**Morning Prayer on the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**

**Sunday 8 September 2024 service at 9.30. Call in from 9.15.**

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85649430168?pwd=QzFzNytXM01TQTc5cTROaHc2aElvZz09

Meeting ID: 856 4943 0168

Passcode: 336782

**Telephone instructions:**

\* Dial: 0131 460 1196

\* You are then welcomed to Zoom and asked to type in the meeting ID ie. 856 4943 0168

\* If the next instruction is to add your personal ID just press # to ignore

\* When passcode requested type numbers i.e. 336782 plus #.

\* At this point you should be admitted to the call.

**Preparation**

Grace, mercy and peace

from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.

*All* **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

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God of grace and glory, we come to you in awe and wonder,
for you are the Lord of all creation.
You have made us in your image and likeness,
and called us to be your children.
You have chosen us to be your heirs,
and invited us to share in your kingdom.
Help us to worship you in spirit and in truth,
to listen to your Word with faith and obedience,
to receive your grace with humility and gratitude
and to share your love with justice and mercy.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.
**Amen.**

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.

Let us confess our sins.

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:

 Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

 You bring pardon and peace to the broken in heart:

 Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

 You make one by your Spirit the torn and divided:

 Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of love and power

forgive us and free us from our sins,

heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,

and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

Blessed is the Lord

*All* **for he has heard the voice of our prayer;**

therefore shall our hearts dance for joy

*All* **and in our song will we praise our God.**

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**The Word of God**

*First reading:* James 2: 1-10, 14-17

**2**My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favouritism. **2**Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. **3**If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” **4**have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

**5**Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? **6**But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? **7**Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong?

**8**If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, “Love your neighbor as yourself,”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James%202%3A1-10%2CJames%202%3A14-17&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30302a)] you are doing right. **9**But if you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers. **10**For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

**14**What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? **15**Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. **16**If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? **17**In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God**

Psalmody Psalm 146

1    Alleluia.

Praise the Lord, O my soul:

while I live will I praise the Lord;

as long as I have any being,

I will sing praises to my God.

**2    Put not your trust in princes,**

**nor in any human power,**

**for there is no help in them.**

3    When their breath goes forth, they return to the earth;

on that day all their thoughts perish.

**4    Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help,**

**whose hope is in the Lord their God;**

5    Who made heaven and earth,

the sea and all that is in them;

who keeps his promise for ever;

**6    Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong**

**and bread to those who hunger.**

7    The Lord looses those that are bound;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;

**8    The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;**

**the Lord loves the righteous;**

9    The Lord watches over the stranger in the land;

he upholds the orphan and widow;

but the way of the wicked he turns upside down.

**10  The Lord shall reign for ever,**

**your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.**

**Alleluia.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

All **as it was in the beginning, is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*Second reading:* Mark 7: 24-37

**24**Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. **25**In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. **26**The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter.

**27**“First let the children eat all they want,” he told her, “for it is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

**28**“Lord,” she replied, “even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”

**29**Then he told her, “For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter.”

**30**She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

**31**Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis.[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%207%3A%2024-37&version=NIV#fen-NIV-24495b)] **32**There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him.

**33**After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man’s ears. Then he spit and touched the man’s tongue. **34**He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, *“Ephphatha!”* (which means “Be opened!”). **35**At this, the man’s ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

**36**Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. **37**People were overwhelmed with amazement. “He has done everything well,” they said. “He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God**

*We pause to reflect on the readings before turning to prayer.*

**Intercessions**

God of harmony, we pray for peace throughout the world. We think of the Ukrainians after all they have suffered and for the residents of Gaza living in fear. We ask that you will give them comfort and strength. It is hard for us to pray for the aggressors in these conflicts but we commend them to you with all their needs and fears.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

God of compassion, we pray for the government and all members of parliament as they make decisions about the economy of our country. At times we will rejoice; at times we will be angry. May decision makers, those in authority and those whose role is opposition be guided and inspired by compassion and the general good.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

God of healing, we pray for those who are waiting for tests or test results; for families and friends who are anxious. We think of those who will receive bad news this week and those who have to deliver it. We commend to you all who are ill at home and in hospital and those who look after them. Give wisdom and discernment to those who make management decisions

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

God present with and within us, we pray for ourselves especially concerning any decisions we have to make this week. Grant us wisdom that we may exercise good judgment. Grant us equity in all that we say and help us to ensure that our thoughts and attitudes are not biased. May we show fairness in all our relationships and interactions.

Lord, hear us.

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

We ask that in the name of the one who loves all with the same boundless, immeasurable love.

Merciful Father,

*All* **accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

*Collect for the Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity*

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit

upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:

grant that your people may be fervent

in the fellowship of the gospel

that, always abiding in you,

they may be found steadfast in faith

and active in service;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*The Lord’s Prayer*

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

*All* **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.**

*Blessing*

The God of hope

fill us with all joy and peace in believing;

and the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,

be among us and remain with us

and those whom we love and pray for

now and always.

*All* **Amen.**

**Future events**

**Exe Valley Lunches 12.30pm - 2.30pm**

Thurs 12th September - Oakford Village Hall

Thurs 10th October - Calverleigh Court

Contact the church office to book 01884 250417

Prayer Breakfasts at The Rectory on the 4th Saturday of every

month. **Next Prayer Breakfast: 28 September at 9.00am. Everyone welcome.**

 **Giving**

To give to the Exe Valley Mission Community by BACS, please use account number 54731690 and sort code 60-21-27. Please use the reference *EVMC services.*

To give to St Peter’s Church, please go to [www.stpeterstiverton.org.uk](http://www.stpeterstiverton.org.uk) and follow the donations link on the front page of the website.