



The Parish of  
Kildwick, Cononley and Bradley

## A service of Evening Prayer for Sundays in August 2020

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August – The eighth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August – The ninth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August – The tenth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August – The eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August – The twelfth Sunday after Trinity

***We are invited to join in spirit  
as we pray together at 4pm.***

*Do not worry if you cannot keep to that time, join in when it is possible for you! Or use this booklet for your own prayer time.*

*Take a moment to be still.*

*Perhaps light a candle or hold a cross.*

*Be aware that others will be saying these same words and prayers. We are united in prayer and worship.*

O God, make speed to save us.  
**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

### *A Song of Worship*

1 Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord,  
you that by night stand in the house of the Lord.

2 Lift up your hands towards the sanctuary  
and bless the Lord.

3 The Lord who made heaven and earth  
give you blessing out of Zion.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

### *Silence is kept.*

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,  
so may your mercy come down upon us  
to cleanse our hearts  
and set us free to sing your praise  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## **The Word of God**

*The appointed psalmody is said.*

*The first reading from Scripture is read.*

*The second reading from Scripture is read.*

*The Magnificat (the Song of Mary) is said.*

We pray for your peace – in our hearts and homes, in our communities and countries, and across your world. Strengthen us to do what we can to live in peace with others. We pray for all who work for peace, including the United Nations. Send your blessing on all peacemakers.

We pray for our homes, that they should be places of peace and love, holiness and hospitality, grace and joy. Where it is required, may we offer acceptance and forgiveness. Let us not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

We pray for all who are not at peace, but are in distress of body, mind or spirit. We pray for those suffering as the result of broken relationships, mistreatment, abuse or neglect. We bring before you those who are particularly on our hearts at this time... May they find love, acceptance, healing and peace.

We pray, Lord, that when you come in your glory, we may be one with you and the saints who are now at peace. May those who mourn the loss of loved ones know your comfort.

## **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.

*Prayers of intercession by Revd. Julie Bacon; some of the material in the prayers has been inspired by and/or adapted from prayers by David Adam.*

### **Reflection** *(by Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York)*

R.S. Thomas in his poem 'Pilgrimages' says this: 'He is such a fast God, always...leaving as we arrive.' It is an astonishing insight. As soon as we gain some understanding of who God is, God moves on ahead of us, confounding our conclusions, refusing to be pinned down.

'Do not cling to me' is what Jesus said to Mary Magdalene on the first Easter day. Do not think that human understanding can contain or constrain the mystery of God's presence. Therefore, as soon as Peter comes to his own astonishing conclusion that Jesus is not just a prophet, not just a great man, he is thrown backwards: this Messiah must suffer and die, and those who follow him must carry the same cross.

In one breath Peter is named as the rock upon which this house will be built; in the other he is revealed as the sand, the stumbling block, even Satan himself, upon which it will crumble. Well might we conclude that there is no profit in gaining this wealth of knowledge if it means losing our soul.

So we inch a bit further forward; we ask ourselves again: who can this Christ be? And as we are led into fresh revelations of God's presence, so we are also confronted by our own weakness and need. Like Peter, we are both rock and sand.

### **Prayers of intercession**

Let us pray to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We give thanks for the Church, and for all who have taken up their crosses and followed you as disciples down the years. May we too be ready to take up our cross and follow you, trusting in you always. Give us courage and boldness, humility and grace, and make us agents of your self-giving love, reflecting your likeness into the world you made.

1 My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;  
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

2 From this day all generations will call me blessed;  
the Almighty has done great things for me  
and holy is his name.

3 He has mercy on those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.

4 He has shown strength with his arm  
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,

5 Casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.

6 He has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

7 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,  
to remember his promise of mercy,

8 The promise made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## Prayers

*This response may be used*

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

*The Collect of the day is said*

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly;<sup>16</sup> do not claim to be wiser than you are. <sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. <sup>18</sup> If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

<sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”

<sup>20</sup> No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” <sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

### **Second reading – Matthew 16.21-end**

<sup>21</sup> From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

<sup>22</sup> And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” <sup>23</sup> But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup> For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

<sup>27</sup> “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.

<sup>28</sup> Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

## **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August – 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

### **Psalm 26.1-8**

1 Vindicate me, O LORD,  
for I have walked in my integrity,  
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.  
2 Prove me, O LORD, and try me;  
test my heart and mind.  
3 For your steadfast love is before my eyes,  
and I walk in faithfulness to you.  
4 I do not sit with the worthless,  
nor do I consort with hypocrites;  
5 I hate the company of evildoers,  
and will not sit with the wicked.  
6 I wash my hands in innocence,  
and go around your altar, O LORD,  
7 singing aloud a song of thanksgiving,  
and telling all your wondrous deeds.  
8 O LORD, I love the house in which you dwell,  
and the place where your glory abides.

