

## The Ninth Sunday after Trinity YEAR C July 24, 2016

There can be no question that the work of faith, of receiving God's grace, and of following Christ in worship and service, is a life long journey of perseverance and faithfulness. And it is because of God's faithfulness toward us that we can even contemplate this life. But, if we will contemplate it, and if we can commit to the long haul, we will see change happening in us and we will see justice coming a little more to our world.

May God's faithfulness inspire your commitment and perseverance this week.

### INTRODUCTIONS

*For use by lectors, in order of service, parish bulletins and magazines*

**Hosea 1:2-10**: God instructs Hosea to marry a prostitute, and give his children names that prophesy God's judgement on Israel, but also God's ultimate restoration.

OR **Genesis 18:20-32**: Abraham bargains with God to try and avert the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and God agrees that if ten righteous people are found, God will spare the city.

**Psalm 85**: A song in celebration of God's grace and forgiveness, and God's blessing in restoring God's people.

OR **Psalm 138**: A song of David praising God for God's love, faithfulness and trustworthy promises, and pleading for God's continued protection and care.

**Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19)**: Paul encourages believers to sink their roots deep into Christ and find their completeness in Christ. He reminds us that in Christ our sinful nature was 'circumcised' and we have been raised to new life. So we no longer need pander to legalism.

**Luke 11:1-13**: Jesus teaches on prayer, and on the need for persistence in prayer, reminding the disciples that God gives the Holy Spirit to all who ask.

[Click here to view the readings](#)

[http://bible.oremus.org/?show\\_adj=no&passages=Hosea%201:%202-10%0Acw%20Psalm%2085%0AColossians%202:%206-15,%20\[16-19\]%0ALuke%2011:%201-13](http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=Hosea%201:%202-10%0Acw%20Psalm%2085%0AColossians%202:%206-15,%20[16-19]%0ALuke%2011:%201-13)

### COLLECTS OF THE DAY

#### Collect One

Grant to us, Lord, we beseech thee,  
the spirit to think and do always  
such things as be rightful;  
that we, who cannot do any thing  
that is good without thee,  
may by thee be enabled to live according to thy will;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### Collect Two

Almighty God,  
who sent your Holy Spirit  
to be the life and light of your Church:  
Open our hearts to the riches of his grace,  
that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit  
in love and joy and peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Lord of earth and heaven, we bring to you our prayers for your world and for your church.

#### The Church of Christ

Merciful Lord, look down on your Church, that most human of institutions. We ask you to inspire this week's General Synod with your Holy Spirit that it may deal lovingly with the question of raising women to the episcopate, trusting in each other to do the right. And then help us together to proclaim by word and example that all things have been set free and made new through the life and passion of your Son. May we be today and every day bearers of hope and enablers of peace in the power of your name. \*

**Lord, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path: in your mercy, hear our prayer**

#### Creation, human society, the Sovereign and those in authority

Lord, you are not just the goal, but also the Way. We travel light, knowing that in this life all is provisional. We take refreshment in the company of fellow pilgrims on the journey, who enrich, enlighten and challenge us. As we follow you in ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden and through perils unknown, we ask you to give us faith to go out with a good courage, not knowing where we are going, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us. God of our pilgrimage, you have led us to the living water: refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey.

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#### The local community

Lord, we thank you for the companionship we find in our own community. Teach us to be good and true friends, always to be loyal and never to betray our friendship. Help us never to talk about our friends behind their backs or to betray their confidences; always be ready to share everything we have; and to be as true to our friends as we would wish them to be to us. We ask this in the name of the greatest and truest of all friends, your son, our saviour.

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#### Those who suffer

[www.churchnewsireland.org](http://www.churchnewsireland.org)

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Lord, we remember before you those whose minds are troubled by thoughts which worry or wound them. We remember those whose hearts are broken because they feel themselves unloved and are therefore unable to love in their turn. We remember those whose feet walk in circles, stopping only when they are tired, resting only to resume their rudderless path. We remember those whose flesh and bone, or mind and spirit, are filled with pain. Lift up the suffering, O Lord, and fill them with your hope.

