayed.
- <sup>8</sup> I cried to you, O God: and made my petition humbly to my Lord.
- <sup>9</sup> 'What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the Pit:  
can the dust give you thanks, or declare your faithfulness?
- <sup>10</sup> 'Hear, O Lord, and be merciful: O Lord, be my helper.'
- <sup>11</sup> You have turned my lamentation into dancing:  
you have put off my sackcloth and girded me with joy,
- <sup>12</sup> That my heart may sing your praise and never be silent:  
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever.

### Revelation 5.6-14

- <sup>6</sup> Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the centre of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.
- <sup>7</sup> He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. <sup>8</sup> And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. <sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. <sup>10</sup> You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.'
- <sup>11</sup> Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. <sup>12</sup> In a loud voice they were saying: 'Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!'
- <sup>13</sup> Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: 'To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honour and glory and power, for ever and ever!' <sup>14</sup> The four living creatures said, 'Amen', and the elders fell down and worshipped.

### John 21.1-19

- <sup>1</sup> Afterwards Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: <sup>2</sup> Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. <sup>3</sup> 'I'm going out to fish,' Simon Peter told them, and they said, 'We'll go with you.' So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.
- <sup>4</sup> Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> He called out to them, 'Friends, haven't you any fish?' 'No,' they answered.
- <sup>6</sup> He said, 'Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.' When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.
- <sup>7</sup> Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, 'It is the Lord,' he wrapped his outer garment round him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water.

<sup>8</sup> The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred metres.

<sup>9</sup> When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread. <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish you have just caught.'

<sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn.

<sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of the disciples dared ask him, 'Who are you?' They knew it was the Lord.

<sup>13</sup> Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' 'Yes, Lord,' he said, 'you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Feed my lambs.'

<sup>16</sup> Again Jesus said, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He answered, 'Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Take care of my sheep.'

<sup>17</sup> The third time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, 'Do you love me?' He said, 'Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.' Jesus said, 'Feed my sheep.'

<sup>18</sup> Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.' <sup>19</sup> Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God.

Then he said to him, 'Follow me!'

## Sermon

### The creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,  
Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified  
under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at  
the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom  
will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father  
and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Intercessions

Let us pray for all people, and for the Church throughout the world.

Almighty and everliving God, we are taught by your holy apostles to make prayers and supplications and to  
give thanks for all people:

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to 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.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

## EXHORTATION

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we who come to receive the holy communion of the body and blood of our Saviour Christ can come only because of his great love for us. For, although we are completely undeserving of his love, yet in order to raise us from the darkness of death to everlasting life as God's sons and daughters, our Saviour Christ humbled himself to share our life and to die for us on the cross. In remembrance of his death, and as a pledge of his love, Jesus instituted this holy sacrament which we are now to share. But those who would eat the bread and drink the cup of the Lord must examine themselves and amend their lives. They must come with a penitent heart and steadfast faith. Above all they must give thanks to God for his love towards us in Christ Jesus. Christ our Passover Lamb has been offered for us, therefore we come to celebrate the festival.

### Invitation to Confession

Christ our Passover Lamb has been offered for us, therefore we come to celebrate the festival.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, with a sincere and a true heart.

**Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we acknowledge with shame the sins we have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against your divine majesty, provoking most justly your wrath and indignation against us.**

**We earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for all our misdoings. Have mercy on us, most merciful Father.**

**For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake forgive us all that is past,**

**and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please you in newness of life, to the honour and glory of your name,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Almighty God our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all who with hearty repentance and true faith turn to him: have mercy on you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 517 Hallelujah! Sing to Jesus

Through Christ, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, the fruit of lips that confess his name.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.

Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Lord, Mighty Creator, and Eternal God.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. He is the true passover lamb who was offered for us and has taken away the sin of the world.

By his death he has destroyed death; by his rising to life again he has restored to us eternal life.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with the whole company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, evermore praising you, and saying

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Glory to you, O Lord most high.**

We do not presume to come to your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.

But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.

Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. **Amen.**

All glory to you, our heavenly Father, for in your tender mercy you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death on the cross for our redemption: who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until his coming again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that we who receive these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion,

may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood;

who on the night he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples,

saying, 'Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.'

Likewise after supper he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, 'Drink from this, all of you; for this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'**Amen**

*We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.*

*The gifts of God for the people of God. Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts with thanksgiving.*

*The body of Christ keep you in eternal life. Amen*

*The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life. Amen*

Lord and heavenly Father, we your humble servants entirely desire your fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and to grant that, by the merits and death of your Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and your whole Church may receive forgiveness of our sins and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present to you, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice, humbly beseeching you that all we who are partakers of this holy communion may be fulfilled with your grace

and heavenly benediction. And although we are unworthy, through our many sins, to offer you any sacrifice, yet we pray that you will accept this, our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, Father, world without end.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Eternal God, giver of life, in the breaking of the bread we know the risen Lord.

May we who celebrate this holy feast walk in his risen light and bring new life to all creation.

**Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.**

### **Hymn 215 You servants of God**

#### **Blessing**

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you what is pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**



So, the disciples have seen the risen Lord, he has told them that he is sending them, as his Father had sent him, but they are not really sure what all this means, so rather than just hang around, they go fishing. Sometimes when we don't really know what the Lord wants us to do it is much better to do something that at least looks possible rather than sit around doing nothing. I'm sure you have heard the expression 'it is easier to steer a moving ship'. It is easier for the Lord to say 'no' or move us a little towards the right direction if we are doing something than if we are just waiting.

