

Christ Church

High Harrogate



*Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23*



As Parish service for when we're  
**UNITED** but **APART**  
for the

**Fourteenth Sunday  
after Trinity**

1st September 2024

**Welcome** to Christ Church, praying and united, with the whole Church of God ; may this bring a blessing upon your home, as also upon the needs of loved ones and the world,

We build upon all that we have shared and shared still, as now we rejoice in our renewal in Christ's grace, gather as the Church, and unite in fellowship, proclamation and prayer from the place of our own homes.

Be it 8am or 10am or other \_ still, maybe, the wisdom to quieten our mobile phone  and be very much in prayer  .

Please sit very comfortably.

Please feel free to sing ; and maybe to speak some parts of this prayer time out-loud \_ you may find it surprisingly helpful.

Please, above all, simply know that we are all together ; and as we pray where we are now, so do many many more, across the town, across these towns, and across the world,

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

*Matthew*

## The Greeting

*In welcome of one-another, near or far -*

The Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the Love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with us all.

*[ And also with you. ]*

## Prayers of Penitence

God so loved the world  
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ  
to save us from our sins,  
to be our advocate in heaven,  
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,  
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments  
and to live in love and peace with all.

*- Silence is kept for a short time, in Confession and Prayer.*



**All Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy  
forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be ;  
that we may do justly, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you our God. Amen.**

*In sharing and receiving the Absolution of God :*

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.



Almighty God,  
whose only Son has opened for us  
a new and living way into your presence :  
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills  
to worship you in spirit and in truth ;  
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.

## ***The Liturgy of the Word***

### **The First Reading**

*Song of Solomon 2 : 8 - 13*



The voice of my beloved ! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. 9 My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice. 10 My beloved speaks and says to me : 'Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away ; 11 for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. 12 The flowers appear on the earth ; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle-dove is heard in our land. 13 The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom ; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

*New Revised Standard Version*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **The Second Reading**

- *James 1 : 17 - 27*



Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. 18 In fulfilment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. 19 You must understand this, my beloved : let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger ; 20 for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. 21 Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. 22 But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. 23 For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror ; 24 for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. 25 But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act - they will be blessed in their doing. 26 If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. 27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this : to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

*New Revised Standard Version*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

**CLICK** below to hear Louise from our Choir lead us

**Hymn**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KqE7P\\_9267Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KqE7P_9267Y)

**Breathe on me, breath of God,  
fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love,  
and do what thou wouldst do.**



**Breathe on me, breath of God,  
until my heart is pure,  
until with thee I will one will,  
to do and to endure.**

**Breathe on me, breath of God,  
till I am wholly thine,  
until this earthly part of me  
glows with the fire divine.**

**Breathe on me, breath of God,  
so shall I never die,  
but live with thee the perfect life  
of thine eternity.**

*Words : Edwin Hatch (1835-1889)  
Tune : Trentham*

**The Gospel Reading**  
*Mark 7 : 1 - 8, 14 - 15, 21 - 23*



The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.  
Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, 2 they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. 3 ( For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders ; 4 and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it ; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles. ) 5 So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, ‘Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands ?’ 6 He said to them, ‘Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, “This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me ; 7 in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.” 8 You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.’ ... 14 Then he called the crowd again and said to them, ‘Listen to me, all of you, and understand : 15 there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.’ ... 21 [ *He said to his disciples*] ‘For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come : fornication, theft, murder, 22 adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. 23 All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.’

*New Revised Standard Version*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**



The extraordinary words from the Song of Solomon, like a love song from God to us, or us to God, or both (and more). Setting us up perfectly for :

*"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above..."*

- James, with his protestation to be 'Doers'. So often pitted against St Paul who is framed as proclaiming 'Faith alone, not Works' \_ when their arguments were in different spheres, proclaiming in very many ways the same thing :

-- St Paul spoke against those who acted as if they could Earn their way to salvation and life, when actually, he said, it is the relationship of faith in God which redeems and saves ;

-- St James spoke, similarly, against those who acted as if it were enough to Know of the ways of Salvation \_ when actually, he said, it is a life and path for us to live.

