

Glynde Lutheran Church

a multi-cultural community of faith



Church@Home
Sunday 14 May 2023
Easter 6, Year A
9am Modern Matins

SONG: LH 500 BLESSED JESUS AT YOUR WORD

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqnKnU5yKIU>

**Blessed Jesus, at your word
we are gathered all to hear you;
let our hearts and minds be stirred
now to seek and love and fear you;
by your gospel pure and holy
teach us, Lord, to love you solely.**

**All our knowledge, sense and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
till your Spirit breaks our night
with your beams of truth unclouded;
you alone to God can win us,
only you work good within us.**

**Glorious Lord, yourself impart,
light of light from God proceeding;
open lips and ears and heart,
help us by your Spirit's leading;
hear the cry your Church now raises;
Lord, accept our prayers and praises.**

*Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier
Tobias Clausnitzer 1619-84
Tr Catherine Winkworth 1827-78, alt.*

**WELCOME
WE GREET ONE ANOTHER**

IN THE NAME

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

INSPIRE MY LIPS

O Lord, open my lips.

**1 Inspire my lips, O Lord,
and I'll sing praise to you.
O come and save me, God;
come quickly to my help.**

**2 All praise to God the Father,
to Jesus Christ the Son,
to God the Holy Spirit,
forevermore. Amen.**

O COME LET'S SING

Come, let us worship the Lord.

For he has made us all.

**1 O come, let's sing aloud to God,
and shout for joy to the Rock who saves.
Let's come before him, giving thanks.
With joyful songs let us hail the Lord.**

**2 The Lord is great, the King of all.
The depths of earth, the heights of hills,
the sea he made, and all the land:
they all are his, all made by him.**

**3 O come, bow down and worship God,
and kneel before the Lord most high.
For he's our God, and we are his;
Yes, we're the flock that's led by him.**

**4 All praise to God the Father now,
all praise to Jesus Christ the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit praise,
both now and evermore. Amen.**

THEME OF THE DAY:

John 14:18

Jesus said to his disciples, "I will not leave you as orphans".

BIBLE READINGS

- 1) [Acts 17:22-31](#)
- 2) [1 Peter 3:13-22](#)

After each reading:

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL READING

[John 14:15-21](#)

(Begin: 'Jesus said to his disciples:')

After the gospel reading:

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

PRAYER (all)

(Let us pray that we love one another.)

**Jesus, our loving friend and Saviour,
you have promised to give us your Spirit
to be with us forever.**

**Stay within our hearts,
so that we love one another
as you have loved us.**

**For you live and reign
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

SONG: AT 292 BECAUSE WE BEAR YOUR NAME

<https://youtu.be/1TCc9zuumw4>

**Lord Jesus, we belong to you,
You live in us, we live in you;
We live and work for you —**

because we bear your name.

**Help us receive each other, Lord,
For you receive the least of us
And come to us in them —**

**Bless those who give us any gift,
Because they know that we are yours;
Reward them with your grace —**

**Let us acknowledge those as friends
Who use your name to right a wrong,
But have not joined us yet —**

**Let nothing that we do or say
Offend the weak so that they fall
And lose their faith in you —**

**Keep us from missing out on life;
Give hands that help, and single sight,
And feet that walk your way —**

**You are the salt that cleanses us,
So clean us out and make us fit
For common life with you —**

Words: John Kleinig

May 14_2023 9am Church@Home

TODAY'S MESSAGE

John 14:18

Jesus said to his disciples, "I will not leave you as orphans".

Orphans the world over are a tragedy of tremendous proportions. According to UNICEF there are 153 million orphan children worldwide with over five and half thousand becoming orphans every day. Whether in refugee camps in Africa, India, Eastern Europe, Ukraine, Russia, or South East Asia, these figures are mind blowing especially knowing the tragic affect that the loss of parents has on children and how this loss shapes the rest of their lives.

Even a child left without parents here in our country, although infinitely far better off than those in the countries I have just mentioned, is affected in ways that we don't fully understand. Children who lose their parents lose their security and are vulnerable and powerless physically, emotionally, and psychologically. The love and care given to them by others will, in time, make up for this but unfortunately some children never get over their loss. Some never get over the psychological wounds that comes with being an orphan. It's as if they have lost their story, their roots, their history, their identity, their sense of direction.

