

Morning Prayer 9th August 2020



The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Service with Nigel Spencer

You have to get out of the boat

Personal preparation before the service begins.
Please take time to remember where you are, and why you are here. Give thanks and become still in the presence of God

Music before the service

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

And also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

♪♪♪

ACF 117 There is none like You
There is none like You,
No one else can touch my heart like You do,
I can search for all eternity Lord
And find, there is none like You.

There is none like You.
No one else can touch my heart like You do,
I can search for all eternity Lord
And find, there is none like You.

Your mercy flows like a river wide,
And healing comes from Your hand.
Suffering children are safe in Your arms,
There is none like You.

There is none like You,
There is none like You.
I can search for all eternity Lord,
There is none like You.

I can search for all eternity Lord,
There is none,
There is none Lord,
There is none like You.

CCLI Song # 674545

Lenny LeBlanc

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Let us pray with words from Psalm 85

I will listen to what God the Lord says;
**he promises peace to his people,
his faithful servants—
but let them not turn to folly.**
Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet together;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.
Faithfulness springs forth from the earth,
and righteousness looks down from heaven.
The Lord will indeed give what is good,
and our land will yield its harvest.
Righteousness goes before him
and prepares the way for his steps.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,
**As it was in the beginning,
is now and shall be for ever.**

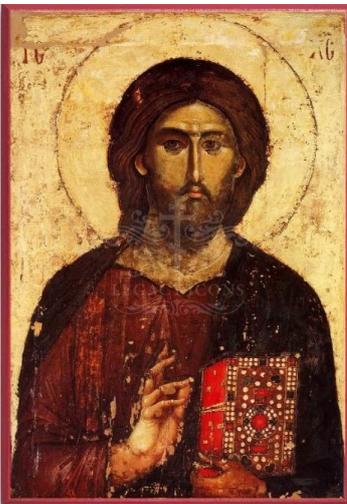
The Collect for today, the 9th Sunday after Trinity.

Gracious Father,
revive your Church in our day,
and make her holy, strong and faithful,
for your glory's sake
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The first reading is taken from Romans 10:5-15

Let us prepare ourselves for the word of God.
Our hearts and our minds are open.

Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: "The person who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."



How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The reading is taken from Matthew 14:22-33

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."



"Come," he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Let me ask you a couple of silly questions: Are you a squeezer or a roller? Toothpaste tubes, I mean. When you squeeze (or roll) the tube, what emerges? Bravo! Toothpaste! Now, does the act of squeezing CREATE the toothpaste, or REVEAL it? Pressure doesn't CREATE our reactions, they come from within, from our hearts, and they reveal what's already there, deep down inside us. The disciples' tube was about to be squeezed!

If the disciples were expecting an evening cruise, they were about to be surprised, and sorely tested. They were Galilee fishermen. They knew the lake and the unpredictable weather. And although He should have been able to know that the storm was raging on the lake, from His vantage point on the hill, and although He had "made the disciples get into the boat", Jesus waited all night before launching His rescue "in the early morning". I wonder why? I wonder if you've experienced a nasty storm in your life.

Been laid off, made redundant? I have. Lost a large sum of money? I have, and it was my fault - I was scammed on the internet. What happened that night on the Sea of Galilee?



1. Battered by the waves, far from the land, for the wind was against them

1. They were terrified. Not anxious, not worried, they were grown men, and terrified! It must have been a bad storm for them to be terrified.

2. They cried out in fear. They were about to drown and couldn't save themselves.

Then Jesus came for them, calmly walking on the water. He saw them, heard their terrified screams and

He spoke to them in the midst of the storm. This is the first lesson for us: Nothing surprises Jesus, the Good Shepherd. **He knows our situation.**

2. Jesus spoke to them and said:

1. Take heart,
2. It is I - It's me!
3. Do not be afraid.

This is the second lesson for us: The Good Shepherd knows His sheep and he calls them by name. **He cares about us.**

Peter was shocked. He couldn't believe his eyes. He blurts out: „If it's really you, command me to come to you on the water!“ And Jesus said: „Come!“ And Peter did. He climbed over the side of the boat into the teeth of the storm. If you want to learn to walk on water, you're going to need to get out of the boat!

This is our third lesson: **He is able to help us, in whatever situation we find ourselves.**

When Helen and I were called by God into full-time service as mission workers, it meant getting out of the boat. It meant leaving careers, financial, social and family safety nets. And it wasn't long before we were tested for the first of many times.

I don't know what test you are facing, or will face in the future. But I can promise you one thing; When you step out of the boat, when you take Jesus at His word, Your faith will be tested. Your tube will be squeezed! And Peter did what I have done many times, he took his eyes off Jesus, and he looked at his circumstances. And down he went into the cold angry waves.

