

# Welcome to our Service for Sunday 13 September

## **Praise my soul, the King of heaven**

*sung by St Martin's Voices*

- 1 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;  
to his feet thy tribute bring;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who like me his praise should sing?  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
praise the everlasting King.
  
- 2 Praise him for his grace and favour  
to our fathers in distress;  
praise him still the same for ever,  
slow to chide, and swift to bless:  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
glorious in his faithfulness.
  
- 3 Father-like he tends and spares us;  
well our feeble frame he knows;  
in his hands he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes:  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
widely as his mercy flows.
  
- 4 Angels, help us to adore him,  
ye behold him face to face;  
sun and moon, bow down before him,  
dwellers all in time and space:  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
praise with us the God of grace.

*Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)*

## **Confession and Absolution**

Let us return to the Lord our God and say to him:

**Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you. We are not worthy to be called your children. We turn to you again. Have mercy on us, bring us back to yourself as those who once were dead but now have life through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Gloria**

Glory to God in the highest  
And peace to his people on earth  
Lord God, heavenly king  
Almighty God and father  
We worship you, we give you thanks  
We praise you for your glory

Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the father  
Lord God, lamb of God  
You take away the sin of the world  
Have mercy on us  
You are seated at the right hand of the father  
Receive our prayer

For you alone are the holy one  
You alone are the Lord  
You alone are the most high  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit  
In the glory of God the father  
Amen

## **Romans 14: 1-12**

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. **2** Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. **3** Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. **4** Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. **5** Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. **6** Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God. **7** We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. **8** If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. **9** For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. **10** Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. **11** For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' **12** So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

## Matthew 18: 21 – 35

21 Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church 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 times. 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, his 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 should 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 should 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.'

### Sermon:

#### I cannot tell

*sung by St Martin's Voices*

- 1 I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship,  
should set his love upon the sons of men,  
or why, as Shepherd, he should seek the wanderers,  
to bring them back, they know not how or when.  
But this I know, that he was born of Mary,  
when Bethlehem's manger was his only home,  
and that he lived at Nazareth and laboured,  
and so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.
- 2 I cannot tell how silently he suffered,  
as with his peace he graced this place of tears,  
or how his heart upon the cross was broken,  
the crown of pain to three and thirty years.  
But this I know, he heals the broken-hearted,  
and stays our sin, and calms our lurking fear,  
and lifts the burden from the heavy-laden,  
for still the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is here.
- 3 I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,

when, at his bidding, every storm is stilled,  
or who can say how great the jubilation  
when every heart with love and joy is filled.  
But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,  
and myriad, myriad human voices sing,  
and earth to heaven, and heaven to earth, will answer,  
at last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King.

*William Young Fullerton (1857-1932)*

## **Prayers**

## **Blessing**

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life.

**Amen.**

## **Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace – John Rutter**

*sung by St Martin's Voices*

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace,  
where there is hatred, let me bring love.

where there is injury, pardon,

where there is doubt, faith,

where there is despair, hope,

where there is darkness, light,

where there is sadness, joy;

and all for thy mercy's sake.

O divine master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to be console;

to be understood as to understand;

to be loved as to love;

for it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned:

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

*St Francis of Assisi*

**Thanks to Adrian Crowther and Pat Lunn for the readings  
and Jacqui for the prayers.**