In the light of this, the words of Jesus take on a special meaning. "*I will not leave you orphaned*" Jesus says to his disciples. Or this could be translated, "*I will not leave you desolate, deserted, alone, abandoned, unloved, futureless*".

The disciples knew Jesus in a very close and personal way. They had walked together, talked together, eaten together, shared good and bad times together. They had been constant companions of Jesus. They felt confident and safe in the presence of Jesus.

When they experienced doubt, pain and suffering, they felt Jesus understood what was happening to them.

When they were filled with joy and happiness or overcome with sadness and sorrow, they felt secure in the knowledge that Jesus experienced the same emotions and feelings as they did.

When they were hungry, Jesus fed them and a great crowd with a few loaves and fish.

When they were in danger on the sea, Jesus was nearby to rescue them.

When they witnessed the grief that death brought into their lives, Jesus was at hand to comfort and raise the dead to life.

You see there is a kind of fatherly or perhaps brotherly relationship between Jesus and the disciples.

Jesus could see that his disciples were dependent on him. In fact, Jesus occasionally addressed them as “little children”. In the presence of Jesus they were like “little children” who relied on his love and comfort.

When Jesus warned the disciples that he will no longer be with them he had to quickly assure them not to be worried and upset, but to trust him. Now if that's how they felt before Jesus' death imagine how alone and abandoned they must have felt after Jesus' death on the cross. Under the shadow of the cross, Jesus knew that they will feel like orphans—lost, without hope, helpless, powerless, uncertain about their future and confused. So he makes them a promise:

"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth...I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you....Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid"
(John 14:16,18,27).

Note this unique way Jesus reminds us that we will always have a home and a family. He says, *"I am **in** the Father, and you are **in** me, just as I am **in** you"* (John 14:20).

This is a good passage to pause and meditate on. Simply what Jesus is expressing is the very close and intimate relationship between himself and the Father, himself and his disciples and his disciples and God. That tiny word “*in*” describes a special bond, a unique oneness. A family relationship.

Those who believe in Jesus already have the Holy Spirit. God the Father has sent you the Holy Spirit through the Son. He did this for you at baptism. Because of God's work for us in baptism you have a place of belonging in the family of God, by which you are no longer orphans, for God our Father has made you heirs with Jesus his Son. We are sons and daughters together with the Son. And since that is the case for every person who is in Christ then we are all a part of that Triune God's loving, supporting family. We are all brothers and sisters joined together in God's family, the church.

In this family God the Father continues to give you the Holy Spirit, through the Son, who meets you in the word, the scriptures. Through the Scriptures the Holy Spirit continually comes to us. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we are given a new direction, a new future and a new life.

This new life is one in which we will always have a home. We will always have a loving family—God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These words of comfort carry the message that we won't ever be orphans—we will know exactly who we are and where we belong.

True enough Satan will always try to break up that togetherness we have. He just loves to drive wedges of doubt, anger, hostility, and jealousy, either between us and God, or between one another in his family. He will constantly tempt us to sin and break the bond and put up barriers between the members of the family, and break apart from it. But that's not what God has planned for any of us.

God wants no one to feel like an orphan. When Jesus says to us *"I will not leave you as orphans"* he means that we belong to the Father, adopted and claimed through Jesus the Son. We are loved by the Father. We are forgiven by the Son.

When there are members of the family who are feeling like an orphan because we have had a falling out with someone, as a member of this special family, it becomes our responsibility to make amends, whether it was our fault or not.

When there is a member of the family who is feeling like an orphan—lonely, scared, uncertain because they are facing illness and even death—as a member of this special family, it becomes our responsibility to pass on the love and care that we have received from our heavenly Father.

When there are members of the family who are feeling like orphans—feeling unloved, needing a guiding hand, wanting someone to know their pain—as a member of this special family, it becomes our responsibility to be a brother and sister to that person and let them see the love of our heavenly parent through us.

When there are members of this special family who are feeling like orphans, needing someone to provide them with basic essentials and to empathise with them in their circumstances, it becomes our responsibility to be a brother

and sister to that person and let them see in us the love of our heavenly Father as we meet those needs.

Jesus' words need to become our words to one another as people of God's family "*I will not leave you as an orphan*", as we reflect the love and care of God into the lives of the people around us. Let Jesus inspire us to say to our fellow brothers and sisters, "*I will not leave you desolate, feeling deserted, alone, abandoned, unloved, futureless*".