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### The communion of saints

Lord, from whom neither life nor death can separate those who trust in your love, so unite us to yourself that in fellowship with you we may always be united to our loved ones; give us courage, constancy and hope, through him who died and was buried and rose again for us, your son.

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## POST COMMUNION

Holy Father,  
who gathered us here around the table of your Son  
to share this meal with the whole household of God:  
In that new world where you reveal the fulness of your peace,  
gather people of every race and language  
to share in the eternal banquet  
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever. Amen.

## PRAYERS

God of justice,  
your word is light and truth.  
Let your face shine on us to restore us,  
that we may walk in your way,  
seeking justice and doing good. Amen.

Friends in Christ,  
God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers  
as dear to us as our own needs.  
Loving our neighbors as ourselves,

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we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions  
on behalf of the church and the world.  
Hear our prayers, God of power,  
and through the ministry of your Son  
free us from the grip of the tomb,  
that we may desire you as the fullness of life  
and proclaim your saving deeds to all the world. Amen.  
As you heard the prayer of Isaac and Rebekah, O God,  
and guided them in the way of your love,  
so listen now to those who call upon you.  
Move us to praise your gracious will,  
for in Christ Jesus you have saved us from the deeds of death  
and opened for us the hidden ways of your love.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord God, friend of those in need,  
your Son Jesus has untied our burdens  
and healed our spirits.  
We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened,  
those seeking healing,  
those in need within the church and the world.  
Hear our prayers  
that we may love you with our whole being  
and willingly share the concerns of our neighbors. Amen.

Creator God,  
you call us to love and serve you  
with body, mind, and spirit  
through loving your creation  
and our sisters and brothers.  
Open our hearts in compassion  
and receive these petitions  
on behalf of the needs of the church and the world.  
Holy One,  
hear our prayers and make us faithful stewards  
of the fragile bounty of this earth  
so that we may be entrusted with the riches of heaven. Amen.

We praise your abiding guidance, O God,  
for you sent us Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah,  
to model for us the way of love for the whole universe.  
We offer these prayers of love  
on behalf of ourselves and our neighbors,  
on behalf of your creation and our fellow creatures.  
Loving God,  
open our ears to hear your word  
and draw us closer to you,  
that the whole world may be one with you  
as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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God of mercy and healing,  
you who hear the cries of those in need,  
receive these petitions of your people  
that all who are troubled  
may know peace, comfort, and courage.  
Life-giving God,  
heal our lives,  
that we may acknowledge your wonderful deeds  
and offer you thanks from generation to generation  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of salvation,  
who sent your Son to seek out and save what is lost,  
hear our prayers  
on behalf of those who are lost in our day,  
receiving these petitions and thanksgivings  
with your unending compassion.

Redeeming Sustainer,  
visit your people  
and pour out your strength and courage upon us,  
that we may hurry to make you welcome  
not only in our concern for others,  
but by serving them  
generously and faithfully in your name. Amen.

Living God, you raise us to fullness of being  
in sharing the Christ-life together.  
Teach us to pray  
and grant us hopeful persistence  
in seeking your will and your way,  
that by the power of the Spirit,  
love and faithfulness may meet  
to disarm the powers of the world. Amen.

Father in heaven,  
in your goodness  
you pour out on your people all that they need,  
and satisfy those who persist in prayer.  
Make us bold in asking,  
thankful in receiving,  
tireless in seeking,  
and joyful in finding,  
that we may always proclaim your coming kingdom  
and do your will on earth as in heaven. Amen.

Gracious God, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of life and the word of your kingdom. Renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen *Methodist Worship*

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God, you have poured the Spirit of your Son into our hearts so that we call you father. Give us grace to devote our freedom to your service that we and all creation may be brought into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen. *Methodist Worship*

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Common Worship*

Lord God, your Son left the riches of heaven and became poor for our sake: when we prosper save us from pride, when we are needy save us from despair, that we may trust in you alone, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Common Worship*

### **Meditation**

I cannot say OUR, if my religion has no room for others and their needs.

I cannot say FATHER, if I do not demonstrate this relationship in my daily living.

I cannot say WHO ARE IN HEAVEN, if all my interest and pursuits are in earthly things.

