

## Trinity 7 2020 – Safe in the Arms of Jesus

26 <sup>th</sup> July Trinity 7	9.30 & 11.00 Holy Communion	I Kings 3 vv 5-12 p338 Romans 8 vv 26-39 p1135 Matthew 13 vv 31-52 p980	A&M 199 Immortal Invisible Psalm 119 vv 129-136 122 How Sweet the Name 266 We Hail Thy Presence 194 King of Glory	EH 440 Praise to the Lord the 456 Teach Me My God & Psalm 119 vv 129-136 467 Through All the 431 O Thou Who Camest 434 Oft in Danger
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### *The Collect.*

**L**ORD of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all good things; Graft in our hearts the love of thy Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of thy great mercy keep us in the same; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*Amen.*

I thought we might need cheering up and what could cheer us up more than our NT reading from Romans 8?

<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Prayer is a wonderful resource – to talk to God in prayer about all the things on our minds, but sometimes we just feel overwhelmed. There are times when we find it very hard to pray. Things crowd in on us. Our thoughts are all mixed up. Maybe God feels distant. We don't always know what to pray for. But help is at hand. God knows our weaknesses, our problems, how we're struggling, and God's Holy Spirit prays on our behalf. So does Jesus. God knows what is good for us. He knows what we should pray for. In the persons of the Son & the Spirit, God prays to Himself the Father on our behalf.

<sup>27</sup> And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

God knows what is in our hearts and, in our relationship with Him, we know something of the heart of God. What we know of God is very small, tiny, in relation to His infinity, but, nevertheless, it is true; it is authentic. S Paul says that *we have the mind of Christ*. Solomon asked God for wisdom. Paul teaches that Christ is *the power of God and the wisdom of God*.

<sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

In some circles, this verse is misused. Some unscrupulous preachers will tell you that, as *all things work together for good to them that love God*, if only you love God enough, you'll have happy relationships, good health and prosper in business. You can show how much you love God by the size of your donations to the preacher's Church! That isn't what the verse means. What it does mean is that God is loving you and caring for you no matter what happens and He will give you what is best for you whether or not it is what you think is best for you or what the world thinks is good for people. God loves you as you are.

<sup>29</sup> For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. <sup>30</sup> Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

This takes some understanding, but look at this way. God loves you. God is eternal. God, therefore, loves you eternally. He always has loved you and He always will love you. He loved us forever even before He made heaven and earth. He loves us now. He will love us forever when we enjoy eternal life with Him for ever in Heaven. *I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.*

<sup>31</sup> What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? So ponder that, whatever is troubling you. *If God be for us, who can be against us?*

<sup>32</sup> He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

The world is brimming over with evidence of the love of God, but what clinches it? What is it that proves beyond a shadow of doubt that God is for us? *He spared not his own Son.*

<sup>33</sup> Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. <sup>34</sup> Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

It might seem almost unbelievable that God cares so much about you and me. In relation to God, surely we are insignificant. *It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:* That's what we're like in God's eyes, grasshoppers, and yet *he spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all.* Like the prophet Isaiah, if we were to experience a vision of the thrice holy God, we should have to say, *Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.* But God cleansed Isaiah and made the prophet fit to serve Him. And so He does for us. *If God be for us, who can be against us?* God is for us. We can rely on Him.

<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. <sup>37</sup> Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, <sup>39</sup> Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

If knowing these things doesn't cheer you up, what possibly could cheer you up? This is the treasure for which it is worth giving up everything that is not of God for the joy that it brings; it is the pearl of great price, the Kingdom of God.

It is wonderful to see how things grow naturally. Eventually (as in my garden) grass grows through asphalt and concrete. Yeast makes bread rise and gives life to wine. If wine is bottled too soon, the carbon dioxide gas generated by the yeast will make the bottles explode. The Holy Spirit is *the Lord, the Giver of Life.* How much more wonderful and powerful is the life of the Spirit even than life on earth! *Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.* Life in the Spirit. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. The Saviour says, *Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*