### **First reading – Romans 12.9-end**

9 Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; 10 love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.  
12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.  
13 Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.  
  
14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.  
15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in

## **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August – 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

### **Psalm 145.14-end**

14 The LORD upholds all who are falling,  
and raises up all who are bowed down.  
15 The eyes of all look to you,  
and you give them their food in due season.  
16 You open your hand,  
satisfying the desire of every living thing.  
17 The LORD is just in all his ways,  
and kind in all his doings.  
18 The LORD is near to all who call on him,  
to all who call on him in truth.  
19 He fulfills the desire of all who fear him;  
he also hears their cry, and saves them.  
20 The LORD watches over all who love him,  
but all the wicked he will destroy.  
21 My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,  
and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.

### **First reading – Romans 9.1-5**

<sup>1</sup>I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit— <sup>2</sup>I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup>For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup>They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; <sup>5</sup>to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

## **Second reading – Matthew 14.13-21**

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup> When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. <sup>15</sup> When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” <sup>17</sup> They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” <sup>18</sup> And he said, “Bring them here to me.” <sup>19</sup> Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>20</sup> And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. <sup>21</sup> And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

### **Reflection** *(by Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford)*

The crowds seem bigger, the ministry more public, the miracles even greater. The feeding of the 5,000 recalls the ministry of Moses and manna in the wilderness. Next Sunday’s description of Jesus walking on water recalls the great nature miracles of the Old Testament.

How does Jesus respond to this larger, more public canvas? It is no accident that as the crowds grow, Matthew tells us deliberately that Jesus takes time to be by himself. In the opening verse, the withdrawal is in response to the news of the death of John the Baptist. We might speculate that Jesus is taking time to grieve and to take stock about what John’s death means for his own ministry. After the feeding of the 5,000, we are specifically told that Jesus dismisses the crowds and goes up the mountain by himself to pray.

This lesson is a valuable one. The more public the ministry, the more this needs to be balanced by times of withdrawal and solitude. The

We ask you to bless our homes and communities, that they may be places of holiness and hospitality, cheerfulness and kindness, generosity and goodness. We pray for our loved ones, our neighbours and friends, and all amongst whom we live, work and carry on our daily lives.

We pray for all who are currently in trouble, need, sickness or any other adversity. Especially we pray for...

We give thanks for all who have died in the faith of Christ. We remember those whom we have loved and no longer see, and we pray for all who mourn, that they may be comforted.

### **The Collect**

God of glory, the end of our searching,  
help us to lay aside all that prevents us from seeking your kingdom,  
and to give all that we have to gain the pearl beyond all price,  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

maybe Jeremiah or Elijah (v.14)? Or perhaps John the Baptist had escaped Herod's prison despite all the rumours. If your own history and geography is the limit of your thinking, those were not unreasonable speculations.

However, Peter (or as he was known at the time, Simon) had spent a great deal of time in the company of Jesus. Like anyone who devotes themselves to Jesus over a sustained period, he was beginning to see things from God's point of view. To recognize Jesus as the Messiah was an extraordinary thing. To confess him as the Son of the Living God was beyond extraordinary (v.16).

It was a transformative moment for Peter. Like Abraham before him, he received a new name. Like Abraham he became known as 'the rock' (Isaiah 51.1-2). And like Abraham his act of faith enabled a new starting point in God's plan of salvation for all humankind.

'Look, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut,' declared Jesus in a vision some decades later (Rev. 3.8). It was open because the keys were in safe hands (v.19). It's still open. Come in out of the cold.

### **Prayers of intercession**

Let us pray to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We give thanks for your Church throughout the world. May we stand firm on the rock of faith, testifying always to the truth of who you are. We give thanks for freedom to worship you, and we pray for our sisters and brothers in Christ who face danger and persecution as they proclaim Jesus as Messiah.

As we give thanks for Peter, we pray that we may all discern truly our calling, talents and abilities, and that we may use them in the service of others. We pray for all who work, and for those who long for employment but are unable to find it. We pray for millions across the world whose lives and futures have been affected by coronavirus.

more on display we are, the more we need to tend to our private world. This in part about paying attention to our emotions, our inner self. It is in part about paying attention to God's direction and call and values in the midst of tumultuous events around us and within us.