It is not hard to see why these have been paired with such a Gospel passage \_ even one so carved about by the verses in which we are given it today. We can probably half-hear the words which have been omitted, but for the sake of the focus and message to which they are trying to direct us by giving these verses alone \_ I try to stay with these : and it seems to me there is a grace provided in All this. Not least when held in the company of others in faith, and in the celebration and reception of Holy Communion. A message of grace which serves both Scripture, and our Life.

- - - We can be so surrounded by busyness \_ or if not that, then by the supposition that we Ought to be busy and the



Guilt that we are not. Two words ( Ought and Guilt ) each generally negative and violent in their affect. Much of that busy-ness, however great or small, is necessary and wise - the washing of our hands, the cleansing of pots and pans - it serves to keep us healthy and well. It serves. It serves the purpose which is for us to live.

A message for our world, in all its (increasing) anxiety - between nations, over finances, about borders, between communities, against the 'Other' including gathered authorities, amongst the young fearing there is nowhere for them, amongst the elderly fearing there is nowhere now for them, amongst the middle-ground fearing that the responsibility rests so fully upon them. To this world, our world, the now world, your world and mine \_ God speaks. Still and again \_ and, if needs be, tries to push us to see, hear, and accept the message : we're loved, first of all ; we are deliberate, and our place as intelligent and unique is true ; we are not alone in working out the issues and fears and needs ; we're reminded to pause, look, listen, hear, receive, and see \_ from each other, from our self, from God. Wisdom across ages. Wisdom in you. A choice, over how and what we say and think and do \_\_\_ invited by the generous gift of grace and life.

Amen.

*Revd Matthew Evans*

## **The 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 being with the Father ;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.  
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 and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who 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.**

## The Prayers of Intercession

In the power of the Spirit, and in union with Christ,  
let us pray to our Father \_

O God, the creator and preserver of all,  
we pray for people in every place and every kind of need ;  
make your ways known on earth,  
your saving health among and for the nations.  
Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

We pray for your Church ; guide and govern us by your Spirit,  
that we and all who call upon your Name may be led into the  
way of Truth, and hold the faith in –  
unity of spirit, the bond of peace, in righteousness of life.  
Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

We pray for, and commend into your goodness,  
all those who are in any way afflicted or distressed -  
those known to us and those known to you alone -  
those in sickness of body, mind, or spirit :  
comfort and relieve them in their need,  
give them patience in their troubles,  
bring good out of all afflictions :  
Lord in your mercy - **hear our prayer.**

We remember in love and faithfulness  
all who have gone before us in the peace of Christ.  
We give you praise for all your faithful ones,  
we make our prayer with and for all who mourn.  
Lord in your mercy - **hear our 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.**

**CLICK** below to hear Louise from our Choir lead us

**Hymn**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=893Oykactyw>

Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heaven, to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling,  
all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesu, thou art all compassion,  
pure unbounded love thou art ;  
visit us with thy salvation,  
enter every trembling heart.



Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit  
into every troubled breast ;  
let us all in thee inherit,  
let us find thy promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning,  
Alpha and Omega be ;  
end of faith, as its beginning,  
set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver,  
let us all thy life receive ;  
suddenly return, and never,  
never more thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,  
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation,  
pure and spotless let us be ;  
let us see thy great salvation,  
perfectly restored in thee ;  
Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise !

*Words : Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Tune : Blaenwern*

## **The Dismissal**

### **The Blessing**



May God the Father,  
by whose glory  
Christ was raised from the dead,  
strengthen us  
to walk with him  
in his risen life ;  
And may the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always.  
Amen.

### **The Peace**

We are all one in Christ Jesus.  
We belong to him through faith,  
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

*Please look to your ROOM and HOME \_  
--- please look from your WINDOW ---*

*In our place, heart and home, and to all the world :*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
{ - and also with you. Alleluia }

### **The Dismissal**

So let us go into the day in peace ;  
and may we love and serve the Lord  
in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia ! Amen.