

Service for Week 19th – 25th October

2026 By Chaplain Andy

Our Opening Prayer.

Loving God, you came in Jesus to demonstrate that you are not distant from us, but here by our side. Help us to commit every part of life into your sure keeping, confident that you will give us the strength to see us safely through. **Amen**

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 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 Matthew 22:34-46

Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question:

"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'

This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." While the Pharisees were gathered together,

Jesus asked them, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" "The son of David," they replied. He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says, "'The Lord said to my Lord: 'Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.'" If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?"

No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Holy words, Holy wisdom,

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Our reading from Matthew's gospel is from the time when the religious authorities in Jerusalem started to become worried about the growing influence and support that Jesus was receiving everywhere he went. They tried, by asking difficult questions, to get Jesus to say something that would lose him support from his followers.

But on this occasion Jesus himself asks them a question 'Whose son is the Christ?' They answered "The son of David," because from the scriptures the Messiah – Jesus Christ was to be born from David's lineage. Jesus then quotes from a Psalm written by king David which is a prophesy about the coming Messiah. He quotes king David saying 'The Lord said to my Lord'

To understand this, we have to know that there were two different words for Lord used in this scripture text. The word Lord (Yahweh) meaning Jesus/God. and the word Lord (Adoni) meaning father. Jesus says to the Pharisees – if David calls him (Jesus) 'Lord' - how is it that he can be his son (his descendent)?

Jesus is saying - Jesus is a descendent of David but David in his prophesy calls him Lord. David must consider Jesus-the Messiah to be much more than that for him to call him Lord. It is hard for us to get our heads around this but Jesus -the Messiah was a physical descendent of David but because he is divine, he is the eternal Son of God, and existed before David was born.

Jesus is telling the Pharisees without directly saying it, is that he is a descendent of David but is much more than that – he is the Son of God, the Messiah, the one prophesied by David and the one they have been waiting for. His answer astounds them and they stop asking him difficult questions.

In the bible Jesus more often referred to himself as the 'Son of man' rather than the 'Son of God'. Today I find that thinking of Jesus as the Son of God describes something that is more than a Father /Son relationship than we might think of in human terms. Jesus the divine existed before time and is of

God. As the apostle and gospel writer John put it 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.'

Thinking also of Jesus being the 'Son of God' in terms of our own experience of parents and children can be helpful. It helps us because it is about a relationship that we know about and can understand. Depending on our life experiences, good or bad, we can understand and relate to it in some way. This helps us to have a closer relationship with God through Jesus Christ. I find it easier, when praying or sharing my thoughts with God, to pray to Jesus, sharing my joys or sorrows, asking for help, for his healing, or for guidance and strength in human terms. While knowing that Jesus who lived a human life understands our thoughts, desires and needs.

My prayer is that we all find and strengthen a close personal relationship with God through Jesus, because it is, I believe, why Jesus came and for that we give our thanks and praise.

Amen

Closing prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, I thank you for revealing God's love for me and for the daily reality of your presence in my life.

Amen

Prayers inspired by Prayerfully Yours by Nick Fawcett