

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity *B*

The Collect

Almighty God,
who called your Church to bear witness
that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may be drawn to you;
through him who was lifted up on the cross,
and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. AMEN

A reading from the book of Joshua [24. 1 -2a, 14 - 18]

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, ‘Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.’ Then the people answered, ‘Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.’

Reader / This is the Word of the Lord *Response* / **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 34 15 - 22

R/ I sought the Lord, and he answered me

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous,
and his ears are open to their cry.
The face of the Lord is against those who do evil,
to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.

R/ I sought the Lord, and he answered me

The righteous cry and the Lord hears them
and delivers them from all their troubles.
The Lord is near to the broken-hearted
and will save those whose spirits are crushed.

R/ I sought the Lord, and he answered me

Many are the troubles of the righteous,
but the Lord will deliver him out of them all.
He will keep safe all his bones;
not one of them shall be broken.

R/ I sought the Lord, and he answered me

Evil shall slay the wicked,
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.
The Lord ransoms the life of his servants,
and none will be punished who trust in him.

R/ I sought the Lord, and he answered me

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians [6; 10 - 20]

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done

everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Reader/ This is the Word of the Lord *Response /* **Thanks be to God**

[Gradual Hymn]

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your words are spirit, Lord,
and they are life:
you have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia!

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

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St John *Glory to you, O Lord.*

Jesus said to the crowd: ‘Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.’ He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, ‘This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?’ But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, ‘Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.’ For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, ‘For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.’ Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the

twelve, 'Do you also wish to go away?' Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.'

[St John 6.56–69]

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

AT THE EUCHARIST TODAY 25th August 2024 Proper 16 B

HYMNS: (*St Arvans*) 346; 414; 310; 297

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Listen, Lord, and answer me. Save your servant who trusts in you.

I call to you all day long, have mercy on me, O Lord. [Cf. Psalm 86. 1 – 3]

The response to the offertory prayers is: **Blessed be God for ever**

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS:

O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption through the one perfect sacrifice offered once for all, bestow graciously on us, we pray, the gifts of peace and unity in your Church through Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

Celebrant : Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

[Response : Lord I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.]

POST-COMMUNION SENTENCE:

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, says the Lord, and I will raise him up on the last day.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our creator,
you feed your children with the true manna,
the living bread from heaven:
let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage
until we come to that place
where hunger and thirst are no more;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

NOTICES:-

Next week: SUNDAY 1st September will be a Harvest Service at St Mary's Penterry 11.30am

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Meditation on Wednesday evening at 7.15pm in St Arvans Church. We meditate for around 20 minutes. Do come and take a few minutes for silent contemplation or prayer in the middle of our busy lives.

The **Ministry Area Prayer Group** will meet on Thursday at 7.45pm - 9pm in St Pierre Church
Future prayer meetings : 29th August St. Peter, Newchurch

The Ministry Area Bible Study Group meets every Tuesday in Shirenewton Church Rooms at 2.45pm

Everyone is most welcome - we are a small and very friendly group, and our study is very practically based: what does the bible mean for the way we should be living our lives today.

A reminder that the **DEVAUDEN PHOTO COMPETITION 2024 IS OPEN FOR ENTRIES**

Closing date, Midnight, Sunday 1st September

All photos must be taken within 5 miles of the Wesley statue on the village green, after 1st August 2023.

One entry per person. Email your entry to devauden.photos@gmail.com

SKITTLES EVENING

Come and have fun in Mathern Athletics Club: 7pm on Friday 30th August. £8 to include a ploughman's supper. Proceeds will go to St Pierre Church

MINISTRY AREA BIRTHDAY PARTIES

A free cream tea and a chance to meet others from across the Ministry Area. To book please contact Revd Zoe severn.wye.MAL@gmail.com or 07754 306229

Parties will be held every other month on 8th September, 10th November, 12th January - please come to the party closest to your birthday !
