

SAFFRON WALDEN AND VILLAGES TEAM MINISTRY

PRAYERS FOR SUNDAY 9 AUGUST 2020 (TRINITY 9)

Today in our readings and prayers we hear the account of Jesus calming the storm: and telling his disciples not to fear, but to have faith. Let us too hold on to the certainty that God cares for us, however stormy the events around us. You might like to light a candle at home while you use this leaflet, symbolising Jesus as the Light of the World: and to say the prayers and readings out loud.

Introduction

We gather together, united in purpose though separate in place, in the name of God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

*We say together (or why not **sing!**) an opening hymn*

1 Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm does bind the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

3 O sacred Spirit, who didst brood
Upon the waters dark and rude,
And bid their angry tumult cease,
And give, for wild confusion, peace:
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

2 O Saviour, whose almighty word
The winds and waves submissive heard,
Who walked upon the foaming deep,
And calm, amid its rage, did sleep;
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

4 O Trinity of love and pow'r,
Our brethren shield in danger's hour.
From rock and tempest, fire, and foe,
Protect them whereso'er they go;
And ever let there rise to Thee
Glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

We have come together as the family of God in this community. And especially today we thank you, Father, for your saving power which can still even the wind and the waves. Help us to pray to you in faith, to sing your praise with gratitude, and to listen to your word with eagerness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection.

In your mercy, forgive us

Save us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing

In your mercy, forgive us

Save us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven.

In your mercy, forgive us

Save us and help us.

Hearing 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.**

As God's forgiven people, we say the great hymn of praise

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Readings *We now follow the readings on the Grapevine:*

Collect (the special prayer for today)

First Reading: St Paul's Letter to the Romans, Chapter 10, verses 5-15

Gospel: St Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 14, verses 22-33

Reflection *If you are using this prayer sheet privately, you may wish to read the Reflection on the Grapevine. In a moment of quiet, think what message this may have for you, and ask God to help you live it out in your life this week.*

We declare our faith together

**We believe and trust 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.
This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

God our Father, we, like the disciples, often feel tossed upon the storm in these strange and uncertain times. Guide us through the towering waves: give us the strength to endure the tempest: and give us the trust to come to you across the turbulent waters, knowing that you will grasp our hands and still the storm.

Lord, in your mercy ***Hear our prayer***

As we see the reports of continuing new coronavirus outbreaks here and across the world, we pray for all who have contracted the virus and for all whose daily lives are dominated by fear of infection. We pray for those suffering from other illnesses, and those who watch their loved ones suffer. Give compassion to all hospital staff and carers, inspiration to all seeking vaccines and cures, and energy to all who are working to maintain the services on which our society depends.

Lord, in your mercy ***Hear our prayer***

In this holiday month, we pray for all who are travelling: all who are seeking rest. Keep them safe and restore them in body and spirit. Be with all young people awaiting exam results: may they know that whatever their achievements, you know and love them through and through. Be with all teachers already preparing for the new school term: give them vision to organise their schools in safety.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for your Church throughout the world, and in this Saffron Walden and Villages Team Ministry. We pray for our congregations, whether gathering in church buildings or joining in worship online. Wherever we gather in your name, may you know our needs, grant our requests, and fill us with your love.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for your human family throughout the world: in countries both rich and poor, in places of violence and natural disaster, and large communities or small. Bless our own community, and our families, friends and neighbours, both near and far. Give comfort to those in need of any kind, especially those known to us whom we name before you in the silence of our hearts

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

In a moment of silence, offer to God any other needs on your heart.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sharing God's Peace

God is love, and those who love live in God, and God lives in them.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

As you say this, hold in your mind all who are joining in these prayers today.

If you are joining the Eucharist celebrated live via Zoom, do follow the priest saying the Eucharistic prayer, with the standard responses. While only the priest can physically receive the consecrated bread and wine, all will be invited to say this prayer of Spiritual Communion, inviting Jesus to enter your deepest being.

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer *Let us pray together as Jesus has taught us*
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.

We ask God's grace for the week ahead

Heavenly Father, sustain us in our joys and in our anxieties. Enfold us in your peace in our waking and in our sleeping, and may we know your presence with us now and always: in the name of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

We say (or sing!) a final hymn:

Go forth and tell! O Church of God, awake!
God's saving news to all the nations take:
proclaim Christ Jesus, Saviour, Lord and King,
that all the world his worthy praise may sing.

Go forth and tell! God's love embraces all;
he will in grace respond to those who call;
how shall they call if they have never heard
the gracious invitation of his word?

Go forth and tell! where still the darkness lies;
in wealth or want, the sinner surely dies:
give us, O Lord, concern of heart and mind,
a love like yours that cares for all mankind.

Go forth and tell! the doors are open wide:
share God's good gifts - let no one be denied;
live out your life as Christ your Lord shall choose,
your ransomed powers for his sole glory use.

Go forth and tell! O Church of God, arise!
Go in the strength which Christ your Lord supplies;
go till all nations his great name adore
and serve him, Lord and King, for evermore.

May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit, be with us all now and evermore: and may we go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

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