

Sunday 10th June 2018

Trinity 2

Proper 5

Green



Collect

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 English Standard Version (ESV)

4¹³ Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak,¹⁴ knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence.¹⁵ For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self^[a] is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Our Heavenly Dwelling

5¹ For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Footnote: a. Greek *man*.

COMMENT: If nothing else, Paul was outspoken, even to the point of boldness. That very character trait may well have forced the high priest to send him on his fateful errand to Damascus. It was on the road there that he encountered his life-changing experience of the risen Christ. In that same spirit he proclaimed the risen Christ to the Gentile world out of which he himself had come and he knew so well. Always forceful in his correspondence, his authentic letters and other written in his name form the greater part of our New Testament. This same forcefulness pushes through this excerpt from his Second Letter to the Corinthians. Again it is the resurrection of Jesus and what this means for the Corinthians and for us that is the centre of Paul's mind.

Mark 3:20-35 English Standard Version (ESV)

3²⁰ Then he went home, and the crowd gathered again, so that they could not even eat.²¹ And when his family heard it, they went out to seize him, for they were saying, "He is out of his mind."

Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit

²² And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem were saying, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "by the prince of demons he casts out the demons."²³ And he called them to him and said to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan?²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.²⁵ And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.²⁶ And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but is coming to an end.²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. Then indeed he may plunder his house.

²⁸ "Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter,²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"—³⁰ for they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit."

Jesus' Mother and Brothers

³¹ And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him.³² And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers^[a] are outside, seeking you."³³ And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?"³⁴ And looking about at those who sat around him, he

said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother.”

Footnotes: a. other early manuscripts add *and your sisters*.

COMMENT: How did Jesus deal with conflicting priorities? That is the focus of this brief passage from Mark’s Gospel recording Jesus having to decide where his ultimate commitment lay. Was he to listen to the appeals of his family who felt that he may have become deranged? Or was he to carry on his commitment to his ministry of proclaiming God’s redeeming love? And how was he to confront the opposition he faced from the scandalous rumour-mongers trying their best to turn the crowds away from hearing his message? Distraction from doing God’s will is a reality still for ministry, for any Christian pastor or layperson. Jesus brought the whole complex of issues into the sharpest focus by raising a very different question: What is the sin against the Holy Spirit? It is the clear rejection of God. The Holy Spirit was witnessing to the critics of Jesus, but they placed their own pride before submission to God, and a recognition of the one he sent. How can God forgive those who firmly reject him!

Psalm 138 *Confitebor tibi* Grail Psalter

℟ Your love, O Lord, is eternal: discard not the work of your hands.

¹ *Of David*

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I will bless you.

² I will adore before your holy temple. ℟

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.

³ On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. ℟

⁴ All earth's kings shall thank you
when they hear the words of your mouth.

⁵ They shall sing of the Lord's ways:
“How great is the glory of the Lord!” ℟

⁶ The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of affliction
you give me life and frustrate my foes.

✠ Your love, O Lord, is eternal: discard not the work of your hands.

You stretch out your hand and save me,

⁸ your hand will do all things for me.

Your love, O Lord, is eternal,

discard not the work of your hands. **✠**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

COMMENT: This beautiful hymn of praise represents the finest of Hebrew poetry. Its parallel of ideas in each couplet of lines is typical of a refined form of verse. Though claimed to be a psalm of David, that designation is most unlikely. More probably, it dates from the priestly era of Israel's faith tradition when the temple had been rebuilt following the Babylonian exile (586-539 BC). A choir of Levitical priests might have sung this psalm as they approached the temple sanctuary

Post Communion

Loving Father, we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son: sustain us with your Spirit, that we may serve you here on earth until our joy is complete in heaven, and we share in the eternal banquet with Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Blessing

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among *you*, and remain with *you* always. **Amen.**