

# LIVERPOOL PARISH CHURCH

OUR LADY & ST NICHOLAS

## **Worship at home for the Sixth Sunday after Trinity, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

*Find yourself a quiet, comfortable space that will allow your heart, mind and soul to focus on prayer and contemplation. You can pray these words out loud, quietly, in your head, or using a mixture of these approaches – whatever suits you best.*

*If you have a candle light it, and/or you can use a cross, crucifix, icon, or something else that gives you a visual focus to aid your time of prayer to, and worship of, Jesus Christ, the light of the world, the way, and the truth and the life.*

*Spend some time thinking about the past week, and bring before God anything that is troubling you, that you feel has challenged you, and that you feel you want God's help and guidance with. Then pray:*

**Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.**

**Grant, we beseech you, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Gloria in Excelsis*

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

Pray today's collect:

**Creator God,  
you made us all in your image:  
may we discern you in all that we see,  
and serve you in all that we do;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*Now read through these passages from The Bible:*

### **Wisdom 12.13,16-19**

For neither is there any god besides you, whose care is for all people,  
to whom you should prove that you have not judged unjustly;  
For your strength is the source of righteousness,  
and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all.  
For you show your strength when people doubt the completeness of your power,  
and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it.  
Although you are sovereign in strength, you judge with mildness,  
and with great forbearance you govern us;  
for you have power to act whenever you choose.

Through such works you have taught your people  
that the righteous must be kind,  
and you have filled your children with good hope,  
because you give repentance for sins.

### **Romans 8.12-25**

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

### **Matthew 13.24-30,36-43**

He put before them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field; but while everybody was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, “Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?” He answered, “An enemy has done this.” The slaves said to him, “Then do you want us to go and gather them?” But he replied, “No; for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest;

and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.” ’

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, ‘Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.’ He answered, ‘The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!

*Spend some time thinking about the Bible readings. Here are some ideas you might want to reflect on in your prayers:*

- In this passage from the book of Wisdom, there is repeated reference to “God’s strength”. Do you want to see God as powerful and strong, or do you prefer the New Testament image of him as a suffering servant? During the pandemic, many of our concepts of power have been challenged: voices of authority have come from unexpected places, and the ‘strong’ have been susceptible to the virus alongside the ‘weak’. How are we going to identify the strong and the weak in the coming months? Pray for strength in your own life: what do you need God’s help to achieve; what are your hopes for your family and community in the future? The reading says that we are filled with “good hope,” but do you relate to this reading?
- St Paul also writes about hope in this passage from the Letter to the Romans, but he also excuses the problems of the present by saying that they are outweighed by the hope of the glory which will be revealed to us. Are you content with this idea, that the problems of the world can be borne because there is something better coming? Is this comforting to those in need now (such as the poor or the sick)? Balance this by reflecting on where you see the glory of God revealed to you now. Where do you see him in the world, and (whatever your current circumstances) what makes you thankful today? Give thanks to God for the glory which you see revealed around you, and pray for those who suffer in the world today.
- Last week we read the parable of the sower; this week we hear the parable of the ‘wheat and the tares’. It is a dramatic reading, and challenges us with ideas of good and bad people. Do you think that there are bad people in the world, or are we all a collection of good and bad elements? Prayer is one way of allowing the good seed to grow within us. Do you find it easy to pray? Many people find it the most difficult part of our relationship with God, but the more we try, the more comfortable it feels. As you prepare for a time of prayer in home worship, think about what helps you to pray. Is it the setting (there are hints on this sheet about using a crucifix and candles), or is it about being given words to pray? The easiest prayer is the one which Jesus taught his disciples, but prayer can be without words as well. As the time of prayer begins, just sit in silence for a few moments, letting God fill you with his presence and feeling his peace all around you.

*Now spend some time in your own prayers. You may want to pray and give thanks for:*

- The Church across the world, and the communities that it serves
- All those who are physically, emotionally or spiritually isolated
- All those who are facing the fear of death, their own, or that of a loved one
- All medical, nursing, caring and support staff, and emergency responders around the world
- All businesses, business owners, industries and employees who are facing loss and change at this time of uncertainty
- Marginalised communities, the homeless, asylum seekers, and all those who are especially vulnerable at this time
- Essential service providers, frontline workers, volunteers, and charitable supporters
- Those named on the Parish prayer list on the “This Week” page of our website ([https://www.livpc.co.uk/whats\\_on/this\\_week.html](https://www.livpc.co.uk/whats_on/this_week.html))

*Then finish with your own prayers and intercessions with the Lord’s 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.**

*If you have a candle, put it out when you end this time of worship, but perhaps keep your sacred space set up, so that you can use it whenever you need to, and keep the Bible readings and prayer for the week, praying, reading, reflecting and thinking about them over the next seven days.*

*The clergy and community of Liverpool Parish Church are praying for you, your family, our city, our country, and our world.*