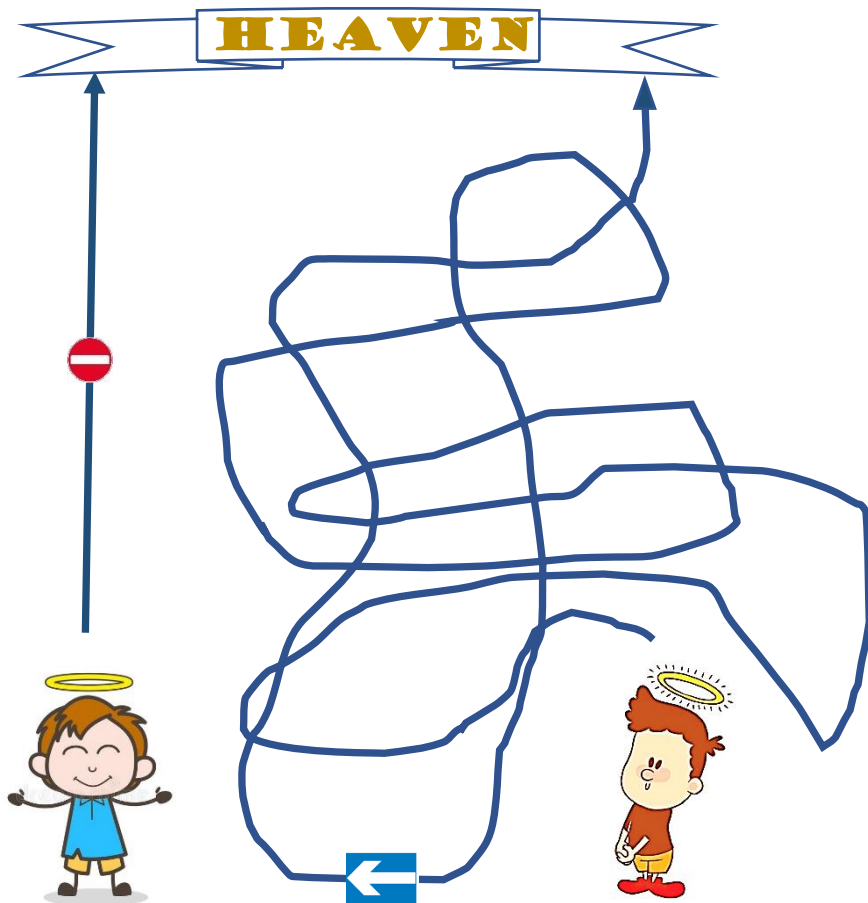


**Evening Prayer – Trinity 14**  
**5<sup>th</sup> September 2021,**  
**from The Book of Common Prayer**



## *Hymn – Fill your hearts with joy and gladness*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9\\_mJ9G60f6w](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9_mJ9G60f6w)

Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,  
sing and praise your God and mine!  
Great the Lord in love and wisdom,  
might and majesty divine!  
He who framed the starry heavens  
knows and names them as they shine.

Praise the Lord, his people, praise him!  
Wounded souls his comfort know;  
those who fear him find his mercies,  
peace for pain and joy for woe;  
humble hearts are high exalted,  
human pride and power laid low.

Praise the Lord for times and seasons,  
cloud and sunshine, wind and rain;  
spring to melt the snows of winter  
till the waters flow again;  
grass upon the mountain pastures,  
golden valleys thick with grain.

Fill your hearts with joy and gladness,  
peace and plenty crown your days;  
love his laws, declare his judgements,  
walk in all his words and ways;  
he the Lord and we his children:  
praise the Lord, all people, praise!

### *Opening prayers*

God is love; and he that abideth in love abideth in God and God in him.

*1 John 4.16*

Beloved, we are come together in the presence of almighty God and of the whole company of heaven to offer unto him through our Lord Jesus Christ our worship and praise and thanksgiving; to make confession of our sins; to pray, as well for others as for ourselves, that we may know more truly the greatness of God's love and shew forth in our lives the fruits of his grace; and to ask on behalf of all men such things as their well-being doth require. Wherefore let us kneel in silence, and remember God's presence with us now.