3. Lord save me!

1. Jesus caught him
2. Why did you doubt?
3. Truly, you are the Son of God!



*1. O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior,
And life more abundant and free!*

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace.*

*2. Thro' death into life everlasting,
He passed, and we follow Him there;
O'er us sin no more hath dominion--
For more than conqu'rors we are!*

*3. His Word shall not fail you--He promised;
Believe Him, and all will be well:
Then go to a world that is dying,
His perfect salvation to tell!*

*

In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

*CCLI Song # 7117260

Dwan Hill | Helen H. Lemmel | Lauren Daigle | Paul Mabury

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ACF3 Alleluia, alleluia, raise the gospel vv. 1,2,4 and 6

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Raise the Gospel over the earth!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Peace and justice bringing to birth!*

Blessed, those whose hearts are gentle.
Blessed those whose spirits are strong.
Blessed those who choose to bring forth
right where there is wrong.

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Raise the Gospel over the earth!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Peace and justice bringing to birth!*

Blessed, those who work for justice.
Blessed those who answer the call.
Blessed those who dare to dream of
lasting peace for all.

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Raise the Gospel over the earth!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Peace and justice bringing to birth!*

Tremble, you who thirst for power.
Tremble, you who live for acclaim
Tremble, when you find no comfort
in your wealth and fame.

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Raise the Gospel over the earth!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Peace and justice bringing to birth!*

Glory to the Word of Justice.
Glory to the Spirit of Peace.
Glory to the God of Love whose
Blessings never cease.

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Raise the Gospel over the earth!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Peace and justice bringing to birth!*

Text: Owen Alstott. Music: Bernadette Farrell. OCP Publications

Intercessions (by Tini)

Each petition mentions a group of people or a situation for which we can pray. Please feel free to elaborate on the petition with your own thoughts or words.

In response to each petition, I will say "Lord, you say "Take courage", when fitting you can respond with "Help us or help them to take it."

Let's pray....

- Romans mentions that "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." What a powerful

statement and what an incredible gift! We thank you for your love and grace and, at the same time, we bring you those that are struggling to comprehend or truly understand that they are loved by you and/or what a life with you means. May they experience you in deep ways today and may they be surrounded by others who can encourage them in their faith.

(We mention these people silently or aloud to you.)

Leader: Lord, you say, "Take courage."

Response: Help them to take it.

- Romans also asks, "How then can they believe if they have not heard?" We bring you the people in our families, neighborhood, our friends, our colleagues, our classmates, the people in Freiburg, our home countries, and those even to the ends of the earth who have yet to hear of who you are. Reveal yourself to them in miraculous ways—through dreams, visions, missionaries, your creation, and/or the Word of God.

(We mention these people silently or aloud to you.)

Leader: Lord, you say, "Take courage."

Response: Help them to take it.

- Another question from Romans, "How then can they hear without someone preaching to them?" Lord we thank you for those preachers, teachers, and role models who have been sent to us, who have told us about you. We thank you for our bishop, for Christopher, for the interregnums, and even for our future priest. May they continue to be inspired by you and may their faith be strengthened in incredible ways!

(We mention the people who have taught us silently or aloud to you.)

Leader: Lord, you say, "Take courage."

Response: Help them to take it.

- And yet another question: “And how can they preach unless they are sent?” This is a petition that is risky and one that I ask and invite others to ask in boldness. Where are you sending us? To whom could I we called to go to share your Gospel in word and deed? Lord, it can sometimes be overwhelming, intimidating, and/or scary to think of stepping out in faith like Peter stepped out of the boat. What a comfort it is to know that you are there, offering us courage in those moments and how great is it to know that with you all things are possible. Open our eyes and steady our legs to see where you are sending us. Fill us with a joy and a passion for your love so that we would naturally share about you.

Leader: Lord, you say, “Take courage.”

Response: Help them to take it.

- I bring you our church in this transitional season. May we experience your presence and your guidance now more than ever. Bind us together as a church and give us insight into the direction that you are calling us to go. May we be ready to step out of the boat with you.

Leader: Lord, you say, “Take courage.”

Response: Help them to take it.

- Lastly, we bring you the people of Lebanon and, specifically, those living in Beirut who have experienced substantial loss on top of an increasingly difficult economical and overall situation. I struggle to fathom the depth of loss and devastation that they are experiencing. I can imagine that the people are needing you in incredibly ways. Lord, I pray for a miracle of incredible proportions. Meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of each person. Let your light shine brightly in this dark situation.

Leader: Lord, you say, “Take courage.”

Response: Help them to take it.

CCLI Song # 1581778
Jarrod Cooper
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The Blessing

The Lord God almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
the holy and undivided Trinity,
guard you, save you,
and bring you to that heavenly city,
where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Conclusion

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,
and keep us in eternal life.
Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Music at the end of the service