



Remembrance Sunday 14th November

Father God help us to come to you this morning with open and thankful hearts. Fill us with the joy and peace that comes with knowing you. Be with us as we walk in your light, rejoice in your love and reflect your glory.

Amen

Hymn 97: Christ is made the sure Foundation

Welcome

The Lord be with you,
and also with you

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen

Prayer of Confession

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself". There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen**

Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

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**

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.**

Collect for today:

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

New Testament Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5: 1 - 11

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labour pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and

sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Hymn 572: Praise to the Holiest

Gospel Reading: *Matthew 25: 34 - 40*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon: Kathryn St Martin's Day 11 November 21

Today as I mentioned at the beginning of the service, we are remembering St Martin. Now I am quite fond of St Martin as my school was built on the remains of a 12th century Benedictine priory in Dover dedicated to St Martin. For us, St Martin's Day was a feast day – those of us who attended the early morning communion service were not expected to attend the first lesson of the day so that we could have a late breakfast and we only had morning lessons that day. No wonder I like St Martin's Day!

St Martin was born in Pannonia in what is now modern day Hungary in 316. He converted to Christianity at a young age and rather appropriately for armistice Day, was a soldier serving in the Roman cavalry in Gaul. He left the army sometime before 361 as he felt that life in the army conflicted with his faith, and he decided to become a soldier of Christ instead of one belonging to the Roman emperor Caesar Julian.

Martin became a disciple of Hilary of Poitiers, establishing a monastery at Ligugé, in Hilary's diocese, the oldest monastery in Europe. This monastery became the centre for missionary

activity in the local countryside. This was a different pattern as up to then Christian activity tended to be centred in the cities and undertaken from the Cathedral there. In 372, Martin was elected as bishop of Tours and continued his monastic lifestyle as a bishop, remaining in ministry until his death on this day back in 397.

There are a number of miracles that are attributed to Martin which include the occasion when it is alleged he ate hellebore, a plant that he did not know was poisonous. Legend has it that having eaten this herb and being on the verge of death, he prayed and was miraculously cured. But the story for which Martin is perhaps most famous for is that of his cloak. One day, whilst he was a soldier, as he was approaching the gates of the city of Amiens on horseback, when he met a scantily clad beggar. He immediately cut his military cloak in half to share with the man. That night Martin dreamed of Jesus wearing the half of the cloak he had given away. He heard Jesus say to the angels: "Martin, who is still but a catechumen, clothed me with this robe." The dream confirmed Martin's faith in Christ and led to Martin being baptism. That image of Martin cutting his cloak in two appeared on our school crest.

In giving his cloak, albeit only half of it, to a beggar with little clothing, Martin seems to be responding to Jesus' call that we have heard in our gospel reading to clothe the naked, care for the sick, feed the hungry, welcome the stranger and visit those in prison. This passage is something of an explanation to the parable of the sheep and goats that immediately precedes it. The parable that states that one day the Son of Man would sit on his throne and separate the sheep from the goats. Jesus is indicating that we will all be judged on our action for what we do to the 'least of these' who are members of my family.

Now, over the centuries this parable has been interpreted in many different ways, but in Matthew's gospel, Jesus refers to his disciples and followers as brothers and little ones. Therefore, what you do to the 'least of these' suggests that this parable is about the actions towards Jesus' own disciples. Matthew's first readers and listeners would probably have understood this passage to mean that even though as Christians they were being treated badly there would come a time when those who were maltreating them would be judged.

Subsequently for much of Christian history, the parable was understood to be referring to the judgement of Christians and the 'least of these' as Christians in need. This motivated many to care primarily for other Christians rather than for non-Christians especially Jews.

However, parables often have different levels of meaning in different contexts and they are not always straight forward. Even though Matthew's Jesus may well have had his own disciples in mind, it does not mean that the more popular modern interpretation is any less valid. Indeed, the

call to serve and care for others, the poor, the widows and the outcast encapsulates much of Jesus' teaching. And on a day when we remember those who have died fighting in wars and conflicts it seems even more important that we care for everyone regardless of faith, nationality, gender or sexuality; that we do what we can to break down, rather than build up divisions and factions.

We are called cut our cloak in two, to respond to the needs of anyone who is in need, hungry or thirsty, just as St Martin did nearly 1700 years ago.

Nicene Creed

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.

Prayers

The Peace:

Take a moment and offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God for each other and our church family church community. Maybe call or text someone who would enjoy sharing the peace with you.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy, that you may be kept safe and blameless in spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Hymn 70: Be thou my vision

Lord's Prayer

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 428: Love divine

Remembering the Lord's Supper:

Take a moment to remember the final meal that Jesus shared with his disciples. As we think about this meal - with the washing of feet and bread and wine shared with friends - we remember Jesus' offering of himself on the cross. We rejoice in his resurrection from the dead and look forward to the coming of God's Kingdom. While we cannot receive Christ in the sacraments in the usual way, we can be the presence of Christ in our homes and communities and we can be a praying presence wherever we are.

Hymn 379: Lead us heavenly Father, lead us

Closing Prayer:

Lord God, we thank you for this time of worship; may your love and peace remain with us in the coming days. Be with us in all that we will think, say and do so that our lives may reflect your glory. We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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