

St Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church, Kirkcaldy



Sunday 6th June 2021, Pentecost 2 (Trinity 1)

Please print and bring this sheet with you if you are attending the service and wish to follow the readings. (SPB refers to the Scottish Prayer Book Liturgy for those who follow this service)

Introit Hymn: All people that on earth do dwell

1 All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the LORD with cheerful voice.
Him serve with fear, his praise forthtell
Come ye before, and rejoice.

2 The Lord, ye know, is God indeed,
Without our aid he did us make;
We are his folk, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.

3 O enter then his gates with praise
Approach with joy his courts unto;

Praise, laud and bless his name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

4 For why? The Lord our God is good;
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

5 To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heaven and earth adore
From men and from the Angel Host
Be praise and glory evermore. Amen.

Welcome: Grace and peace to you from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Collect for Purity: **Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleans 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.**

Gloria: **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Collect: O God, you have assured the human family of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Collect SPB: O God, the strength of all them that put their trust in thee: mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without thee, grant us the help of thy grace, that in keeping of thy commandments we may please thee both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First reading: Genesis 3. 8-15 (SPB 1 St John 4. 7)

Second reading: 2 Corinthians 4. 13-5.1

Gradual hymn: In Christ there is no East or West

1 In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

2 Join hands, then, brothers of the faith,
whate'er your race may be.

Who serves my Father as a son
is surely kin to me

3 In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north.

All Christlike souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

Gospel acclamation: **Alleluia! Alleluia! If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him. Alleluia.**

Gospel: Mark 3. 20-35 (St Luke 14.16)

When gospel is announced: **Glory to Christ our Saviour.**

At end: Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel. **Praise to Christ our Lord.**

Sermon: *The Revd Canon Christine Fraser*

In the Gospel of Mark, the emphasis is on Jesus as prophet, healer, and miracle worker – the human Jesus whose work can be seen. Yet this Jesus is indeed the Son of God, that which cannot be seen but is eternal. In today's passage, we have it all. Human Jesus misunderstood and at times impatient, and divine Jesus, actor in the eternal drama of good versus evil, conqueror of Satan. And, to complete the trinity, Jesus acts as the agent of the Holy Spirit.

By the time this passage begins, chapter three of Mark has established Jesus as prophet, teacher, and healer. He has cast out unclean spirits and appointed twelve apostles to aid him in his work.

Ironically, in Mark 3:11, the unclean spirits recognize Jesus as the Son of God, while in today's passage, the crowd, the family, and the scribes just do not get him at all. "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." They see him as out of his mind, possibly even possessed by evil spirits himself. As he has done so many times in his earthly life, Jesus is called to respond to the confusion of friend and foe alike. He teaches, in a parable about Satan, and calls the scribes and his family to account.

The structure of the passage is interesting, important, and enlightening. We have a story within a story: the controversy with the scribes about exorcism and the parable of defeating Satan inserted into an episode about Jesus' family. The structure is called *chiastic*, meaning that ideas are introduced in order, then developed in reverse order. In this case: Crowd, family, and scribes are introduced in that order. The parable of Satan is the story at the center. Then, in reverse order, scribes, family, and crowd are addressed.

The structure is important and enlightening for the way it focuses on the central idea at the heart of the pattern – the conflict with Satan, the cosmic battle of good and evil. First, the crowd gathers, followers of Jesus and witnesses to his deeds and teaching. Then family and scribes put forth the misguided, mistaken accusation that his power to exorcise demons comes from Beelzebul. We can almost hear Jesus' frustration in his words: How

can Satan cast out Satan? Carefully, he explains. Satan is divided. In casting out unclean spirits – exorcism – Jesus defeats Satan bit by bit, undermining his power.

But Jesus draws the line at confusing Satan with the Holy Spirit. Being misguided, blind, mistaken can be forgiven. The people may be slow to comprehend that Jesus, the man who heals, is in fact the Son of God. Make no mistake, however – Jesus’ healing power comes from the Holy Spirit. To call the Holy Spirit an unclean spirit is a blasphemy too far. Jesus is called upon to speak with authority yet again.

