

MONDAY
14 SEPTEMBER
Holy Cross Day
Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 22:23-28
Philippians 2:6-11
John 3:13-17

TUESDAY
15 SEPTEMBER
1 Corinthians
12:12-14. 27-end
Psalm 100
Luke 7:11-17

WEDNESDAY
16 SEPTEMBER
1 Corinthians
12:31b – end 13
Psalm 33:1-12
Luke 7:31-35

THURSDAY
17 SEPTEMBER
1 Corinthians
15:1-11
Psalm 118:1-2.
17-20
Luke 7:36-end

FRIDAY
18 SEPTEMBER
1 Corinthians
15:12-20
Psalm 17:1-8
Luke 8:1-3

SATURDAY
19 SEPTEMBER
1 Corinthians
15:35-37. 42-49
Psalm 30:1-5
Luke 8:4-15

REFLECTION

Holy Cross Day opens the week, offering an opportunity to reflect upon the cross away from the intensity of Good Friday. The reading from Numbers, echoed in John's Gospel, emphasises the corporate nature of salvation – the bronze serpent raised high gives hope to a desert people, a community, just as Jesus is lifted up to save the whole world. This is reinforced by the hymn in Philippians – Christ gives up everything, becomes a slave, suffers death, to draw everyone into God's kingdom. Paul, in Tuesday's Corinthian reading, backs up the corporate nature of faith and redemption with his image of us all as parts of one body, with different functions but acting together. Other readings throughout the week – Tuesday's Gospel when Jesus raises from death the young man of Nain, and Paul's discussion of the implications of Christ's resurrection on Saturday – take us beyond the ultimate loving sacrifice of the cross, to remind us that death is not the end, that when all seems derelict, in God there is always hope. We finish with the parable of the sower – how we receive God's message of hope and how we communicate it matters not just for us but for all creation.



PRAYER

Eternal Christ,
 through your Holy Cross may we be lifted up as a
 servant people,
 relinquishing all that holds us back from acting as one
 community, with one purpose;
 to shine your love throughout every corner of creation.

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF ANGLICAN LITURGY

PART III – THE ALTERNATIVE SERVICE BOOK

The *Alternative Service Book* (ASB) was published in 1980, following the series of experimental worship services found in Series One, Two and Three. It was the first complete service book to be authorised since the 1662 version of the *Book of Common Prayer*. Those within the Church gave it a cautious welcome and some of the changes it made are now so much part of the familiar Eucharist that we may have forgotten how big a change it was.

First, the services were in contemporary language. This caused some disappointment, especially among those who valued the Church of England as an institution that could be relied upon to be unchanging. These were often among the ranks of the many who attended only irregularly and those who saw the *Book of Common Prayer* as representing the form of society that was fast disappearing in Britain.

Second, the services allowed for far more congregational involvement. The familiar pattern of lay churchgoers being responsible for the Old and New Testament readings and for writing and delivering the prayers of intercession began in earnest with the ASB. Prayers of intercession allowed for real creativity on the part of the person responsible.

There was a choice of four eucharistic prayers and a choice of canticles. The service of baptism could now take place within the Eucharist and couples could make choices about their wedding vows. It also introduced a service of thanksgiving for a child, providing a new pastoral option that addressed the needs of contemporary society.

Another major introduction was the shared peace, hated by many because they felt it disrupted the service or did not fall within the bounds of comfortable British behaviour. There are still some who dislike it, carried forward to the *Common Worship* services, but for the most part congregations participate quite happily. It is, however, interesting to reflect on the difference in tone that it creates at the point where the service is moving into the eucharistic prayers.

LIVE
 the WORD

SUSTAINING YOU
 THROUGH THE WEEK

Edited by
 Caroline Hodgson
 and
 Heather Smith



Fourteenth week
 after Trinity

Monday 14 September to
 Saturday 19 September
 2020

WEEK