### **Prayers of intercession**

Let us pray to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Jesus, you taught those who came to hear you, and fed their bodies, minds and spirits. May your Church be a place of spiritual nourishment and sustenance, in word and sacrament. And fed and sustained, may we be sent out to live and work to your praise and glory.

In this country we pray for the work of food banks; for all who come in need, and all who contribute to meet that need. We pray for those who strive to correct structural inequities so that food banks may no longer be needed. We pray for all whose economic futures are uncertain and precarious, that they may receive what they need.

Across the world, we pray for those who face a precarious existence and even starvation as a result of war, poverty and natural disaster. We pray for wisdom and generosity for all involved in the production and distribution of food and water. May those who have, be moved to show prodigal generosity to those who don't have.

We pray for all who are struggling in body, mind or spirit. Especially we pray for... May you bring renewal, refreshment and hope.

We give thanks for those who no longer hunger or thirst because they have received refreshment in your kingdom. We look forward to that day when we share with them the glory which is everlasting.

### **The Collect**

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake:  
when we prosper save us from pride,

when we are needy save us from despair,  
that we may trust I you alone;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup> For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup> so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup> We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup> ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup> the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

### **Second reading – Matthew 16.13-20**

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” <sup>14</sup> And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup> He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” <sup>20</sup> Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

### **Reflection** *(by Peter Graystone, Church Army)*

Practically everyone who came into contact with Jesus realized that there was something special about him. Who was he? Could he be a reincarnation of someone from the Jews’ golden age of prophecy –



## **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August – 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

### **Psalm 138**

1 I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I sing your praise;  
2 I bow down toward your holy temple  
and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your  
faithfulness;  
for you have exalted your name and your word  
above everything.  
3 On the day I called, you answered me,  
you increased my strength of soul  
  
4 All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD,  
for they have heard the words of your mouth.  
5 They shall sing of the ways of the LORD,  
for great is the glory of the LORD.  
6 For though the LORD is high, he regards the lowly;  
but the haughty he perceives from far away.  
  
7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;  
you stretch out your hand,  
and your right hand delivers me.  
8 The LORD will fulfil his purpose for me;  
your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.  
Do not forsake the work of your hands.

### **First reading – Romans 12.1-8**

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,  
to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,  
which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world,  
but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may

## **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August – 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

### **Psalm 85.8-13**

8 Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.  
9 Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.  
  
10 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.  
11 Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
and righteousness will look down from the sky.  
12 The LORD will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.  
13 Righteousness will go before him,  
and will make a path for his steps.

### **First reading – Romans 10.5-15**

5 Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law,  
that “the person who does these things will live by them.” 6 But the  
righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart,  
‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down) 7 “or  
‘Who will descend into the abyss?’” (that is, to bring Christ up from  
the dead). 8 But what does it say?

“The word is near you,  
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9 because if you confess  
with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God  
raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For one believes with  
the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so  
is saved. 11 The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put

to shame.”<sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.<sup>13</sup> For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

<sup>14</sup> But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?<sup>15</sup> And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

### **Second reading – Matthew 14.22-33**

<sup>22</sup> Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.<sup>23</sup> And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,<sup>24</sup> but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.<sup>25</sup> And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.<sup>26</sup> But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear.<sup>27</sup> But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

<sup>28</sup> Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.”<sup>29</sup> He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.<sup>30</sup> But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!”<sup>31</sup> Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”<sup>32</sup> When they got into the boat, the wind ceased.<sup>33</sup> And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

### **Reflection (by Bishop John Pritchard)**

Being around Jesus was never boring. (Why do many people today think it must be?) After a hard day’s teaching and feeding 5,000 people

### **Prayers of intercession**

Let us pray to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We pray for your Church throughout the world, and here in this place. Give us grace to proclaim your saving power for the whole of creation. Forgive us our sins and divisions, and lead us into deeper communion with each other, that we may recognize as a living truth that there is more that unites than divides us from each other.

We pray for your divided and fractious world. May we build bridges in place of barriers. We pray for all who live as minorities, judged by others because of skin colour, creed or for any other reason. We pray for those who experience life as refugee or outcast – and for those who show them mercy. Grow in each one of us compassion and love.

We give thanks for the love and mercy we have experienced in our own lives, and we pray for those we love. We pray particularly for all who have suffered from a lack of love, and for homes where there is no love. May we be bearers of your love to all who need it.

We pray for all who are currently in distress of body, mind or spirit. Especially we pray for... We ask you to bring them healing and peace.

