Service for the Ninth Sunday

Welcome:

Jesus said ‘You have great faith. Your request is granted.’ Matthew 15:28

These past few weeks we have touched on some of the promises of God. To encourage us further concerning God’s goodness and mercy towards us, we will consider the response of Jesus to those who turn to him in faith.

Christ in God has revealed his glory

**Come let us worship.**

From the rising of the sun to it’s setting,

**The Lord’s name is greatly to be praised.**

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord

**O praise the name of the Lord!**

Opening hymn: I, the Lord of sea and sky

I, the Lord of sea and sky,

I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in dark and sin

My hand will save.

I who made the stars of night,

I will make their darkness bright

Who will bear My light to them?

Whom shall I send?

*Here I am Lord,*

*Is it I Lord?*

*I have heard You calling in the night.*

*I will go Lord, if You lead me*

*I will hold Your people in my heart.*

I, the Lord of snow and rain,

I have borne My people’s pain

I have wept for love of them.

They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone

Give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak My word to them.

Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,

I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them.

My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide

Till their hearts are satisfied.

I will give My life to them.

Whom shall I send?

Confession:

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

**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 Father of all mercies

Cleanse us from our sins,

And restore us in his image

To the praise and glory of his name

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading: Matthew 15:10-20

To the bottom of the jar:

Hymn: Speak, O Lord

Speak, O Lord, as we come to You  
To receive the food of your holy word.  
Take Your truth, plant it deep in us;  
Shape and fashion us in Your likeness,  
That the light of Christ might be seen today  
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.  
Speak, O Lord, and fulfil in us  
All Your purposes, for Your glory.

Teach us Lord full obedience,  
Holy reverence, true humility.  
Test our thoughts and our attitudes  
In the radiance of Your purity.  
Cause our faith to rise  
Cause our eyes to see,  
Your majestic love and authority.  
Words of power that can never fail;  
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;  
Help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us.  
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,  
That will echo down through eternity.  
And by grace we’ll stand on Your promises;  
And by faith we’ll walk as You walk with us.  
Speak, O Lord, ’til your church is built  
And the earth is filled with Your glory.

Reading: Matthew 15:21-28

Address:

Prayers:

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit

To be the light and life of your church:

Open our hearts to the riches of your grace,

That we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit

In love and joy and peace;

Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

In the following prayers the response to ‘Lord help us’ is ‘**Lord, graciously help us’**

Lord Jesus, the woman came to you in her need

and you listened to her plea,

you commended her faith and answered her prayer.

You did not judge her or turn from her

but in compassion you looked upon her heart and loved her.

Lord, we come to you in faith and reverence

We kneel before you and pour out our hearts to you.

Have compassion and speak your word of healing

Lord help us, **Lord graciously help us.**

Lord Jesus, we pray for all the nations as a new wave of infections

threatens to sweep across the world.

We pray for those countries and regions

whose health care services are collapsing,

and whose people cannot be accommodated or cared for.

We pray for the fragile economies and the difficult choices

having to be made by politicians, whether to save lives or save jobs.

Have compassion and speak your word of healing.

Lord help us, **Lord graciously help us.**

Lord Jesus, we pray for our churches as many begin to open

For private prayer and services after many months of closure.

May they again be places of comfort and solace, peace and hope.

We pray for all who come to you in faith,

May you hear their prayers and grant them your Spirit.

Have compassion and speak your word of hope.

Lord help us, **Lord graciously help us.**

Lord Jesus, we pray for ourselves

and the witness of our lives.

May we be pure and holy without and within.

May we truly reflect your goodness and godliness

In all we think, say and do,

That others may be drawn to you

and receive the promise of eternal life you offer.

Have compassion and speak your word of love.

Lord help us, **Lord graciously help us.**

Lord Jesus, we pray for those facing hardship and discrimination,

Whose voices are not heard and who lives are discounted.

Raise up champions to stand by them and uphold their cause

and establish in our society a compassionate culture

of equality and acceptance, justice and forgiveness.

Have compassion and speak your word of truth.

Lord help us, **Lord graciously help us.**

Lord Jesus, we pray for all who are unwell, grieving and lonely.

In a moment of silence we lift those on our hearts to the Lord.

Lord, take them to your heart, pray with them and for them

Comfort and uphold them, heal them and bless them.

Have compassion and speak your word of life.

Lord help us, **Lord graciously help us.**

We draw our prayers to a close with the prayer our Lord taught us:

**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.**

Closing Hymn: Jesus is King

Jesus is King and I will extol Him

Give Him the glory and honour His name;

He reigns on high, enthroned in the heavens –

Word of the Father, exalted for us.

We have a hope that is steadfast and certain,

Gone through the curtain and touching the throne;

We have a priest, who is there interceding,

Pouring His grace on our lives day by day.

We come to Him, our Priest and Apostle,

Clothed in His glory and bearing His name,

Laying our lives with gladness before Him –

Filled with His Spirit we worship the King:

‘O Holy One, our hearts do adore You;

thrilled with Your goodness we give You our praise!’

Angels in light with worship surround him,

Jesus our Saviour, for ever the same.

Blessing:

You are called and loved by God the Father and kept safe by Jesus Christ

Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance, from God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

Be with you all this day and for ever more. **Amen.**