Fishing is what they know how to do and at worst will help feed their families, but they work all night and catch nothing. Even their old skills have left them, the sun is rising, it is time to go home and get some sleep but a figure on the shore calls out to them.



The figure tells them to let down their nets on the other side and as they haul in a stunning catch, they realise that the figure is the risen Lord.

There is significance in the time of day when all this happens. Dawn is a time full of beauty and possibility and at that moment Jesus appears to them, just as the sun appears over the horizon and brings light to a new day so Jesus the son of God appears at the end of our darkness and brings a new beginning.

When Jesus saw them before, he had commissioned them to work for him, he breathed on them to be filled with God's spirit and sent them into the world to do his work in the world. If they try to do it their own way, they will fail. They will toil all night and take nothing. The only way is for them to admit defeat, listen afresh to Jesus' voice and do what he says. Then there is no knowing what they will achieve.



Peter, who longed to see Jesus and clearly had unfinished business with him, in his usual style, cannot wait for the boat to come to shore and leaps out and goes to Jesus.

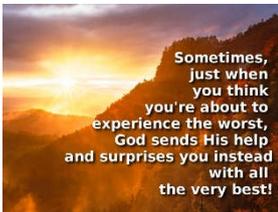
At the last supper Peter has insisted that he would remain loyal to Jesus no matter what, in fact he insists that he would die for his Lord. Throughout that dreadful night of Jesus' arrest Peter had followed but it all went horribly wrong. Then instead of leaving after the first mistake he stays and gets it wrong twice more. Three times he denies that he is one of Jesus' followers and then the cock crows.

And those denials happened beside a charcoal fire. As he ran away, realising what he had done, the smell of that fire would have lingered in his nostrils, that smell would be a trigger to remind him that Jesus knew what he had done, his friend the beloved disciple knew, and God knew. Not the resurrection, not even Jesus saying 'peace be with you' would really get rid of that memory.



As he came to the beach where Jesus was waiting, the smoke from another charcoal fire would have filled his nostrils and brought it all back.

Jesus does not address Peter's painful memory but asks the disciples to bring some of the fish they have just caught. Jesus is already cooking fish and bread on his charcoal fire. He doesn't need their catch. He is well capable of looking after himself and them. John is not telling us these details to fill in time, he wants us to understand the way Jesus works.



Sometimes we get the impression that if we don't do God's work in the world it just won't get done. As if somehow God cannot do anything without us physically participating. That is ridiculous: God is God he made the world and everything in it all without any help from us and he continues to run the

universe and speak into people's lives every day whether or not we contribute.

Who guides us to think and pray and love and hope? Who is the Lord of the World? We have been given the Holy Spirit to enable us to work for Jesus; but neither the institution of the church nor any individual member can upstage God. Jesus asks for and welcomes Peter's catch, but he doesn't need it.

Of course, we are to work hard. Of course, we are to be organised, there is no excuse for laziness, sloppiness, or half-heartedness in the Kingdom of God. If its God work, we are doing, we must do it with all our might, but it is God's work, Jesus remains sovereign and whatever we do, we are joining in his work. It has a certain similarity to when a small grandchild makes cookies at Gramma's place. We know who really did the work but we encourage the child anyway.



So, when they had eaten breakfast Jesus spoke to Peter. The most remarkable thing about this interchange, is that by way of forgiveness, Jesus gives Peter a job to do. When Peter professes his love, Jesus doesn't say, "Well, that's alright then." He says, 'Feed my lambs.'

The three questions correspond to Peter's three denials. Three for completeness, yes but also three for reminder. The smell of the charcoal fire lingers. Peter's night of agony, Jesus' night of agony hovers in the background. But because of Jesus's night of agony Peter's failure can be dealt with.

Jesus is the passover Lamb who takes away the sins of the world, Peter's botch up, and our mistakes and failures.



We all have done things that we regret, things that need to be dealt with before we can operate the way God meant us to operate. Just as he dealt with Peter, Jesus goes to where the pain is. Yes, it hurts to touch but as we let him deal with it, he can heal, restore, and forgive.

Different words are used in the questions, but these differences are not important. What matters is that the question is asked and answered. And each time the response earns the command. Time to learn to be a shepherd. Jesus is sharing his own work, his own ministry with Peter.



It is, after all Jesus who is the good shepherd. It is Jesus who leads and feeds his sheep and lambs, guides them to and from pasture, keeps them safe. He knows them and they know him. He has now given his life for them. When Jesus said, 'As the Father sent me, so I'm sending you'. He meant it. He meant it for Peter, for all the disciples and for everyone who has followed him since.

This is the basic of all Christian Ministry, yours, and mine, lay and ordained, It's the secret of everything from being a quiet member of a small prayer group to being a speaker at huge rallies. If you are going to do anything, as a follower of Jesus, it has to be built on his love

There is nothing you can do to earn the forgiveness of Jesus. Nothing can do that. It is grace from start to finish. Everything we do we do out of joy and relief that we are already forgiven. Things we are given to do precisely as the sign that we are forgiven,



Peter did it, Peter went from strength to strength, he still made mistakes, but he became a shepherd. He loved Jesus and looked after his sheep.

We can do it too, no matter what is in our past, God can and will forgive and heal and give us new tasks to do, it might not be leading the church in our time, but it will be looking after his sheep in whatever way he has equipped us to serve.