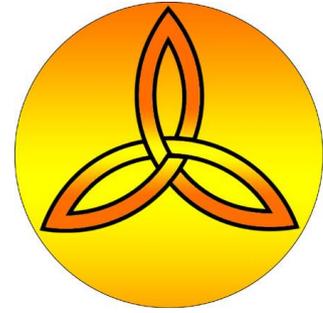




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13th September 2020

14th Sunday after Trinity

Collect for this week – Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Readings This week

Genesis 50:15—21, Romans 14:1—12, Matthew 18:21—35, Psalm 103:1—13

The Psalter is a rich resource for the people of God - ever pointing the way through the darkness of a world that has many questions but not as many answers. However, within the Psalter, there are some 'golden' psalms - those which are especially treasured, and Psalm 103 is one of them. There is so much in this psalm - embracing many of the great themes in the bible - it requires a book to explore its content rather than Pew Notes.

The psalm begins with a call to bless/praise the Lord - not superficially from the hymn book, but from our soul, our inner being, our sacred centre. The reason for our praise is summarised in five statements:

- He forgives all our iniquities - this vital blessing is one of His first mercies.
- Who heals all your diseases - and some may say, "If only!" He certainly heals, but we must hold this in tension with another line in the psalm 'As for mortals, their days are like grass'. Health is important but wholeness is even more important.
- Who redeems your life from the Pit - this statement almost breaks through to the our hope of immortality, which had to wait for the New Testament to give full assurance.
- Who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy - the foregoing brings restoration and the crown is possibly a metaphor for protection of God that is over us.
- Who satisfies you with good things - this is not a promise of many things or everything, but instead we have the assurance that all that God does is good...and acceptable and perfect

The psalm has inspired one of our best-known hymns, 'Praise my soul, the King of heaven...ransomed, healed, restored forgiven, Who like we His praise should sing'.

Readings Next week - 20th September

**Jonah 3. 10-end. 15-21, Philippians 1. 21-end,
Matthew 20, 1-6 psalm 145. 1-8**

