



**Morning Service**  
**Sunday 6 September**  
**2020**



**Call to Worship**

*Romans 1v16-17*

<sup>16</sup> *I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. <sup>17</sup> For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."*

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them up to the Lord!**

**Hymn**

**"Great is Thy faithfulness,"** O God my Father,  
 There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
 Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not  
 As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be  
*"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"*  
*Morning by morning new mercies I see;*  
*All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—*  
*"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!*

2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
 Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
 Join with all nature in manifold witness  
 To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
 Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
 Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
 Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

**Confession**

**Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Assurance of our forgiveness**

*Romans 5v8*

<sup>8</sup> *God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Words of Thanks and Praise**

*Psalm 100*

<sup>1</sup> **Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.**

<sup>2</sup> **Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.**

<sup>3</sup> **Know that the LORD is God.**

*It is he who made us, and we are his;  
 we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*

<sup>4</sup> **Enter his gates with thanksgiving**

*and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.*

<sup>5</sup> **For the LORD is good and his love endures for ever;**

*his faithfulness continues through all generations.*

**Words of belief (please stand)**

*Apostles' Creed*

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 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.**

*\*means universal*

**Bible Reading**

*Acts 9v1-19*

<sup>1</sup> *Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest<sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.* <sup>3</sup> *As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.* <sup>4</sup> *He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"*

<sup>5</sup> *"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.*

*"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied.* <sup>6</sup> *"Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."*

<sup>7</sup> The men travelling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. <sup>8</sup> Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

<sup>10</sup> In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

<sup>11</sup> The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. <sup>12</sup> In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

<sup>13</sup> "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

<sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. <sup>16</sup> I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

<sup>17</sup> Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord--Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here--has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup> Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptised, <sup>19</sup> and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.

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

**Sermon – Acts 9v1-30**

<i>Before...</i>	<i>After...</i>
Like a wild animal (8v3, 9v1, 21)	
Hated God's people (v1)	
Exterminate God's people (v2)	
Saw Stephen see Jesus (7v56)	
Going to Damascus (v2)	
To lead Christians back (v2)	
Attacking Jesus (v4)	
Proud	
Causing others to suffer	

**Prayers of intercession and Lord's Prayer (sit or kneel)**

**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.**

**Hymn**

**Crown him with many crowns,** The Lamb upon His throne;  
Hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns All music but its own!  
Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,  
And hail Him as thy matchless King Through all eternity.

2. Crown Him the Lord of life, Who triumphed o'er the grave  
And rose victorious in the strife For those He came to save:  
His glories now we sing, Who died and rose on high,  
Who died eternal life to bring And lives that death may die.

3. Crown Him the Lord of love; behold His hands and side,  
Those wounds yet visible above In beauty glorified:  
No angel in the sky Can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bends His burning eye At mysteries so bright.

4. Crown Him the Lord of peace, Whose power a sceptre sways  
From pole to pole, that wars may cease, And all be prayer and praise:  
His reign shall know no end, And round His piercèd feet  
Fair flowers of paradise extend Their fragrance ever sweet.

5. Crown Him the Lord of years, The Potentate of time,  
Creator of the rolling spheres, Ineffably sublime!  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For Thou hast died for me;  
Thy praise shall never, never fail Throughout eternity.

**Blessing**

*1 Kings 8v56-58*

*Praise be to the LORD, who has given rest to his people Israel just as he promised. Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave through his servant Moses. May the LORD our God be with us as he was with our fathers; may he never leave us nor forsake us. May he turn our hearts to him, to walk in all his ways and to keep the commands, decrees and regulations he gave our fathers.*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen.**