

Morning Prayer

5th Sunday after Trinity

July 12th, 2020



Seed, Soil and Sower

PREPARATION

O Lord, open our lips

All: **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Give us the joy of your saving help

All: **and sustain us with your life-giving Spirit.**

SONG Come People of the Risen King

Words & Music: Keith & Kristyn Getty & Stuart Townend

Come, people of the Risen King,
Who delight to bring Him praise;
Come all and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him,
Where steady arms of mercy reach
To gather children in.

REFRAIN Rejoice, Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ, rejoice!

Come, those whose joy is morning sun,
And those weeping through the night;
Come, those who tell of battles won,
And those struggling in the fight.
For His perfect love will never change,
And His mercies never cease,
But follow us through all our days
With the certain hope of peace.

REFRAIN

Come, young and old from every land -
Men and women of the faith;
Come, those with full or empty hands -
Find the riches of His grace.
Over all the world, His people sing -
Shore to shore we hear them call
The Truth that cries through every age:
"Our God is all in all"

REFRAIN

Words of Welcome

We have come together in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world, and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may give ourselves to the service of God.

CONFESSION

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit. Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice, and confess our sins to God our redeemer. *cf Ephesians 4.30,32*

**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.**

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, creator of all, to you be glory and praise for ever. You founded the earth in the beginning and the heavens are the work of your hands. In the fullness of time you made us in your image, and in these last days you have spoken to us in your Son Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. As we rejoice in the gift of your presence among us let the light of your love always shine in our hearts, your Spirit ever renew our lives and your praises ever be on our lips.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: **Blessed be God for ever.**

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

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 55:10-13 (NIV)

The power of God's word

55:¹⁰ As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. ¹² You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. ¹³ Instead of the thorn-bush will grow the juniper, and instead of briers the myrtle will grow. This will be for the LORD's renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure for ever.'

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 65 *read responsively*

1 Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion;*
to you that answer prayer shall vows be paid.

**2 To you shall all flesh come to confess their sins;*
when our misdeeds prevail against us, you will purge them away.**

3 Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there.* We shall be satisfied with the blessings of your house, even of your holy temple.

**4 With wonders you will answer us in your righteousness,
O God of our salvation,* O hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas.**

5 In your strength you set fast the mountains*
and are girded about with might.

**6 You still the raging of the seas,*
the roaring of their waves and the clamour of the peoples.**

7 Those who dwell at the ends of the earth tremble at your marvels;* the gates of the morning and evening sing your praise.

**8 You visit the earth and water it;*
you make it very plenteous.**

9 The river of God is full of water;*
you prepare grain for your people, for so you provide for the earth.

**10 You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges;*
you soften the ground with showers and bless its increase.**

11 You crown the year with your goodness,*
and your paths overflow with plenty.

**12 May the pastures of the wilderness flow with
goodness* and the hills be girded with joy.**

13 May the meadows be clothed with flocks of sheep* and the valleys stand so thick with corn that they shall laugh and sing.

**All: 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.**

EPISTLE Romans 8:1-11 (NIV) *Life through the Spirit*

8:¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸ Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not

belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you. This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN Come, ye thankful people, come

Words: H Alford; Music: GJ Elvey

Come, ye thankful people, come,/ Raise the song of harvest-home:
All is safely gathered in,/ Ere the winter storms begin;
God our Maker doth provide/ For our wants to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come,/ Raise the song of harvest-home.

All the world is God's own field,/ Fruit unto his praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown,/ Unto joy or sorrow grown:
First the blade, and then the ear,/ Then the full corn shall appear:
Lord of harvest, grant that we/ Wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come,/ And shall take His harvest home:
From His field shall on that day/ All offences wipe away;
Give His angels charge at last/ In the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store/ In His garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come/ To Thy final harvest-home:
Gather Thou Thy people in,/ Free from sorrow, free from sin;
There for ever purified,/ In Thy presence to abide:
Come, with all Thine angels, come,/ Raise the glorious harvest-home.

GOSPEL READING Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (NIV)

The parable of the sower

13:¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake.
² Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: 'A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among

thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop – a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear.'

¹⁸ 'Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹ when anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰ The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²² The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³ But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.'

This is the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE

The Benedictus

All: **You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of your servant David.**

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, 
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 **He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,** 
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old 
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 **To show mercy to our ancestors,** 
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: 
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 **Free to worship him without fear,** 
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, 
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 **To give his people knowledge of salvation** 
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God 
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

All: 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.

All: You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour, born of the house of your servant David.

SERMON

SONG I heard the voice of Jesus say Words: H Bonar; Music: JB Dykes

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Come unto Me and rest;
Lay down thou weary one, lay down thy head upon My breast,'
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary and worn and sad;
I found in Him a resting place, and He has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Behold I freely give
The living water thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live.'
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'I am this dark world's Light;
Look unto Me, thy morn shall rise, and all thy day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found in Him my Star, my Sun
And in that Light of Life I'll walk, till trav'ling days are done.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**All: *I believe* in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS

Prayers are offered, and this response may be used:

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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (5th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY)

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified: hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

As our Saviour has 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.**

NOTICES

SONG Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God

Words & Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend

Holy Spirit, living Breath of God,
Breathe new life into my willing soul.
Bring the presence of the risen Lord
To renew my heart and make me whole.
Cause Your Word to come alive in me;
Give me faith for what I cannot see;
Give me passion for Your purity.
Holy Spirit, breathe new life in me.

Holy Spirit, come abide within;
May Your joy be seen in all I do—
Love enough to cover ev'ry sin
In each thought and deed and attitude,
Kindness to the greatest and the least,
Gentleness that sows the path of peace.
Turn my striving into works of grace.
Breath of God, show Christ in all I do.

Holy Spirit, from creation's birth,
Giving life to all that God has made,
Show Your power once again on earth;
Cause Your church to hunger for Your ways.
Let the fragrance of our prayers arise.
Lead us on the road of sacrifice
That in unity the face of Christ
Will be clear for all the world to see.

THE GRACE

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

DISMISSAL

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



Our worship services and ministry in Groningen are made possible by people voluntarily offering their time, talents and financial support.

As God has blessed us, so we thank Him by giving accordingly.

To help support Grace Church, there is an opportunity to put an offering in the collection basket near the exit after the service.

It is also possible to donate by electronic transfer to **Grace Church (Groningen Anglican Church)**, account: **NL 67 RABO 03012946 23.**

Grace Church (Groningen Anglican Church) brings together people who desire to know Jesus, follow Him and make Him known.

Morning worship is held in English during the academic year on:

- **2nd Sundays** (Morning Prayer or Service of the Word) at **10:30 am** &
- **4th Sundays** (Holy Communion) at **10:30 am**

at **St Maarten-langs-de-weg** (Oud Katholieke Kerk), Witte de Withstraat, 2, Groningen.

For more info, see our web-site (<http://gracechurchgroningen.com/>), find us on **Facebook** (Grace Church Groningen), or contact the Revd Sam Van Leer, Mon-Wed-Fri, at chaplaingracechurchgn@gmail.com or 050 785 0703.