We remember before you those whom we have loved and who have gone into your eternal presence. May they rest in peace and rise in glory, and may your perpetual light shine upon them.

### **The Collect**

Lord of heaven and earth,  
as Jesus taught his disciples to be persistent in prayer,  
give us patience and courage never to lose hope,  
but always to bring our prayers before you;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.”<sup>23</sup> But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.”<sup>24</sup> He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”<sup>25</sup> But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.”<sup>26</sup> He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”<sup>27</sup> She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”<sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

### **Reflection** *(by Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford)*

Another attempt to withdraw from the crowds and an encounter that disturbs us. Our sympathies are all with the woman, of course. She is a foreigner and a gentile. Her daughter is tormented and in her need she sees Jesus as the only grounds for hope, and so she shouts and keeps shouting and kneels and begs for mercy. We are impatient with the disciples who want to protect Jesus’ retreat and their own privacy. We recoil even from the words of Jesus who seems to insult the woman and all her race.

The term ‘dogs’ (v.26) is softened a little, to be sure, when we know that the original refers to household pets – and young ones at that. ‘Puppies’ might be a better translation. There are strands of affection and respect in Jesus’ first response. In the woman’s reply there is boldness and wit as well as respect and faith.

The passage echoes in Jesus’ life the stories of Elijah and Elisha, both of whom raise up the children of widows (1 Kings 17 and 2 Kings 4). In Elijah’s case, the widow was also in the territory of Sidon. Both of the healing stories in Kings are elaborate and difficult. Jesus heals instantly, with just a word. Something greater than the greatest of the prophets is here.

on the everlasting bits and pieces of a picnic, he now walks across the nearby lake (finding Peter a willing but unreliable student) to Gennesaret, where a crowd of people touch his cloak and get healed.

In today’s verses from chapter 14, we’re faced with the second of two miracles of nature that will always divide Christian opinion. Fortunately, eternal salvation doesn’t depend on it. Perhaps we might just claim the insight of Austin Farrer that, if Jesus did indeed walk on water, it wasn’t because of an arbitrary power over nature, but because love demanded it.

We don’t know what the limits of Almighty love really are. However, we can also see Matthew demonstrating that Jesus embodies divine creativity because he has creative mastery over nature, in the form of the wild, chaotic lake.

As we watch Jesus, we learn more about him and more about ourselves. Do we resist this portrait of Jesus or do we embrace it? Are we embarrassed by it or encouraged by it? How comfortable are we with this Jesus? Above all, is there any chance that we would get out of our boat and walk towards Jesus? Because, metaphorically at least, that’s what we’re called to do every day.

### **Prayers of intercession**

Let us pray to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We pray for your Church. When we are in danger of being overwhelmed, increase our faith. When we are in trouble, help us to hear your voice saying, ‘Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.’ Give us a new vision of where you are calling us, and go with us as we witness to you and proclaim your saving love.

We pray for your world, grappling with so many problems, and at this time the challenge of a global pandemic. We pray for all who are swamped by the difficulties they face, and who are being battered by

the storms of life; for those sinking beneath burdens too hard to bear. Reach out your hand to them, we pray.

We give thanks for all who have supported us in times of trouble and distress. We pray in particular for all key workers, in the health service and in other areas of public service, who have risked their own welfare in caring for others. Strengthen, protect and uphold them, we pray.

We pray for our friends, our families and all whom we love. We pray too for those who have no one to pray for them. We lift before you now those for whom we have a particular concern...

We remember before you those who have passed beyond the storms of this life and reached the haven of rest. Though our faith be weak, we cry out to you, almighty God. Grant that we may come to be with your saints in life eternal.

### **The Collect**

Gracious Father,  
revive your Church in our day,  
and make her holy, strong and faithful,  
for your glory's sake  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August – 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity**

### **Psalm 67**

- <sup>1</sup> May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us,
- <sup>2</sup> that your way may be known upon earth,  
your saving power among all nations.
- <sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.
- <sup>4</sup> Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide the nations upon earth.
- <sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.
- <sup>6</sup> The earth has yielded its increase;  
God, our God, has blessed us.
- <sup>7</sup> May God continue to bless us;  
let all the ends of the earth revere him.

### **First reading – Romans 11.1-2a, 29-32**

- <sup>1</sup> I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin.
- <sup>2</sup> God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

<sup>29</sup> for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup> Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, <sup>31</sup> so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now <sup>[k]</sup> receive mercy. <sup>32</sup> For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

### **Second reading – Matthew 15.21-28**

- <sup>21</sup> Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.
- <sup>22</sup> Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started