

Worship for All Trinity 9

Please have your Bible and a candle ready for our service

Welcome in the name of Christ! God's grace, mercy and peace be with you.

And also with you

Bible We worship with Christians near and far, living, departed, old and young. God's word is for us all. May it be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. **Amen**

Candle Christ has bought us out of darkness to dwell in his marvellous light. Jesus, Light of the world, **shine in our hearts, Amen.**

Opening prayer

As we approach you today, Lord, we probably feel pretty much like Peter – full of bravado to begin with, but then just not quite so certain of ourselves. We come to you, Jesus, trusting that even if we feel ourselves beginning to sink under the pressures that we face, we know you are still there holding us up. Please reassure us that you won't let go, no matter how we feel. Thank you, Lord. **Amen**

Prayers of confession

Lord God, I'm sorry for the times I take my eyes off you, and seek to do things in my own strength. I'm sorry for the times I doubt that you can keep me on the straight and narrow. I'm sorry for the times I ask you for signs. Lord, I pray that you will forgive my doubts and hesitations, show me your loving presence, especially when I most need it, and teach me to trust you at all times. **Amen.**

Praising God, our heavenly Father

God of the earth and the waves, we praise you that you more than meet all our needs. You call us out from our security to experience your adventures and blessings. You don't want us to be like a becalmed ship, or stuck in the harbour. You want us out in deep water – and you'll be with us. We praise you, Lord. **Amen.**

Creed

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.**

Collect

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church; open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; 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 forever. **Amen**

Gospel reading **Matthew 14:13-21**

Introduced by leader and the reader who makes the responses

Christ in you, the hope of glory **This is the gospel we proclaim**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

After the Gospel This is the gospel of the Lord **Praise to you O Christ.**

Points for Reflection

This wonderful story shows us who Jesus really is and reminds us of our need to trust in him. Jesus says very clearly and powerfully – 'Take heart, it is I: do not be afraid'. Well worth remembering in challenging times.

Lord, sometimes people who don't know you think we have the easy option. If only ... When we are in the deep water of doubt, flailing about, nearly going under, can't see land on the horizon, we thank you, Lord, that you are our saviour, and will always rescue us and bring us back to you. Amen

Intercessions

O Lord our God, you are worthy to be praised. You are the Son of God who walks on water, who mesmerises huge crowds with powerful words, but who also calms a frightened Peter – and you calm us and give us peace. Thank you, Lord.

Lord God, we come before you to pray for all those people for whom taking risks is a way of life. Lord, reveal yourself to them and keep them safe. **Amen**

In faith we pray to you our Heavenly Father

At the end of the prayers, we pray Lord, come to bless us, **And fill us with your Spirit**

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 them that 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.**

The Peace Jesus said, 'Love one another. As I have loved you, so you are to love one another.' The peace of the Lord be always with you **And also with you**

We share the peace with each other.

Blessing and Sending out prayer

Peter only knew life as a fisherman. But he got out of the boat and followed you, Lord. Help us to hear your voice, get out of our boats and follow you. In the week ahead, may the world and its problems decrease as you increase in our lives. Keep us focused on your way, looking ahead and trusting you. **Amen.**

In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Amen.**

