



The Benefice of
Harden, Wilsden, Cullingworth, Denholme
Sunday 15 June 2025
Trinity Sunday



Preparation

We meet in the name of God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts:
the whole earth is full of his glory.

Ascribe to the Lord glory and strength;
ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name.
The whole earth is full of his glory.

The Lord shall give strength to his people;
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts:
the whole earth is full of his glory.

Responsory

Prayers of Penitence

‘How often have I longed to gather your children,
as a hen gathers her brood under her wings,’ says the Lord,
‘but you would not come to me.’
Let us as wayward children return to God
and confess our sins.

Father, you come to meet us when we return to you:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, you died on the cross for our sins:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Spirit, you give us life and peace:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

**Loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
we bring to you those times
when we have not loved the world as you do:
when we have been careless
in our protection of the environment,
lazy in our faith and unkind in our relationships.
Bring us from a place of darkness to a place of light
that we might be reborn in hope and joy and commitment.
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Absolution

May the Father forgive us
by the death of his Son
and strengthen us
to live in the power of the Spirit
all our days.
Amen.

The Collect

Holy God,
faithful and unchanging:
enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth,
and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love,
that we may truly worship you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading: Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Thanks be to God for the gift of his word

Gospel reading: John 16:12-15

Jesus said: 'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Thanks be to God for the gift of his Holy Word

Reflection by Liz

This is the time of year when people often go on holiday or have trips out to explore new places or return to some of their favourite haunts. I think that I probably have maps of areas that I explored in days gone by – and certainly have map books which open automatically at special, well-loved destinations. Of course, it was always rather a challenge opening a large map and following the route without blocking the driver's field of vision or having to read it upside down so that I could get my bearings! But as we needed directions to the chosen destination, we had to use the maps – or scribbled instructions from friends!

In some ways, navigating has become easier with satnav – though that hasn't always been the case. In the early days, I remember hearing of a man following the instructions on the satnav until he arrived at the riverbank at the bridge that had still not been built! I think that it was completed about three years later! And even nowadays, there can be problems if the signal fails, or the sound fades away. Or, occasionally, the satnav reverts to its default setting after a break. A friend once found himself en route for Glasgow instead of heading for Keighley as he had intended. And considering that there is not a real person inside the satnav, they do seem to get quite agitated if the driver misses a turning or takes a slightly different route and they direct the driver to return to the original route. (I'm sure that mine sulks and switches itself off if I do not do as instructed!)

But there is no denying that satnavs can be very helpful when we need directions to a new destination. Having seen the overall route when we initially put in the postcode or co-ordinates, then we can see the route as it gradually unfolds and notable road features, like roundabouts or road junctions, are evident as they are approached. Of course, they do not remove the need for the driver to be aware of what is going on around them, especially noticing other traffic or pedestrians – or road signs which alert them to particular obstacles or restrictions. I suppose they also rely on the driver being able to trust that the maps and information which are on the system are accurate and up to date – and to trust that when a destination has been programmed in, then the satnav will continue to direct the driver towards their goal and not somewhere completely different.

Satnavs are very useful when we are finding our way from place to place, but that made me reflect on some of life's other journeys and especially about our journey through life itself. We may not have a detailed route but thankfully we have something even better than a satnav. At the risk of sounding flippant, we have Godnav! God, our loving heavenly Father, holds our lives in his hands. He created us and our ultimate destination is to be in his presence, his kingdom for eternity – but the route for each one of us unfolds gradually as we journey through our lives. We can be reassured that the Holy Spirit will guide us through each stage as the journey progresses. And throughout the journey, the love and example of Jesus will help us to negotiate the different obstacles or setbacks which crop up on our journey.

There may be times where we go astray, but instead of being reprimanded by a grumpy satnav, we are welcomed back on track by a loving and generous God. That is such a blessing – that God is not impersonal like a machine, but God knows each one of us better than anyone else knows us. We are loved by God and he is with us throughout our life's journey.

This Sunday, we will be thinking of the Trinity – God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. So, let's give thanks for God's presence with us throughout life's journey, the love of Jesus which supports and sustains us and the guiding of the Holy Spirit as we move forward on the path God has set before us.

Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**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.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Prayers of Intercession led by Debbie Child

On this Trinity Sunday we pray to the Father, through the Son and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Father God thank you for the gift of this new day, created by you, with all its possibilities and opportunities. In gratitude we pray for our world, that its beauty may be treasured and its resources used fairly and responsibly. We pray for the terrible situation between Gaza and Israel, for Ukraine and Russia, for Sudan and Archdeacon Ezekiel, and for all displaced people. We pray too for all those places where life is challenging, but no longer in the media, thinking especially of the women and girls oppressed in Afghanistan. We pray for the leaders of these countries that they may not seek personal power, but work for the public good; above all may they work for peace and govern with wisdom.

Son of God, whose love is for everyone, for you lived and died for rich and poor, Jew and gentile. Nobody was outside your care or beyond your grace, so that everyone may have a share in the Kingdom. May we, your church reflect your community and unity, and may there be harmony, shared ministry, mutual support and encouragement of each other as we share your word in our world. We pray for Nick our Bishop and for all who lead with him. We ask your blessing on the clergy and lay people in this benefice. We pray for Richard as his ministry here ends and for the new challenges ahead. We pray for Alison, Liz and Ian and for all who will continue, seen and unseen, to work to grow your church and built up our communities.

Holy Spirit you breathe life and power into God's people, uniting them in love and praise. We ask that you will pour your gifts upon us, gifts of faith, of service, of understanding, and the ability to love and support our neighbours. We bring before you those who suffer in any way, through illness, through fear, through loneliness or anxiety. We remember especially all those who mourn... and we pray for all those on our hearts... May all those who are struggling find peace through you in body, mind and spirit, and in faith we lift them all before you.

The mysterious and holy nature of the one true God is beyond our understanding, but we do know that we rely on you, our God, for everything, We give thanks for all the love in our lives and especially for your transforming love - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. May we rest securely in the knowledge that whatever may change in our lives, you will remain constant.

Merciful God, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father,
who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory
For ever and ever. Amen.**

CONCLUSION

Closing Prayer

To God the Father; who loved us,
and made us accepted in the Beloved:
to God the Son, who loved us,
and loosed us from sin by his own blood:
to God the Holy Spirit,
who spreads the love of God abroad in our hearts:
to the one true God be all love and all glory
for time and for eternity. **Amen.**

O God our mystery,
you bring us to life,
call us to freedom,
and move between us with love.
May we so participate
in your dance of trinity
that our lives may resonate with you,
now and forever. **Amen.**

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. **Amen.**
The Lord make his face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you. **Amen.**
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
And give you peace. **Amen.**

The Lord God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
The holy and undivided Trinity,
Guard you, save you,
And bring you to that heavenly city,
Where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Sending Out

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