

St Martin's Church, North Nibley - Sunday 22nd August 2021

A Service of the Word for Trinity 12

Gathering as the People of God

Welcome in the name of Christ!

God's grace, mercy and peace be with you

News and Notices

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

O Lord, open our lips and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Hymn: Jerusalem the Golden

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Preparing for the Word

We worship with Christians near and far, living and departed, old and young.

God's word is for all of us.

May it be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.

You may like to open a Bible and light a candle near it

The Collect

God of constant mercy,
who sent your Son to save us:
remind us of your goodness,
increase your grace within us,
that our thankfulness may grow,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Epistle:

Ephesians 6:10-20

The Whole Armour of God

10 Finally, build up your strength in union with the Lord and by means of his mighty power. **11** Put on all the armor that God gives you, so that you will be able to stand up against the Devil's evil tricks. **12** For we are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world, the rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers of this dark age. **13** So put on God's armor now! Then when the evil day comes, you will be able to resist the enemy's attacks; and after fighting to the end, you will still hold your ground.

14 So stand ready, with truth as a belt tight around your waist, with righteousness as your breastplate, **15** and as your shoes the readiness to announce the Good News of peace. **16** At all times carry faith as a shield; for with it you will be able to put out all the burning arrows shot by the Evil One. **17** And accept salvation as a helmet, and the word of God as the sword which the Spirit

gives you. **18** Do all this in prayer, asking for God's help. Pray on every occasion, as the Spirit leads. For this reason keep alert and never give up; pray always for all God's people. **19** And pray also for me, that God will give me a message when I am ready to speak, so that I may speak boldly and make known the gospel's secret. **20** For the sake of this gospel I am an ambassador, though now I am in prison. Pray that I may be bold in speaking about the gospel as I should.

Gospel:

John 6:56-69

56 Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me, and I live in them. **57** The living Father sent me, and because of him I live also. In the same way whoever eats me will live because of me.

58 This, then, is the bread that came down from heaven; it is not like the bread that your ancestors ate, but then later died. Those who eat this bread will live forever."

59 Jesus said this as he taught in the synagogue in Capernaum.

The Words of Eternal Life

60 Many of his followers heard this and said, "This teaching is too hard. Who can listen to it?"

61 Without being told, Jesus knew that they were grumbling about this, so he said to them, "Does this make you want to give up? **62** Suppose, then, that you should see the Son of Man go back up to the place where he was before? **63** What gives life is God's Spirit; human power is of no use at

all. The words I have spoken to you bring God's life-giving Spirit. **64** Yet some of you do not believe." (Jesus knew from the very beginning who were the ones that would not believe and which one would betray him.) **65** And he added, "This is the very reason I told you that no people can come to me unless the Father makes it possible for them to do so."

66 Because of this, many of Jesus' followers turned back and would not go with him any more.

67 So he asked the twelve disciples, "And you—would you also like to leave?"

68 Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. **69** And now we believe and know that you are the Holy One who has come from God."

Sermon

Hymn: Just as I am

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The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father,

from whom every family

in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,

who lives in our hearts through faith,

and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,

who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God;

Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Praying for Ourselves

Come, let us return to the Lord and say:

Lord our God,

in our sin we have avoided your call.

Our love for you is like a morning cloud,

like the dew that goes away early.

Have mercy on us;

deliver us from judgement;

bind up our wounds and revive us;

in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The priest declares God's forgiveness.

May the God of love and power

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

Praying for Others

The prayers of intercession are followed by:

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn: Firmly I believe and truly

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Going out to serve the Lord

God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

The blessing is followed by:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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