**Almighty and most merciful Father,  
we have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep.  
We have followed too much the devices and desires  
of our own hearts.  
We have offended against thy holy laws.  
We have left undone those things  
which we ought to have done;  
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done;  
and there is no health in us.  
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders.  
Spare thou them, O God, which confess their faults.  
Restore thou them that are penitent;  
according to thy promises declared unto mankind  
in Christ Jesu our Lord.  
And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,  
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,  
to the glory of thy holy name. Amen.**

Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord,  
to thy faithful people pardon and peace,  
that they may be cleansed from all their sins,  
and serve thee with a quiet mind;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Our Father, which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done,  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that 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.**

O Lord, open thou our lips  
**and our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen.**

Praise ye the Lord.  
**The Lord's name be praised.**

### *Magnificat*

My soul doth magnify the Lord :  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded :  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth :  
all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me :  
and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him :  
throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm :  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat :  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things :  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :  
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be :  
world without end. Amen.

## *Old Testament Lesson*

Isaiah 35:4-7a

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;

the burning sand shall become a pool,

and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,

the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

## *Psalm 146*

Alleluia. Praise the Lord, O my soul: while I live will I praise the Lord;  
as long as I have any being, I will sing praises to my God.

Put not your trust in princes, nor in any human power,  
for there is no help in them.

When their breath goes forth, they return to the earth;  
on that day all their thoughts perish.

Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God;

Who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them;  
who keeps his promise for ever;

Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong  
and bread to those who hunger.

The Lord looses those that are bound;  
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the Lord loves the righteous;

The Lord watches over the stranger in the land; he upholds the orphan  
and widow;  
but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.

The Lord shall reign for ever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Alleluia.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be  
world without end. Amen.

## *Epistle*

*James 2:1-10, 14-17*

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet', have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor.

Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

## *Nunc Dimittis*

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :  
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen :  
thy salvation;

Which thou hast prepared :  
before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles :  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son :  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be  
world without end. Amen.

## *Gospel Reading*

Mark 7:24-37

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.'

And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

### *The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth:  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic Church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**



The Lord be with you.

**And with thy spirit.**

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Lord, have mercy upon us.

**Our Father, which art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom come;**

**thy will be done,**

**in earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

○ Lord, shew thy mercy upon us.

**And grant us thy salvation.**

○ Lord, save the Queen.

**And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

**And make thy chosen people joyful.**

○ Lord, save thy people.

**And bless thine inheritance.**

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

**Because there is none other that fighteth for us,  
but only thou, O God.**

○ God, make clean our hearts within us.

**And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

## *The Collect of the Day*

Almighty God,  
whose only Son hath opened for us  
a new and living way into thy presence:  
grant that, with pure hearts and constant wills,  
we may worship thee in spirit and in truth;  
through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,  
who liveth and reigneth with thee,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## *The Collect for Peace*

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord,  
in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life,  
whose service is perfect freedom;  
defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies;  
that we, surely trusting in thy defence,  
may not fear the power of any adversaries;  
through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## *The Collect for Aid against all Perils*

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;  
and by thy great mercy  
defend us from all perils and dangers of this night;  
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

## *Hymn – When I needed a neighbour*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fExR7eOhJ00>

When I needed a neighbour  
Were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter  
Were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty  
Were you there, were you there?  
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter  
Were you there?

When I needed a shelter  
Were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a shelter were you there?  
And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter  
Were you there?

Wherever you travel  
I'll be there, I'll be there  
Wherever you travel, I'll be there  
And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter  
I'll be there.

## *Sermon*

The letter that James wrote is scarily direct in describing a church where Jesus' values are being completely ignored! It's a timeless story.....

Once upon a time – our time, any time – there was a church community that had just been told it must raise some extra money. The roof has been leaking for a while, with some buckets in place to catch most of the drips.

People had got used to this, and weren't too worried, but the church architect has now insisted that urgent repair work must be done before it gets any worse.

The work will cost more than there is in the bank. It's a rainy day!

Then on the very next Sunday two new people come to the church for the first time, one dirty and poor, the other rich and sophisticated.

One is hardly noticed, the other is greeted warmly.

Which of the new arrivals received the warm welcome?

That depends, doesn't it?