So, in the reverse order of the chiasmic structure, Jesus reprimands the scribes, then his family re-enters the scene, and the passage resolves with Jesus addressing the crowd.

Does Jesus reject his family, his mother and his brothers and sisters, when he asks rhetorically, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” Rather, when Jesus looks at the crowd and says, “Here are my mother and my brothers!” perhaps he is connecting his earthly self with his divine self. He has a human family, and he has a spiritual family. And that spiritual family includes us, part of the crowd, followers of Jesus and witnesses to his gospel.

An aside about Jesus’ brothers and sisters. The footnote for Mark 3:31 in the Harper Collins Study Bible makes an interesting point about this: “Reference to his brothers suggests Mark’s ignorance of the later doctrine of Mary’s perpetual virginity.” There is no birth narrative in Mark’s gospel, no annunciation to Mary, no star, nor angels, nor magi. Rather, Mark’s gospel opens with Jesus’ baptism by John, the descent of the Holy Spirit, and the temptation by Satan in the wilderness. Mark, the earliest of the four canonical gospels, is known for his emphasis on the earthly Jesus, pre-dating some of the more mystical and abstract doctrines of the faith.

Today’s complex and rich passage from Mark’s gospel reveals the tension between the human and divine aspects of Jesus. He has a family that doesn’t understand him, that doesn’t see him clearly, fully. A family, friends, a religious establishment, that do not see that he goes beyond humanity, and is the eternal Son of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit, healer of bodies, healer of souls, destroyer of Satan, the Messiah who overcomes death to usher in the kingdom of God.

The power of the Holy Spirit is a strong message. It is a Pentecost message. We are in the season which celebrates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on God’s people, the moment when the Spirit empowers God’s people to be witnesses and spread the Good News. Jesus’ ministry is outward-looking, expansive, as he welcomes all who do the will of God into his family of spiritual brothers and sisters. The Holy Spirit is more than a force, a source of power. The Holy Spirit is a person of the Trinity, fully God, who abides in us, calls us, helps and empowers us in our struggle against sin and darkness.

Let us pray: Jesus, our brother, drive out the unclean spirits within us, and fill us with the Holy Spirit, that we may listen, and see, and act, to do God’s will, and so be brothers and sisters to one another and to you. Amen.

Nicene 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 substance with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and was made 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.
Who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
and 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: *Composed and prayed on behalf of the congregation by a member of the Intercessors Group*

We bring our prayers to you remembering that you reveal your love to us through our family and friends.
Help us to love others as you love us.
Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We rejoice in the family of the Church. May all who come find love and friendship. Lord, help your church to be an instrument of peace and healing in the world. We pray for our church here in St.Peter's, and its role in the community. Thank you for those who have worked so hard arranging fellowship, outreach and support during the pandemic. We are grateful for the support given to us, in many different ways, from Christine, our Rector.
Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for people suffering the effects of conflict, terrorism and persecution in all parts of our world. For people who feel undervalued, ignored, forgotten, lonely and for those who do not have enough of life's basic needs – food, clothing, shelter.
Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Hear us as we pray for all who bear the burden of pain, bereavement, anxiety and depression. We pray that they may have an awareness of your presence and an understanding that you are bearing those burdens with them, walking with them through this dark time.
Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for ourselves and ask that in all we do, we may walk more closely with you at our side, safe in the knowledge that your fatherly love and care knows no bounds.
In a time of reflection, we bring to you our personal prayers.
Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayers.**

God of truth and justice, we hold before you those whose memory we cherish. In our Year's Mind we remember Beaty Jenkinson, Katherine Fiske and James King. Give the departed your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them.
Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayers.**

Father, your Spirit draws all races and nations into one family in your Church. Broaden our horizons to learn from one another, expands our generosity to support one another, increase our vision to pray for one another so we may unite our world to know true peace.

