



"Where is the God of Justice?"

Prayers - week 25

13th Sunday after Trinity

Malachi 2:17-3:5

A CALL TO WORSHIP *Psalm 113:1-6*

Praise the Lord! Yes, give praise,
O servants of the Lord.

**All: Praise the name of the Lord!
Blessed be the name of the Lord
now and forever.**

Everywhere—from east to west—
praise the name of the Lord.

**All: For the Lord is high above the
nations; his glory is higher than
the heavens.**

Who can be compared with the Lord
our God, who is enthroned on high?

**All: He stoops to look down
on heaven and on earth. Amen.**

SONG - GLORY BE TO GOD *Horatius Bonar*

Glory be to God the Father,
glory be to God the Son,
glory be to God the Spirit,
great I AM, the Three-in-One:
glory, glory,
glory, glory,
while eternal ages run!

Glory be to him who loved us,
washed us from each guilty stain;
glory be to him who bought us,
made us kings with him to reign:
glory, glory,

glory, glory,
to the Lamb who once was slain!

Glory to the King of angels,
glory to the church's King,
glory to the King of nations,
Heaven and Earth, your praises bring:
glory, glory,
glory, glory,
to the King of glory bring!

'Glory, blessing, praise eternal!'
Thus the choir of angels sings;
'Honour, riches, power, dominion!'
Thus its praise creation brings:
glory, glory,
glory, glory,
glory to the King of kings!

PEOPLE WEARYING THEIR GOD!

You have wearied the Lord with your
words. "How have we wearied him?"
you ask. You have wearied him by
saying that all who do evil are good in
the Lord's sight, and he is pleased with
them. You have wearied him by asking,
"Where is the God of justice?"

Malachi 2:17-18

Would people of a nation as corrupt as
Malachi has described it in the second
and third deputations really be looking
for justice in the fourth disputation? The
answer is, absolutely! And that is

because sinners are invariably inconsistent. The thief is always outraged when someone steals from *him*. The liar is deeply offended when someone lies to *her*. The cheater deeply resents finding that *she* has been defrauded, and the murderer wants *himself* and his family to live in peace. The expectations of sinners are characteristically hypocritical, as Paul so compellingly points out (Romans 2:1-16). All people, not just the pious, want justice, at least for themselves.

Douglas Stuart

WHEN THE MESSENGER COMES, THE LORD WILL DISPLAY HIS JUSTICE *Malachi 3:1-5*

¹ “Look! I am sending my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. Then the Lord you are seeking will suddenly come to his Temple. The messenger of the covenant, whom you look for so eagerly, is surely coming,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.

² “But who will be able to endure it when he comes? Who will be able to stand and face him when he appears? For he will be like a blazing fire that refines metal, or like a strong soap that bleaches clothes. ³ He will sit like a refiner of silver, burning away the dross. He will purify the Levites, refining them like gold and silver, so that they may once again offer acceptable sacrifices to the Lord.

⁴ Then once more the Lord will accept the offerings brought to him by the people of Judah and Jerusalem, as he did in the past.

⁵ “At that time I will put you on trial. I am eager to witness against all sorcerers and adulterers and liars. I

will speak against those who cheat employees of their wages, who oppress widows and orphans, or who deprive the foreigners living among you of justice, for these people do not fear me,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.

GOD’S ANSWER FULFILLED

¹ This is the Good News about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God. It began

² just as the prophet Isaiah had written:

“Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

and he will prepare your way.

³ He is a voice shouting in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord’s coming!

Clear the road for him!’”

⁴ This messenger was John the Baptist. *Mark 1:1-4*

²¹ Now God has shown us a way to be made right... ²² We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.

²³ For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God’s glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. ²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, ²⁶ for he was looking ahead and including them in

what he would do in this present time.
God did this to demonstrate his
righteousness, for he himself is fair
and just, and he makes sinners right in
his sight when they believe in Jesus.

Romans 5:21-26

SONG - DEPTH OF MERCY

Charles Wesley (blue text) & Selah (underlined text)

Depth of mercy, can there be
Mercy still reserved for me?
Can my God His wrath forbear me
The chief of sinners, spare?