James is clearly writing to a church that singled out the rich man. They welcomed him enthusiastically. He loved the deference he was paid as he was led to the best pew, and he was ever so friendly in return. After the service they gave him an extra chocolate biscuit, and started enquiring how he made his money.

People were thinking "Isn't this wonderful – he's the answer to prayer. Isn't God's timing good! It feels as if he's been sent to us at our time of need. Let's be really nice to him and then he'll give us all the money needed for our roof."

But the poor man was ignored.

Would it have been better if the dirty, poor man was welcomed warmly and rich man ignored?

I don't think so. James tells us not to be partial, not to make assumptions, not to judge by appearances.

Riches or poverty are outwards signs that tell us very little about the inner person. How can someone's appearance tell us if they are generous or mean?

A poor person might be really generous, sharing what little he has, not bothering with possessions. Or he might be really lazy and mean, demanding charity and leading an idle, selfish life.

A rich person might be greedy and selfish, making his money by paying low wages and charging high interest, or he might have worked all his life to build an enterprise that is wonderful to work for and far exceeds any social obligations.

Let's start again.

A rich man and a poor man came to church and they were both made very welcome. They were each asked where they would like to sit, someone gave them a service booklet and explained how the service would go.

They both joined in the act of worship and praise, thanksgiving and prayer, singing and silence, and both found a spiritual peace...

They'd found a community that valued them for who they were. It turned out that the poor man had been having a hard time, but was a skilled builder who turned his hand to sorting the roof.

The rich man enjoyed labouring up and down the scaffolding carrying the new tiles – they loved working together. All the able bodied in the church community joined in to help, within the constraints of health and safety, of course!

And soon the roof was fixed.

They'd enjoyed it so much that they wondered what they could do next?

They all agreed that there were many things they could do in the village around them. Doing odd jobs. Seeking out the hungry, the lonely, the sick, the miserable. Helping people connect with their neighbours and making them feel loved. It was as if God's love was flowing out of the church into all the area around.

And the illustration on the cover? What is that about? What do you think?

May we all find a way of expressing our faith through bringing more love to those around us, and sharing in the "good works" needed here in our community, helping to bring in God's Kingdom....

Amen.

*Hymn – Brother, sister, let me serve you*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G\\_ufwqwquqY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_ufwqwquqY)

Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
and companions on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow  
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.

## *Prayers*

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

Almighty and ever-living God, who by thy holy apostle hast taught us to make prayers and supplications, and to give thanks, for all men: we humbly beseech thee most mercifully to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy divine majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity and concord; and grant that all they that do confess thy holy name may agree in the truth of thy holy word, and live in unity and godly love.

We beseech thee also to lead all nations in the way of righteousness and peace; and so to direct all kings and rulers, that under them thy people may be godly and quietly governed. And grant unto thy servant Elizabeth our Queen, and to all that are put in authority under her that they may truly and indifferently administer justice, to the maintenance of thy true religion, and virtue.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops, priests and deacons, especially to thy servant Robert our bishop, that they may both by their life and doctrine set forth thy true and lively word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy sacraments.

Guide and prosper, we pray thee, those who are labouring for the spread of thy gospel among the nations, and enlighten with thy Spirit all places of education and learning; that the whole world may be filled with the knowledge of thy truth.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace; and specially to this congregation here present, that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

And we most humbly beseech thee of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all them who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we commend to thy gracious keeping, O Lord, all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee, according to thy promises, to grant them refreshment, light and peace.

And here we give thee most high praise and hearty thanks for all thy saints, who have been the chosen vessels of thy grace, and lights of the world in their several generations; and we pray that, rejoicing in their fellowship and following their good examples, we may be partakers with them of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only mediator and advocate. **Amen.**

### *A prayer for all those affected by Coronavirus*

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of thy mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from thy love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

*Silence*

*(You may like to add your own prayer(s) at this point, perhaps focusing on those you are most concerned about.)*

## *Hymn – Give thanks with a grateful heart*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMryBwOk2jk>

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.  
Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong",  
let the poor say, "I am rich  
because of what the Lord has done for us"  
And now let the weak say, "I am strong",  
Let the poor say, "I am rich  
because of what the Lord has done for us."  
*Repeat*

## *Ending*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost,  
be with us all evermore. Amen.