I cannot say HALLOWED BE THY NAME, if I, who am called by His name, am not holy.

I cannot say, THY KINGDOM COME, if I am unwilling to give up my own sovereignty and accept the righteous reign of God.

I cannot say THY WILL BE DONE, if I am unwilling or resentful of having it in my life.

I cannot say ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN, unless I am truly ready to give myself to His service here and now.

I cannot say GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD, without expending honest effort for it or by ignoring the genuine needs of my fellow man.

I cannot say FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST

US, if I continue to harbour a grudge against anyone.

I cannot say LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION, if I deliberately choose to remain in a situation where I am likely to be tempted.

I cannot say DELIVER US FROM EVIL, if I am not prepared to fight in the spiritual realm with the weapon of Word and prayer.

I cannot say THINE IS THE KINGDOM, if I do not give the King the disciplined obedience of a loyal subject.

I cannot say THINE IS THE POWER, if I fear what my neighbours or friends may say or do.

I cannot say THINE IS THE GLORY, if I am seeking my own glory and recognition first.

I cannot say FOREVER, if I am too anxious about each day's affairs.

I cannot say AMEN, unless I honestly say, "Cost what it may, this is my prayer"

## LECTIONARY NOTES

### **REFLECTIONS ON THEME:**

The Gospel reading sets the tone for this week's theme. The call to persistence is clear from Jesus, and it is directly linked with our prayer life – our relationship with God. In a similar way, Hosea's persistent faithfulness to his unfaithful wife reflects God's faithfulness to God's people, and Abraham's bargaining with God reveals both the value of persistence in our seeking God's resources, and God's persistence in seeking our restoration. Both Psalms offer praise and requests in the assurance of God's faithfulness, and out of a persistent committing to God's ways. Finally, Paul instructs the believers to stay true to the new life that they have received in Christ, and not be drawn away by legalism or by dramatic visions and stories. If we are to follow Christ and make a difference in the world then it will not be quick, dramatic or constantly changing innovations that will help, but rather – to use the name of one of Eugene Peterson's books – "a long obedience in the same direction." This does not mean we cannot be creativity or adopt new ideas and strategies, but that we remain faithful and committed to Christ and the Gospel proclamation of God's reign, working consistently and persistently to fulfill God's purposes in our world a little more each day.

### **CONNECTING WITH LIFE:**

**GLOBAL APPLICATION:** There is so much that needs to be changed in our world and the stakes are so high that we can easily be disillusioned when the work of justice changes things slowly or in less than dramatic ways. It is easy to begin to believe that it is only in expedient partnerships, or in cynical pragmatism that we can succeed fast enough. We can too easily begin to compromise our ideals and our souls in the quest to make head way. But, ultimately a justice earned this way is no justice at all, and will end up leaving with new battles to fight – or with us becoming the very thing we strive against. The message of this week's Lectionary Readings is a difficult but important one – as we stay faithful to Christ and God's reign, as we continue to pray earnestly, and work persistently, and as we celebrate the little victories along the way, remembering how far we've come, even as we recognise how far we still have to go, the work of justice is served, and lives are changed for the better a little more each day. So, whatever justice you pray for, whatever work you do, stay faithful, persistent and prayerful – many victories that we celebrate today we a long time in the winning (Civil Rights, abolition of slavery, equality of women etc.).

**LOCAL APPLICATION:** As you reflect on the ministries of your community, and the people who are involved in them, where do you detect signs of fatigue, frustration and the temptation to take short cuts? In what ways do you long to see change in your church and/or in your neighbourhood or society? Which of these changes show signs of movement, and which appear to be stalling? Are there perhaps areas of need or injustice that you have resisted getting involved with because you're feeling overwhelmed by the magnitude of the issue, or because you feel pessimistic about the possibility of change? Perhaps this week's readings can encourage and motivate you. Perhaps you can use your worship this week to pray for and encourage those who work for justice in your community, and recommit to the work you do. Perhaps you can allow for time of rest and refreshing, not to give up on the tough work of proclaiming and demonstrating God's reign, but to gain new energy to continue a persistent, faithful, prayerful witness to God's justice.