Heaven find me on my knees
Hear my soul in passioned pleas
Depth of mercy, can there be
Mercy still reserved for me?

I have long withstood His grace,
Long provoked Him to His face,
Would not hearken to His calls,
Grieved Him by a thousand falls.

I have spilt His precious blood,
Trampled on the Son of God,
Filled with pangs unspeakable,
I, who yet am not in hell!

I my Master have denied,
I afresh have crucified,
And profaned His hallowed Name,
Put Him to an open shame.

Whence to me this waste of love?
Ask my Advocate above!
See the cause in Jesus' face,
Now before the throne of grace.

Jesus, answer from above,
Is not all Thy nature love?
Wilt Thou not the wrong forget,
Permit me to kiss Thy feet?

If I rightly read Thy heart,
If Thou all compassion art,

Bow Thine ear, in mercy bow,
Pardon and accept me now.

Jesus speaks, and pleads His blood!
He disarms the wrath of God;
Now my Father's mercies move,
Justice lingers into love.

Kindled His relentings are,
Me He now delights to spare,
Cries, "How shall I give thee up?"
Let the lifted thunder drop.

Lo! I still walk on the ground:
Lo! an Advocate is found:
"Hasten not to cut Him down,
Let this barren soul alone."

There for me the Saviour stands,
Shows His wounds and spreads His
hands.

God is love! I know, I feel;
Jesus weeps and loves me still.

Pity from Thine eye let fall,
By a look my soul recall;
Now the stone to flesh convert,
Cast a look, and break my heart.

Now incline me to repent
Let me now my sins lament
Deeply my revolt deplore
Weep, believe and sin no more.

Heaven find me on my knees...
(x2)

CONFESSION

You spread out our sins before you-
our secret sins – and you see them all!
Psalms 90:8

**Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all people,
we acknowledge and confess
the grievous sins and wickedness
which we have so often committed**

**by thought, word and deed
against your divine majesty,
provoking most justly your anger
and indignation against us.
We earnestly repent,
and are deeply sorry for these our
wrongdoings;
the memory of them weighs us down,
the burden of them is too great for us
to bear.
Have mercy upon us,
have mercy upon us, most merciful
Father,
for your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's
sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that from this time onwards
we may always serve and please you
in newness of life,
to the honour and glory of your name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The almighty and merciful Lord
grant us pardon and forgiveness of all
our sins,
time for amendment of life,
and the grace and strength of the Holy
Spirit.
Amen.

PRAYER OF ABANDONMENT TO GOD

Charles de Foucauld

Father, I abandon myself into your
hands;
do with me what you will.
Whatever you do I thank you.
I am ready for all, I accept all.
Let only your will be done in me,
as in all your creatures,
I ask no more than this, my Lord.

Into your hands I commend my soul;
I offer it to you, O Lord,
with all the love of my heart,

for I love you, my God, and so need to
give myself,
to surrender myself into your hands,
without reserve and with total
confidence,
for you are my Father. Amen.

SONG - HERE IS LOVE

William Rees & Robin Mark

*Here is love vast as the ocean,
Loving kindness as a flood
When the prince of life our ransom,
Shed for us His precious blood.*

Who his love will not remember,
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten,
Throughout heavn's eternal days.

On the mount of crucifixion,
Fountains opened deep and wide
Through the floodgates of God's mercy,
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.

*Grace and love like mighty rivers,
Flowed incessant from above
Heavens peace and perfect justice,
Kissed a guilty world with love.*

Here is love vast as the ocean...

Who his love will not remember,
Who can cease to sing His praise?
He can never be forgotten,
Throughout heavn's eternal days

On the mount of crucifixion,
Fountains opened deep and wide
Through the floodgates of God's mercy,
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*Grace and love like mighty rivers...
(x2)*

COLLECT FOR TODAY *Common Worship*

Almighty God,
you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength
and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE FAITH WE HOLD

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe 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, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the
Father,
and he will come to judge the living
and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

SONG - RESTORE, O LORD *Graham Kendrick*

Restore, O Lord
The honour of Your name
In works of sovereign power
Come shake the earth again
That all may see
And come with reverent fear
To the living God
Whose kingdom shall outlast the years

