

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity *B*

The Collect

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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**

A reading from the prophet 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.

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

Psalm 146

R/ You open wide your hand, O Lord, and satisfy our needs

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

R/ You open wide your hand, O Lord, and satisfy our needs

Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth,
for there is no help in them.
When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.

R/ You open wide your hand, O Lord, and satisfy our needs

Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help!
whose hope is in the Lord their God;
Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps his promise for ever;
Who gives justice to those who are oppressed,
and food to those who hunger.

R/ You open wide your hand, O Lord, and satisfy our needs

The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
The Lord loves the righteous; the Lord cares for the stranger;
he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

R/ You open wide your hand, O Lord, and satisfy our needs

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

R/ You open wide your hand, O Lord, and satisfy our needs

A reading from the letter of St 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.

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

Gradual Hymn

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your word is truth, O Lord,
Consecrate us in the truth.
Alleluia!

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

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

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 Syrophoenician 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.' *[St Mark 7. 24-37]*

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

AT THE EUCHARIST TODAY 8th September 2024 Proper 18 B

HYMNS: (*St Arvans*) 256; 434; 415; 180

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:

Righteous are you, O Lord: and true are your judgements.
O deal with your servant according to your faithful love:
and teach me your statutes. *[Psalm 119: 137, 124]*

The response to the offertory prayers (if said aloud) :

Blessed be God for ever

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS:

O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace,
graciously grant that, through this offering,
we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty
and, by partaking of the sacred mystery,
we may be faithfully united in mind and heart;
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:

Like the deer longs for the water-brooks so longs my soul for you, O God. My
soul is athirst for God, even for the living God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy;
and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall,
keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful,
and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN**

Notices:

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

We pray for our own local communities and churches, for the wider church, for those who have asked for our prayers, for those in need locally, nationally and globally. If there is anything you would like us to pray for – come and join us, just for one week if you like, you don't have to become a regular member.

Or send your request to david@bedlambeds.com

Future prayer meetings will be held in:

12th September: Holy Cross Kilgwrrwg

19th September: St Christophers

26th September St Mary's Priory Chepstow

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.

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## 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](mailto: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 !

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