

TelephoneServ21Aug22

Welcome to our service wherever you are on this 10th Sunday after Trinity

1st Reading from Ps103:1-8

- 1 Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
- 2 Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—
- 3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,
- 4 who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,
- 5 who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- 6 The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.
- 7 He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel:
- 8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in love.

1st Song: God is good *Author unknown*

1. God is so good, God is so good. God is so good, he's so good to me
2. God answers prayer, God answers prayer, God answers prayer, he's so good to me.
3. He cares for me, He cares for me, He cares for me, he's so good to me

Collect

God of our pilgrimage, you have willed that the gate of mercy should stand open for all those who trust in you; look upon us with your favour that we who follow the path of your will may never wander from the way of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Talk introduction

At school, after the Summer hols, the girls at our daughters' schools would get together and talk about their holiday adventures in Spain - horse riding, the Caribbean - scuba diving, in China - walking the Wall, cruising the Mediterranean

When they were asked: What do you do on your holidays? Our girls would often say: 'Visit church graveyards' (because we were doing family research!)

Despite what our 2 daughters said, most years we also went camping in the Lake District

SO... When you were on holiday what did you do? Go to the beach? Visit National trust properties? Walk in the Dales? Did any of you go Mountain climbing?

Annually we'd go to Keswick for The Convention in the morning, and then in the afternoon swim in the lake or climb Skiddaw (which took me 8 years to conquer with my fear of heights - each year a bit higher)

In Heb12 saint Paul wrote about 2 mountains:

2nd Reading Heb12:18-end

18 You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; 19 to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, 20 because they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned." 21 The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling with fear." 22 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, 23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, 24 to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. 25 See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? 26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." 27 The words "once more" indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, 29 for our "God is a consuming fire"

Talk. Part 1

What are the two mountains? Mount Sinai and Mount Zion

Both were places where God spoke, giving an unalterable God-given Promise in a Covenant Agreement

And God doesn't lie! His eternal Word is true

What happened on Sinai? What was it like?

- Sinai (in the Bible) was the place of horror - *burning with fire; of darkness, gloom & storm; to a trumpet blast & to such a voice* that gave Moses the 10 Commands - On Sinai God gave his Guidelines for good living applicable for then and now

God promised: *If you keep my laws I'll be your God*

But people didn't keep his Laws

What did Moses do with the two Tablets? He broke them, because God's people had made a Bull (a bit like the one in Birmingham!) Israel made an idol to worship, and they had a drunken party to celebrate it, and so they broke the first part of the Covenant

Similarly we say: 'We'll live by God's rules'; but we break them by changing God's law for ours

What do the 10 Commandments say?

-1. No god *but* me, no god *before* me - but we put self first.

-2. No idols - but we idolise things... & worse is when God wants us to be like him, we debase Him by making an idol of a God that's like us!

-3. Don't misuse or abuse my name. People say: O M G or Jesus!

- 4. Keep my day for worship and rest. But God's day has become like any other day.
- 5. About happy families, but youngsters dishonour parents & parents aren't good examples either!
- 6. Don't kill. We murder others and babies
- 7. Right marriages. We alter relationships and God-given sex to be whatever we want
- 8. Don't steal. We do, stealing from God, & from people!
- 9. Tell the truth. We lie like Putin - & even on oath.
- 10 Don't Covet. All advertising is about 'getting'

We don't live by God's law - we are sinners says Scripture
so let's **Confess** our shortcomings

For failing to love you with all our heart, soul, mind and strength

Lord have mercy **Lord have mercy**

For failing to love our neighbour as ourselves

Christ have mercy **Christ have mercy**

In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be.

Lord have mercy **Lord have mercy**

Absolution

May God the Father forgive you by the death of his Son, the Lord Jesus, and strengthen you to live his risen life in the power of his Spirit all your days **Amen**

2nd song God forgave my sin *by Carol Owens*

*God forgave my sin in Jesus' name, I've been born again in Jesus' name
and in Jesus name I come to you to share his love as he told me to.*

Ref: He said: Freely, freely, you have received Freely, freely give

Go in my name, and because you believe, others will know that I live

*All power is given in Jesus name, in earth and heaven in Jesus name
And in Jesus name I come to you to share his power as he told me to.*

Ref: He said: Freely

Talk part 2

We are all sinners - we can't live by the law, we fail

So God made another Covenant, of love, in Mount Zion, on the Moriah range that includes Jerusalem

NB when you see pix of Jerusalem what is the first thing you see? The Al Aqsa Mosque built on the foundations of the old Jewish Temple.

Mt Sinai & Zion are actual mountains, but also a means to show what God is like: He is Holy & Love

-Sinai was fearful because God came there in Fire

(in fact Paul says: *our "God is a consuming fire."*)

You wouldn't want to live there. Heb12:21 says *The sight was so terrifying that Moses said "I am trembled with fear."* and God is Fearsome.....when we don't obey him!!

As CS Lewis wrote: *Aslan is not a tame lion.*

God is Awesome

- In contrast, we have Mt Zion & Jerusalem where God made an Agreement, a Davidic Covenant of love with David & Solomon promising: if you trust me, not only will: *I be with you ...* but also ... *I will be your Father*

So Solomon built the Temple to signify God's earthly, 'family' Home

-it's the place of God's Covenant of Love

And more

-It's also where Jesus died on Skull Hill, giving his life for us, to give us life eternal life and bring us into the family of God, and eventually into God's home in heaven.

Heb12:20 says: *you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to angels in joyful assembly (1000's of them); to the church of the firstborn of Jesus, to those whose names are written in heaven. YES you have come to God, the judge of all men, also to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, but mainly to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel - (his blood that makes good men.... perfect)*

that's what Mt Zion, the Gospel, & Heaven are all about.

Zion is all about Jesus the one *full of truth & grace*

1. Sinai reminds us of God's Holiness and God's Law

2. Zion reminds us of God's love and of his home in our hearts and in Heaven

3. the two show how we are to live in Holiness (according to his law) & as God's family (in his Love)

Intercessions

As the Family of God, Spiritual Zion, we pray for one another

- Thank you Father for showing us our errors and the glory of the forgiveness that Jesus has provided for us by his death and resurrection. Thank you are committed to making us not just good but perfect

Make us your holy and loving people Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

- We pray for the world as it rushes headlong into trouble by not heeding your Word; and ask for all governments and national and international organisations to seek and follow the Maker's Instructions for our world and its people

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

- We pray for your church to be faithful to your Word of truth, fearless in proclaiming it and courageous in obeying it. We especially ask help for our brothers and sisters who are persecuted for believing and following Jesus as Lord,

and who suffer for his name's sake Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**
- We pray for those who suffer in body, mind and spirit; for the burdened and bereaved, the anxious and confused.
May the words of Jesus become precious to them - *Come unto me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.* Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

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 glory, for ever and ever **Amen**

3rd song: Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion *by John Newton*

*1. Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God'
He whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for his own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's wall surrounded, thou may'st smile at all they foes.*

*2. See the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river ever flows, their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord the giver, never fails from age to age.*

*3. Saviour, if of Zion's city I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity, I will glory in thy name.
Fading is the worldling's pleasure, all its boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasure none but Zion's children know.*

Am I a citizen of Zion? If I am: it is through grace>

But if not: let's open our hearts to Jesus for his forgiveness, his grace, and his presence with us.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord turn his face toward you and give you his peace. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and those for whom you pray, now and always Amen

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England,

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