

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

'Loving God above all things'



Today's Collect prays that God, as if drawing from a huge reservoir of grace, will 'pour into our hearts' such love towards him that we will love him 'above all things'. What that means, as Jesus explained, is to love God 'with all your heart (*commitment*), with all your soul (*longing*), with all your mind (*thinking*), and with all your strength (*servicing*)', and to love your neighbour as yourself.

The Gathering

THE GREETING

Grace, mercy and peace to you from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

And also with you. (1 Tim. 1:2)
(A HYMN may be sung)

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart:

I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. (Ps. 9:1)

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. (Rom. 5:5)

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. (1 John 4:11)

PRAYER

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.

(SONGS may be sung)

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PENITENCE

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. (Matt. 22:37-39)

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

We acknowledge that our love for God is sometimes half-hearted, and our love for our neighbour is sometimes unwilling ...

Let us confess our sins, in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments:

Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(The GLORIA, the VENITE, a SONG or RESPONSES may be used)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray ... (silent prayer)

Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as pass our understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward you that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

THE SCRIPTURE READING(S)

(After the reading)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM/HYMN or SCRIPTURAL SONG

THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

Glory to you, O Lord.

(After the reading)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in God:

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen. (from Eph. 3)

(A HYMN may be sung)

The Prayers

INTERCESSIONS

(Special thanksgivings and prayers ...)

Our Father in heaven, we give thanks for the church and for all that we receive through its worship, teaching and fellowship. We pray:

for bishop N. and the life of this diocese ... for each other here and all who minister among us ...

for our fellow Christians in other places ... Renew us with the Holy Spirit that we may bear witness to Christ's love.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for this nation and those in authority who serve the people with integrity and dedication. We pray:

for our Queen and government ... for all who work in the media ... for those suffering from disaster, war or oppression ...

Bring justice and harmony to all people, and new opportunities to make the most of their lives.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for our community, for all who serve us, and those who cherish us ... Strengthen the bonds of trust and respect within families, communities and work-places ...

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the health we have, and for the skills of those who attend to us when we are in need. Bring healing and encouragement to those suffering from ill-health, pain or frailty ...

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for those who have died and those whose memory is still treasured ...

Grant us, with them, and with all the saints ... the joy of eternal life in Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(A HYMN may be sung)

CONCLUDING PRAYER

O God, you are the light of the minds that know you, the life of the souls that love you, and the strength of the wills that serve you: help us to know you **that we may truly love you,** and so to love you **that we may truly serve you;** whom to serve is perfect freedom; **through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.** (St Augustine)

(THE BLESSING or THE GRACE is said)