At the 400 metre race at the 1992 summer Olympics a young Englishman, Derek Redmond was hungry to win a gold medal after being forced to withdraw from the previous Olympics because of injury. However, shortly after the start of the race, he popped his right hamstring. All the other runners continued the race leaving him like an orphan alone on the track. Amazingly Redmond got back up and started hopping towards the finish line. The other runners had all finished the race in a matter of seconds. Redmond, in tears, slowly and laboriously kept hopping. It looked as if he would fall any moment.

Suddenly, a man appeared beside Derek. It was his father. He had run down from the stands and pushed his way through the security guards to reach his son. Redmond's father put his arm around his son and let him cry on his shoulder. Then, with his father holding him up, Derek hobbled to the finish line and then he hopped over the line to finish the race.

There's a word of hope for you and me, to help us finish the race of life. It is God's own word. When we are feeling like orphans to run the race of life in this world—a race we cannot run by our own strength—we have a Father who gives us his strength to keep on going, a Saviour who walks beside us and the Spirit who comforts us, and strengthens us in faith, pointing us to everything Jesus said and still speaks, enabling us to cross the finishing line. We are not abandoned because we have a God who loves us. He says to each of us personally and individually, "*I will not leave you as orphans*". Amen.

SONG: LHS 858 MAKE ME A CHANNEL

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OE44Et-FyRg>

**Make me a channel of your peace;
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your pardon, Lord,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you.**

**Make me a channel of your peace:
where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light,
and where there's sadness, ever joy.**

***O Master, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled, as to console,
to be understood, as to understand,
to be loved, as to love with all my soul.***

**Make me a channel of your peace,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all men that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to life.**

*Words and Music: Sebastian Temple
(based on St Francis of Assisi)*

OFFERING

Let us pray

**Heavenly Father,
you have loved us and given us your Spirit
to live within us.
Help us, through your Spirit,
to do your will and show your love to others.
Amen.**

PRAYERS

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
your name be kept holy,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
And give us this day our bread for today.
Forgive our sins as we forgive all those who sin against us.
And help us when tempted, and save us from evil.
For kingdom, power, and praise are yours forever. Amen.**

CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And 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, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

SONG: AT 168 HEAR OUR PRAYER

<https://youtu.be/cwT6LtCBgy4>

*Hear our prayer, hear our prayer,
Hear our prayer, O Lord!
Hear our prayer, hear our prayer,
Hear our prayer, O Lord!*

**Lord God, our heavenly Father,
We call on You this day
To strengthen all Your people,
To guide us in Your way**

**Remind us of life's purpose,
The truth of Christ, Your Son,
That we should show all people
That You love ev'ry one.**

**Remind us of Your Spirit,
Close with us every hour,
That we might be true Christians,
Strong in Your love and power.**

**Before us keep the vision
Of Christ, the Servant-King,
Who is the Church's model,
Our hope in everything.**

Words & Music: Rev R L Blank

PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Call to prayer

Our Lord Jesus promised that the Father would send us his Spirit. In the power of the Spirit, let us pray with confidence to the Father for all our needs.

The regular response, OR:

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
come and make your home with us.

Suggested intercessions

- * for the church, that it would love Jesus and keep his word
- * for those who have not yet heard the gospel
- * for the nations and rulers of the earth
- * for our city/town and all who live and work here
- * for those who are troubled and afraid
- * for those who are sick and desire healing
- * for those who suffer for what is right

Concluding prayer

Heavenly Father, through the Spirit of your Son, may we remain in your word so that you will make your home with us. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR GRACE

**Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and eternal God,
you have brought us safely to the beginning of this day.
Protect us today with your mighty power;
let us fall into no sin, nor run into any kind of danger.
But guide us in all things,
so that we may always do what is right.
We ask this through your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, the peace that comes from Jesus the Son of God.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

THE GRACE

The grace of Jesus Christ,
the love of God the Father,
the Holy Spirit's fellowship,
be with us all. Amen.

SONG: LH 437 NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ov8b9rF6VSg>

- 1** Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom the world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

- 2** O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us.
Lord, keep us in your grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.

- 3** All praise and thanks to God
who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son
and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God,
whom heaven and earth adore,
who ever was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

*Nun danket alle Gott
Martin Rinckart 1586-1649
Tr Catherine Winkworth (1858), alt.*