

**Bride Valley Service for Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July  
Fifth Sunday of Trinity - Thank You Day**

**Greeting**

This is the day that the Lord has made: **let us rejoice and be glad in it.** Psalm 118.24

**Welcome and Opening Prayer**

Be with us, Spirit of God; **nothing can separate us from your love.**

Breathe on us, breath of God; **fill us with your saving power.**

Speak in us, wisdom of God; **bring strength, healing and peace.**

*Silence is kept*

The Lord is here; **His Spirit is with us.**

**First Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!

All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;

Praise Him in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,

Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!

Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been

Granted in what He ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee;

Surely His goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;

Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,

If with His love He befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord, oh, let all that is in me adore Him!

All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him;

Let the Amen sound from His people again,

Gladly for aye we adore Him.

*Joachim Neander (1650-1680) CCLI Licence 2370586*

**Confession**

We come to God as one from whom no secrets are hidden to ask his forgiveness and peace.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you, through our own fault, in thought and word and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are heartily sorry, and repent of all our sins. For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen**

**Absolution**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Collect**

Let us pray: **Almighty God, send down upon your Church the riches of your Spirit, and kindle in all who minister the gospel your countless gifts of grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Reading: Luke 17.11-19 Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

## Reflection

Saying thank you is such a straightforward, easy thing to do isn't it? It's just two words: **Thank You.**

Why was it so hard for those nine lepers d'you think? Not only are they all cured, but they *stay* cured, their leprosy is gone – for good.

But are we any different? Think of all the excuses we make for not giving thanks, all the things we take for granted, not just our health, but our general well-being – like being warm when it is cold, or having enough to eat, or having a roof over our heads at night, or not having bombs crashing around us day and night, like those poor folks in Aleppo, Syria, or being able to make choices in our lives, like voting in elections, without being held back by lack of education, poverty or persecution.

When Jesus says to the Samaritan leper who comes back to say "thank you", "Your faith has made you well," he means that *here* is where the real healing has taken place. It is not just the leper's body that is cured, but also his whole life, his soul. When he comes back he is not only cured but healed, because he knows *how* he has been cured, and from *whom* his cure has come.

People of faith are no better than others. They don't deserve or receive special treatment from God. Many of us come here week after week, in our difficulties, in our needs, sometimes in our suffering – physical, mental, or emotional. We come expecting a healing, a miracle, God's mercy, newness of life. We come, **not because we're especially good or holy** – because often we're not. We come, **not because we've earned or deserve God's favour** – because we know that we cannot and we do not. But we come because we know that what we are going to find here is a richer, fuller, truer understanding of reality than is available in any other way.

This is the healing we experience when we gather together with our church family to share with one another our hurts and pains, our joys and laughter, as we listen and pray and sing together.

Our Christian faith is really quite practical, you know. **It works!** Our faith provides for us understandings, resources, and strengths – even in the midst of darkness – that we can't obtain in any other way. All we need to do is to be faithful in our response, in our thankfulness – not because it's something we have to do, a duty, not because we feel we need to bribe God, but solely because it is the gateway to life's most wonderful riches. It's a reminder to all of us, that who we are goes much deeper than how we're feeling, and that God's love and hope are even wider than we might possibly imagine.

I've got a challenge for each of us to consider for this coming week, something specific to do, sort of a faith experiment. At least once each day, more if you like, take a deep breath and prayerfully say, "**Thank you.**" Just that. Nothing more. Only us and God will know what we're thankful for, so there's no need for long

elaborate lists and lots of words. Just **“Thank you”** – nothing more. And I’ll bet this will be a pretty good week if we do. At the very least, each of us will be more aware of our faith, and how necessary and important it really is. I’ll be interested to hear how your week goes.

Our faith, yours and mine, even if it feels weak, even if it is no bigger than a tiny mustard seed, our faith in God, revealed in Christ, is a belief in the One who is always with us, who comforts and supports us, who meets us in all our difficulties, and whose love and forgiveness come to us without limit, without conditions, with no strings attached. We **do** get something for nothing, God’s mercy and grace, and that seems like a good enough reason to be thankful to me, doesn’t it to you? **Amen.**

### **Affirmation of Faith**

We say together in faith:

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, who was and is and is to come.**

We believe in God the Father, who created all things: **for by his will they were created and have their being.**

We believe in God the Son, who was slain: **for with his blood he purchased us for God, from every tribe and language, from every tribe and nation.**

We believe in God the Holy Spirit: **the Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come!’ Even so come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

**Let us pray:** We give thanks to God for all his gifts to us.

Father, we give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
For birth and life and strength of body, for safety and shelter and food.  
We give you thanks: **and praise your holy name.**

For sight and hearing and the beauty of nature, for words and music and the power of thought.  
We give you thanks: **and praise your holy name.**

For work and leisure and the joy of achieving, for conscience and will and depth of feeling.  
We give you thanks: **and praise your holy name.**

For everyone who has gone above and beyond to help us and keep us safe during the pandemic; NHS workers, teachers, carers, pharmacists, food retailers, lorry drivers and refuse collectors.  
We give you thanks: **and praise your holy name.**

For scientists and research analysts and all those involved in distribution and administration of the vaccination programme.  
We give you thanks: **and praise your holy name.**

For grace and truth in Jesus Christ, for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the hope of heaven.  
We give you thanks: **and praise your holy name.**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Amen.**

**Hymn: Give thanks with a grateful heart**

Give thanks with a grateful heart  
Give thanks to the Holy One  
Give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ, His Son

Give thanks with a grateful heart  
Give thanks to the Holy One  
Give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ, His Son

And now let the weak say, I am strong  
Let the poor say, I am rich  
Because of what the Lord has done for us

And now let the weak say, I am strong  
Let the poor say, I am rich  
Because of what the Lord has done for us

*Repeat from the beginning*

Give thanks  
Give thanks

*Henry Smith (c) Integrity's Hosanna! Music CCLI Licence 2370586*

**Thanksgiving Prayer:**

We thank you, O God, for you are gracious. You have loved us from the beginning of time and you remember us in times of trouble and joy.

**Your mercy endures forever.**

We thank you, O God, for you came to us in Jesus Christ, who has redeemed the world and saves us from our sins.

**Your mercy endures forever.**

We thank you, O God, for you have sent your Holy Spirit, who comforts us and leads us into all truth.

**Your mercy endures forever. Amen.**

**Final Blessing:**

Let us bless the Lord: **thanks be to God.**

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and forever. Amen.**

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