## SERMON OUTLINE

**Lk 11:1-13 the friend at midnight...**



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the response to disciples' request *Lord, teach us to pray...*

**1. The Pattern Prayer:-** *when you pray say...* Other religious leaders taught their followers prayers > why this is still used so often today - obediently - *when you pray say...*

**2. The Pater Prayer - Pater Noster (latin)** - teaches us

a) **how to pray** - *like this* - guidelines...

b) **who to pray to** - *our Father* - **abba/daddy**... boy in Caesarea

c) **what to pray for** - in faith and trust...

i) **faith** - *hallowed/honoured be your name - your kingdom come - your will be done...*

ii) **food** - *our daily bread* - our bodily needs for each day...

iii) **forgiveness** - *forgive us our sins as we forgive others....*

**3. The Persistent Prayer:-** parable of the friend at midnight..

a) **Friendship** - even at midnight - *suppose 1 of you has a friend & he goes to him at midnight* - imagine the scenario!

i) **his Petition** - *lend me 3 loaves of bread* - not 1 but 3! Bread was all baked in the morning - sufficient for the day!

ii) **his Persistence** - not to be put off - *don't bother me* - locked up for the night - everyone in bed. Yet v8 *becos of the man's persistence he will get up & give him as much as he needs...*

So too with God - we simply & sincerely come to Him & ask...

b) **Finding** - answers to faithful prayer...

i) **Our Request** - *ask - seek - knock v9f..*,

ii) **God's Response** - *give - find - opened..* Won't fail/forget us!

c) **Fatherhood** - *which of you fathers???* (v11f)

i) **the Request of a son** - *for a fish... egg..*

ii) **the Response of a father** - *will he give a snake a scorpion?*

Certainly not! Earthly fathers tainted with sin still give *good gifts to their children*. How much more will God *your father in heaven give the HSp to those who ask him...*

*By Norman Porteous*

### ONLINE SERMON SOURCES

**Fish and Eggs, Snakes and Scorpions** - The Rev Dr Graham Walker, Jr, Day 1

[http://day1.org/2107-fish\\_and\\_eggs\\_snakes\\_and\\_scorpions](http://day1.org/2107-fish_and_eggs_snakes_and_scorpions)

**Teach Us to Pray** - the Rev. Dr. Sam Matthews, Day 1

[http://day1.org/1053-teach\\_us\\_to\\_pray](http://day1.org/1053-teach_us_to_pray)

**Praying as Jesus taught** — *Sermons that Work*,

A refreshing look at the Lord's Prayer - How many of you know the Lord's Prayer? By heart? There is the traditional language and cadence that we use in the Episcopal Church, which is so very familiar: "Our Father, who art in heaven." And there is the contemporary language: "Our Father in heaven, holy be your name."

<http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/stw/2013/07/08/10-pentecost-proper-12-c-2013/>



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"Praying in a Certain Place," Alyce McKenzie, *Patheos*

<http://www.patheos.com/blogs/faithforward/2010/07/praying-in-a-certain-place-lectionary-reflection-for-july-25-2010-luke-111-13/>

### CHILDREN

[Worshiping with Children](#),

Proper 12, Including children in the congregation's worship, using the Revised Common Lectionary, Carolyn C. Brown

<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.co.uk/>

On The Chancel Steps children's resources by Frances Woodruff

<https://onthechancelsteps.wordpress.com/>

["Sermon of the Week,"](#) / ["Mensajes para ninos,"](#) Sermons 4 Kids,

Charles Kirkpatrick, Object Lessons & Children's Sermons, Coloring Pages, Puzzles. Sermons4Kids.com.

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/>

Story for Children's Worship and Family Activity, Ordinary 17, at word-sunday.com: A Catholic Resource for the Lectionary by Larry Broding.

<http://www.word-sunday.com/index.html>

### HYMN SUGGESTIONS

O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee  
Praise My Soul, The King Of Heaven  
Come Let Us Use The Grace Divine  
Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah (Redeemer)  
The Power Of Prayer  
Forever (YouTube video)  
Everlasting God (YouTube video)  
Unfailing Love (YouTube video)  
Always Forever (YouTube video)