

OOS 13th September 2026 – Trinity 15 - HC

Good morning, and a very warm welcome to you all as we gather together to worship God during this season of Creation tide.

Before we begin our worship, we remember Alexis, whose death has brought sadness to our community. We give thanks for his life and for the time he shared among us at Christ Church. As we light this candle, we remember him with love and pray that, in God's mercy and peace, he may rest in peace.

As we reflect on the wonder and beauty of God's creation, our readings today also invite us to reflect on forgiveness, mercy and reconciliation. We are reminded of the immeasurable grace and mercy that God has shown us, and of his call to extend that same grace to one another.

So, wherever we have come from this morning, and whatever we may be carrying, let us come into God's presence with open hearts, giving thanks for his creation and trusting in his love and mercy.

We keep a moment of silence, placing ourselves in God's presence & remembering Alexis.
(Silence)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

(All): Amen.

A CALL TO WORSHIP:

Praise the God of life.

(All) Let us praise God together.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love;

(All) as far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our sins.

So let us rejoice in God's gracious presence.

(All) Let us praise the God of mercy together.

Opening Hymn:#

Invitation to Confession – *please be seated*

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

(All) Holy and merciful God,

we confess that we have failed to honour you

by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures.

We have walked heavily on your earth,

overused and wasted its resources,

taken for granted its beauty and abundance,

and treated its inhabitants unjustly,

holding future generations hostage to our greed.

Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin.
Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as
you desire and intend,
with grateful and compassionate hearts,
through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Absolution

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive+ you your sins
and make you holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
(All) Amen.

The Collect for The fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Merciful God,
you search for all that is lost and rejoice in its restoration;
open our eyes to the wounds of your creation,
give us hearts that notice and wills that care,
that we may seek the healing of the earth with patient love
and rejoice with all your creatures in the harmony of your Peace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

(Taken from Resources Season of Creation)

The First Reading – Genesis 50:15-21 (NRSVUE)

Joseph Forgives His Brothers

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached^[a] Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept,^[b] fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

(All) Thanks be to God

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35 *Please stand if you are able*
(Read by Revd Elisabeth Dean)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
(All) Glory to you, O Lord.

Forgiveness

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven^[a] times.

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
(All) Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily – Rev. Elisabeth Dean

The Nicene Creed – Please stand if you are able

**(All) We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,**

of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Intercessory Prayer – *Please be seated.*

Let us pray to the God who delights in all that he has made, whose mercy is without measure,
and who calls us to live in peace with one another and with all creation.

Creator God,

we give you thanks for the beauty and wonder of your world:
for the changing seasons, the land and the sea,
for the creatures that share our world,
and for the gifts of creation that sustain our lives.

Open our eyes to the goodness of all that you have made,
and our hearts to care for it with gratitude and humility.

Lord, in your mercy:

(All) hear our prayer.

God of mercy and forgiveness,

you call us to forgive as we have been forgiven.

Where there is resentment, bring healing;

where there is division, bring reconciliation;

where relationships have been damaged,

give us courage to take the first step towards peace.

Help us to remember that every person is precious in your sight,

and to treat one another with the mercy we have received from you.

Lord, in your mercy:

(All) hear our prayer.

God of justice and compassion,

we pray for those whose lives are made harder

by poverty, conflict, injustice and environmental damage.

And, loving God,

We especially remember before you this morning, Alexis, and give thanks for his life and for the place he held within our church community.

We pray that you will receive him into your eternal peace, where there is no more suffering or loneliness, but only the fullness of your love.

Comfort all who mourn him, and help us to cherish with gratitude the memories we have shared.

May he rest in peace

and rise in glory.

Amen.

God of hope,

you never give up on us,

but continually call us towards new life.

Help us to let go of anger and hurt,

to seek forgiveness when we have caused harm,

and to offer forgiveness when we have been hurt.

Renew your Church,

that we may be a community of mercy and reconciliation,

bearing witness to your love in our world.

And in the days ahead,

help us to live gently upon your earth,

faithfully caring for all that you have entrusted to us.

Lord, in your mercy:

(All) hear our prayer.

Merciful father,

**(All) Accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace - Please stand

The God of heaven has made a home on earth.

Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

(All) and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All who are baptised Christians are welcome to receive the sacrament.

If you are not baptised you are welcome to receive a blessing, keeping your hands to your sides or crossed across your chest. Gluten free wafers are available, please raise your hand if this is your preference.

Offertory Hymn: #

The Prayer of Preparation – Please remain standing if you are able

Generous and gracious God,
receive and bless these gifts for your holy work;
and bless everyone who offers them to you.

(All) Amen

The Eucharistic Prayer G

The Lord be with you

(All) and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

(All) We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

(All) It is right to give thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Lord God,
our light and our salvation;
to you be glory and praise for ever.

From the beginning you have created all things
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.
In the fullness of time you made us in your image,
the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech, that with angels and archangels
and all the powers of heaven
we may find a voice to sing your praise:

**(All) Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Please be seated

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced as people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,
to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper; taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**(All) Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Remember, Lord, your church in every land.
Reveal her unity, guard her faith,
and preserve her in peace

Bring us at the last with all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.**
(All) Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As we join our prayers with the Church Universal, so we say, each in our own language, the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**(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.**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**(All) Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The Agnus Dei is said

**(All) Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

**(All) Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Prayer after Communion - *Silence is kept.*

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy;
and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall,
keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful,
and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Notices:

Closing Hymn: The Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Dismissal

Blessing

Go into the week ahead knowing that you are held in the mercy of God.
May we be people who forgive as we have been forgiven,
who seek peace and reconciliation,
and who care for the wonderful world God has entrusted to us.
May the blessing of God,
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
be with you and with all creation,
now and always. **(All) Amen.**

Let us go in Peace to love and serve the Lord
(All) In the name of Christ. Amen.