# 24 July 2022 - Trinity 6: Living with weakness

The Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one. - 2 Corinthians 3:3

# The Greeting - Hello and Welcome

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all **and also with you**

# Hymn 657 - O God of Bethel

O God of Bethel, by whose hand
thy children still are fed;
who through this earthly pilgrimage
hast all thy people led;

2 our vows, our prayers, we now present
before thy throne of grace;
God of our fathers, be the God
of their succeeding race.

3 Through each perplexing path of life
our wandering footsteps guide;
give us each day our daily bread,
and raiment fit provide.

4 O spread thy covering wings around,
till all our wanderings cease,
and at our Father’s loved abode
our souls arrive in peace.

5 Such blessings from thy gracious hand
our humble prayers implore;
be thou to us, O Lord our God,
our portion evermore.

O Lord, open our lips **and our mouth will proclaim your praise.**
Let us worship the Lord. **All praise to his name.**

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Blessed be God for ever.**

# Penitence - saying sorry

**O God, our loving Father in heaven,**
**we confess that we have sinned against you;**
**we have broken your commandments;**
**we have often been selfish,**
**and we have not loved you as we should.**
**For these and all our sins, forgive us, we pray:**
**through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

# Preparing - to hear God’s word

Your word is a lantern to my feet
**and a light upon our path.**
O Lord, your word is everlasting:
**it stands firm for ever in the heavens.**
Let us then receive the word of the Lord.
**So may the light of your presence shine into our hearts.**

# Psalm 85 - we stand to say

1 You, Lord, showed favour to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
**2 You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins.**

3 You set aside all your wrath and turned from your fierce anger.
**4 Restore us again, God our Saviour, and put away your displeasure towards us.**

5 Will you be angry with us for ever? Will you prolong your anger through all generations?
**6 Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?**

7 Show us your unfailing love, Lord, **and grant us your salvation.**

9 Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,
**that his glory may dwell in our land.**

10 Love and faithfulness meet together;
**righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

11 Faithfulness springs forth from the earth,
**and righteousness looks down from heaven.**

12 The Lord will indeed give what is good,
**and our land will yield its harvest.**

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.**

# Bible Reading - 2 Corinthians 4:1–12

Therefore, since through God’s mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone’s conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

# Hymn 352 - Give Thanks

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”

# The Sermon - Living with weakness

# Hymn 592 - O love that wilt not let me go

O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

2 O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine’s blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

3 O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.

4 O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life’s glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be

# Declaring Faith - affirming our belief

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 again 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.**

# Praying Together - Intercessions

Blessed are you, eternal God, **to be praised and glorified for ever.**

Hear us as we pray for your holy catholic Church:
**make us all one, that the world may believe.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you:
**that the life of Christ may be revealed in us.**

Strengthen all who minister in Christ’s name:
**give them courage to proclaim your Gospel.**

Inspire and lead those who hold authority in the nations of the world:
**guide them in the ways of justice and peace.**

Make us alive to the needs of our community:
**help us to share each other’s joys and burdens.**

Look with kindness on our homes and families:
**grant that your love may grow in our hearts.**

Deepen our compassion for all who suffer from sickness, grief or trouble:
**in your presence may they find their strength.**

We praise you for all your saints who have entered your eternal glory:
**bring us all to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Hear our prayer, Lord God **and make us one in heart and mind to serve you for ever. Amen.**

# Collect for Trinity 6, The Lord’s Prayer and The Blessing

# Hymn 627 - What a friend

What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations,
is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged:
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness:
take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Jesus is our only refuge:
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer:
in his arms he’ll take and shield you,
you will find a solace there.

We go into the world **to walk in God’s light,**
**to rejoice in God’s love** **and to reflect God’s glory.**