We ask you to accept these prayers in the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **AMEN**

*Confession
and Absolution:*

God is love and we are God's children. There is no room for fear in love. We love because God loved us first. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Silence

**God our Father, we confess to you
and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ
that we have sinned in thought, word and deed,
and in what we have failed to do.
We are truly sorry.
Forgive us our sins,
and deliver us from the power of evil.
For the sake of your Son who died for us,
Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

(May) God, who is both power and love, forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Peace: We meet in Christ's Name let us share his peace.

*The service continues in the **Green** Liturgy Booklet at Page 4. There will be no offertory collection during the service, please place your offertory in the dish at the door before or after the service.*

Offertory hymn: Lord thy word abideth

1 Lord, thy word abideth,
and our footsteps guideth;
who its truth believeth
light and joy receiveth.

2 When our foes are near us,
then thy word doth cheer us,
word of consolation,
message of salvation.

3 When the storms are o'er us,
and dark clouds before us,
then its light directeth,
and our way protecteth.

4 Who can tell the pleasure,
who recount the treasure
by thy word imparted
to the simple-hearted?

5 Word of mercy, giving
succour to the living;
word of life, supplying
comfort to the dying.

6 O that we discerning
its most holy learning,
Lord, may love and fear thee,
evermore be near thee!

Communion Prayer: (For those at home)

God of infinite mercy. We thank you for Jesus our Saviour who feeds his people and gives them eternal life. Though we cannot consume the gifts of bread and wine we thank you that we do receive Christ's saving presence, the forgiveness of sins and all other benefits of his passion. Grant that we may continue for ever in the risen and ascended life of our Saviour. Amen. (This prayer is said during the online Provincial service).

The Lord's Prayer: **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who 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.**

Communion hymn: Sweet sacrament divine

1 Sweet Sacrament divine,
hid in thine earthly home,
lo, round thy lowly shrine,
with suppliant hearts we come;
Jesus, to thee our voice we raise
in songs of love and heartfelt praise:
sweet Sacrament divine.

2 Sweet Sacrament of peace,
dear home for every heart,
where restless yearnings cease
and sorrows all depart;
there in thine ear all trustfully

we tell our tale of misery:
sweet Sacrament of peace.

3 Sweet Sacrament of rest,
ark from the ocean's roar,
within thy shelter blest
soon may we reach the shore;
save us, for still the tempest raves,
save, lest we sink beneath the waves:
sweet Sacrament of rest.

4 Sweet Sacrament divine,
earth's light and jubilee,

in thy far depths doth shine
thy Godhead's majesty;
sweet light, so shine on us, we pray,

that earthly joys may fade away:
sweet Sacrament divine.

Sentence: We give thanks to you Lord, for you are gracious
And your mercy endures forever

Concluding Prayer: **O God, we have shared in the mysteries of the body and blood of Christ. Nourish us by this feast, that we may live the risen life and serve you faithfully in the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

Blessing: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Dismissal: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Recessional hymn: Give me joy in my heart

1 Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising.
Give me joy in my heart, I pray.
Give me joy in my heart, keep me praising.
Keep me praising till the break of day.
Refrain:

*Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King of kings!
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King!*

2 Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting.
Give me peace in my heart, I pray.
Give me peace in my heart, keep me resting.
Keep me resting till the break of day. [Refrain]

3 Give me love in my heart, keep me serving.
Give me love in my heart, I pray.
Give me love in my heart, keep me serving.
Keep me serving till the break of day. [Refrain]

7pm Candle Prayer

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
Living God, may your presence be known to us
Even in our weakness.
May we know you as your presence is revealed
And as your calling is renewed.
Lord, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.**

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
Living God, may your presence be known to us
In all the gifts of Creation.
May we receive these gifts as a sacred trust
And treasure all that you have given to us.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
Living God, may your presence be known to us
In the One whom you have sent to redeem us.
May we share in the life of Christ
And in the life of the body of Christ.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
Living God, may your presence be known to us
In the One whom you have poured out upon us.
May we be renewed by the Spirit**

**And share in the life the Spirit gives to us.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
Living God, may your presence be known to us
In our worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
May you receive us as we are
And accept us in our weakness.
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Registered Charity SCO10443 St Peter's Episcopal Church