

Service for Week 3rd -9th June 2024 by
Chaplain Andy (9th June Methodist
Homes Sunday)

Our Opening Prayer.

Loving God as we have remembered this week the 80th anniversary of 'D' Day we pray for all victims of war across the world.

We pray for those left homeless or as refugees. For the countless of families that will never be the same again. We pray that the day will come when people everywhere will live in harmony and enjoy peace and we ask for all to be inspired towards that goal in the name of Christ.

Amen

Prayer inspired by Prayerfully Yours by Nick Fawcett

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 those who 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

Bible Reading Mk 3:20-35

Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they

said, "He is out of his mind." And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebub ! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons." So Jesus called them and spoke to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can rob his house.

I tell you the truth, all the sins and blasphemies of men will be forgiven them. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin." He said this because they were saying, "He has an evil spirit."

Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you." "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked. Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."



Holy words, Holy wisdom,

Thanks be to God

Reflection.

Wherever Jesus went he started to attract large crowds of followers. Many had heard by word of mouth about this wonderful preacher and healer and travelled to where Jesus and his disciples were staying. It became like the situation today with some celebrities who are closely followed by their fans. When there are so many eager to get close to them there is a real danger that it becomes life threatening. I was reading this week that the pop singer Taylor Swift, for her world tour is having to spend £27 Million just on security!

The fact that Jesus was attracting such large crowds became a worry for his family- who were concerned for his safety. It also became a concern for the Pharisees and teachers of the law, not for his safety but the fact that Jesus was becoming so popular and was attracting so many followers. They must have felt it undermined their authority and they plotted to destroy his name and reputation. One way of doing this which is still sometimes used today against people that have different ideas to what is normally accepted is to say that they are mentally ill. "He is out of his mind." they said, "He is possessed by Beelzebub!" (the devil) he is driving out evil spirits because he is the devil himself.

Jesus' answer was to tell them that was nonsense, he says: "How can Satan drive out Satan? Jesus then takes issue with the fact that they were saying that he had an evil spirit. 'Whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven' he tells them.

Then we hear that Jesus' family members arrive, and there follows a conversation which is easy to take the wrong way. When told that his mother and brothers have arrived Jesus says "Who are my mother and my brothers?". Jesus' words are not a disownment of his own family but an opportunity to teach the crowd gathered there and to teach us today that we may be part of a community- but importantly you and I are individually part of God's family.

For the many people who have outlived their close family members or have for different reasons lost touch with their family, I pray that Jesus' words bring you comfort and a sense of belonging.

Jesus said "Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

Amen

Closing prayer I thank you Jesus that you have made me a member of your family and whatever the future may hold you will see me safely through.

Amen