Restore, O Lord
In all the earth Your fame
And in our time revive
The church that bears Your Name
In Your anger
Lord, remember mercy
O living God
Whose mercy shall outlast the years

Bend us, O Lord
Where we are hard and cold
In Your refiner's fire
Come purify the gold
Though suffering comes
And evil crouches near
Still our living God
Is reigning, He is reigning here

Restore, O Lord
The honour of Your name
In works of sovereign power
Come shake the earth again
That all may see
And come with reverent fear
To the living God
Whose kingdom shall outlast the years

Restore us, Lord
Revive us again.

BLESSING *Romans 12:1-2*

Dear brothers and sisters, I plead
with you to give your bodies to God
because of all he has done for you.
Let them be a living and holy
sacrifice—the kind he will find
acceptable. This is truly the way to
worship him. Don't copy the
behaviour and customs of this
world, but let God transform you
into a new person by changing the
way you think. Then you will learn to
know God's will for you, which is
good and pleasing and perfect.
Amen.

Prayer topics for the week

If you would like the vicar to pray with you on the phone, call him on 01902 827214; or alternatively you can place a prayer request on our 'Prayer Chain' by phoning Joan on 01902 754526. She will have several people pray, in confidence, for your request.

He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. Deuteronomy 10:18

For the World

- **Cries for justice** - Father we hear your voice telling us "Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8). Lord, examine our hearts, strip away all pride, suspicion, and racism so that we may seek peace and justice in our communities and for the world.
- **In these uncertain times** – pray for the bereaved, the sick, those losing & seeking jobs, the homeless and people seeking asylum. That they may know support in its most practical form so that what is overwhelming will become more manageable; and that they may know God's peace and His love.
- **Schools re-opening** - Pray for protection & support for pupils, students, teaching & non-teaching staff as they adjust to a very different learning environment this week. Pray also for anxious parents.
- **Extreme weather** – pray for countries suffering from severe flooding; Haiti, Afghanistan, India, & the UK. Pray, wherever the floods have caused deaths, missing people, loss of homes and destroyed much needed crops. Pray for California where wildfires have destroyed homes & forestation.

For St Jude's Church

- Thinking about Malachi 2:17-3:5. Reflect on our fickle ways when it comes to wanting justice in our world. We all have a worrying blind spot over the seriousness of our own sin. Consider God's perspective on your life, and how we need to repent and turn away from sin, even our secret ones, to become pure and holy. Thank the Lord for his kindness in sending Jesus so that a way of salvation is open for being reconciled to God and to one another. Pray for an ever growing appreciation of the salvation Jesus offers to everyone willing to repent of their sin and place their faith in him.
- Pray for the youngsters and Leaders of J Team. Today is a milestone – they meet in the church hall for the first time since lockdown started 😊. Pray for their physical and spiritual wellbeing.
- Give thanks for Church Family members, we remember those with their birthday in September, in particular: Graham Sutton and Roy Phillips. "May God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. Jesus gave his life for your sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue you from this evil world in which we live. All glory to God forever and ever! Amen." (Galatians 1:3-5)

For our Mission Partners – PCF Romania Projects

- **Caring for children** – "Some children arrive at the centre in the morning already hungry and in need of clean clothes. We find them a change of clothes (donated), the children wash and, while they eat lunch, their dirty clothes are washed and dried. Their smiles of being in clean clothes and having a warm meal help us to realise how thankful we should be." Pray for the teams as they support the children starting school with homework and provision of school essentials.
- **Providing takeaway meals for the poor** – "The food program has been feeding more people due to the impact of the COVID-19." Pray as more people need food and clothing and are also struggling emotionally and psychologically. "We are grateful to God for all of our supporters."
- **Being thankful** – "One lady who comes for takeaway food has a pension of just €12.5 (£11) per month, she needs a walking stick but cleans houses or sweeps for a little extra income. Life is very hard for her but she always enjoys resting in the garden's shade at our centre."

CONTACTING ST JUDE'S

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Parish Office	CLOSED		

Our building is shut (apart from Worship & Prayer). For news visit our Facebook Group and Website

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