

Readings for 2020 Anglicare Sunday

Readings for 18 October 2020:

Ezekiel 34:1-6, 17-19
Matthew 25:31–45;

Ezekiel 34:1-6, 17-19 A Paraphrase of the text.

A chilling criticism on society's leaders failing those people they were tasked to care for. Selfishness will be judged – eating the curds and clothing yourselves while the weak, sick and injured lie abandoned. A vivid example of mismanagement of resources – trampling pasture so that, even though there is enough for all, it is unusable for many.

Matthew 25:34-45

Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, ^[a]you did it to me.' ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'

Liturgy for 2020 Anglicare Sunday

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

We gather to give thanks to the God who sustains the weak and loves the poor and whose heart bleeds for the vulnerable. We ask you to pray for the work of Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & the ACT, to pray for its ministry in our communities and hear anew the call of God on our lives to be people who love in deed as well as in word. We seek to encourage each other to put Christ's Love into Action.

Let us pray:

Christ who fed the hungry:

Stir us, to put love into action that we might nourish the lives of others.

Christ who welcomed the outcast:

Stir us, to put love into action that we might be a community of acceptance.

Christ who touched the leper:

Stir us, to put love into action that we might reach out to the lonely and the broken.

Christ who overturned the money-changers' tables:

Stir us, to put love into action that we might stand against injustice.

Christ who offered living water:

Stir us, to put love into action that we might share the precious gift of faith.

Collect:

God of love,
you call us to care for the widow and the orphan,
to support the weak, and strengthen the fainthearted.

We give thanks for the work of Anglicare,
which brings your love to those in need
and embodies hope in action.

Enable us to work together to build communities of
respect and compassion, integrity, fairness and inclusiveness;
that your kingdom might be present on earth. Amen

A Justice and Peace Commitment for churches in Anti-Poverty Week

The Gospel compels us to seek peace founded on Christ's justice and that costly reconciliation is at its heart; that is Peace with God and Peace with each other: that work for justice, peace and an equitable society is a matter of urgency; that God has given us partnership as stewards of creation and that we have a responsibility to live in a right relationship with the whole of God's creation; that, handled with integrity, creation can provide for the needs of all, but not for the greed which leads to injustice and inequality, and endangers life on earth; that everyone should have the quality and dignity of a full life that requires adequate physical, social and political opportunity, without the oppression of poverty, injustice and fear; that social and political action leading to justice for all people and encouraged by prayer and discussion, is a vital work of the Church at all levels; We pray and act towards this Love in Action, this day.

Confession and Absolution:

Lord Jesus, you came with compassion for all.
When we have seen others in pain and turned away.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you showed us healing in your loving embrace.
When we have been in pain and refused the care of others.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, in you we are called to live in unity and peace.
When we have recognised injustice and failed to speak out.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution:

The Scriptures reminds us that we serve
a God of mercy and forgiveness.
May you know God's forgiveness in your lives,
and go forward to be bearers of forgiveness in the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Intercessory Prayers:

Let us pray to our God who welcomes all, in whose image we are made and who hears the desires of our hearts.

Faithful God, you have entrusted us to share with you the mission of your Church.
We pray for Church throughout the world and in our place...

Bless us with wisdom and grace to do our work well.

Generous God,
pour out your love.

We give thanks for the pioneers and benefactors of Anglicare who began the work that continues today.

Make us all faithful in keeping their vision alive.

Generous God,
pour out your love.

We give thanks for the skills and service of Anglicare Board members, praying for them and their Chair Lynette Glendenning.

Bless them with insight and energy as they work together.

Generous God,
pour out your love.

We pray for the CEO Jeremy Halcrow and give thanks for the dedication and compassion of Anglicare staff as they work closely with clients.

Bless them with fairness, resilience and love.

Generous God,
pour out your love.

We give thanks for all volunteers who contribute so richly to the work of Anglicare, and for the time, skills and care they offer.

Bless them with strength and refreshment in their labours.

Generous God,
pour out your love.

We pray for the clients of Anglicare and especially those who are most vulnerable and most in need.

We give thanks for everything that is received and learnt from them.

Bless us all with grace that we may see Christ's face in all your children.

Generous God,
pour out your love.

We give thanks for the contribution parishes make to the life and work of Anglicare, in addressing the needs and hopes of local communities.

Strengthen these relationships and bless them with a common sense of your love for all people.

Generous God,
pour out your love.

We give thanks for Anglicare partners in government and community who shape policy and direct resources, particularly as funding is so crucial and limited. Bless them with understanding, integrity, inclusiveness, and justice. Generous God,
pour out your love.

We give thanks for others who support the work of Anglicare, financial donors, those who pray, and for their desire to reach out in loving service. Bless them with empathy, courage and passion. Generous God,
pour out your love.

We make our prayer through the one who came among us as the friend and Saviour of sinners high and low alike, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

A blessing on you who are poor,
Yours is the kingdom of God.
A blessing on you who mourn,
You shall be comforted.
A blessing on you who hunger for justice,
You shall be satisfied
A blessing on you who make peace,
You shall be called children of God.
A blessing on you who are persecuted for the cause of right,
Yours is the kingdom of Heaven. Amen

Greeting of Peace:

Blessed are those who make peace, they shall be called children of God.
We meet in God's name and share God's peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Offertory Prayer:

God of mercy and compassion,
your Word calls us home to faith and love.
Accept all we offer you this day;
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Preface:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, faithful God,
always and everywhere;
for you see the plight of the oppressed
and your ears are open to the cries of the poor.

Throughout the ages you have called your people
to reach out in compassion
to the widow and the orphan,
to provide for the poor and for the dispossessed.

In your great love you entered our humanity,
embracing our poverty and knowing our frailty.
Son of God, born of Mary, Jesus lived our human life
and loved with your divine love.
He welcomed sinners and outcasts
and proclaimed that the little and the least
are great in the Kingdom of God.
Though rulers and powers turned against him
and he was killed, you raised him to new life.
And now you have called us to follow him,
walking his way of compassion and justice
and drawing others into your love.

And so we praise you,
joining with your faithful people of every time and place,
singing the eternal song:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory**

Hosanna in the highest.

[Blessed is he/the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.]

Post Communion Prayer:

Merciful God

may we who have gathered at your table, be nourished by your life.

We who have tasted of your love, bear witness in the world.

Inspire us by your Spirit, that celebrating the work of Anglicare today,

our eyes may be opened, and our hearts stirred,

that we may go forth to [local community name] your kingdom on earth. Amen.

Anglicare Prayer for Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT:

God grant us the compassion to care deeply for others; the wisdom to discern how best to help; the energy to transform emotion into action, and the joy of wholehearted, loving service. For Christ's sake. Amen.

Anglicare Australia Prayer:

God of Life Giving Creation,

You call us to act justly, to love mercy, to walk humbly with you.

We pray for the member organisations of Anglicare Australia working across this vast and ancient land.

Enable us as we strive to meet human need through loving service and to build communities of resilience, hope and justice.

Encourage us to work in mutual partnership to effect positive change.

Empower the people we serve to reach their full potential, especially those who experience disadvantage and injustice.

Guide us in our advocacy for social justice

and strengthen our determination to respond with compassion.

Remind us to care for ourselves and each other

as we face the challenges of our work,

and as we seek reconciliation, healing and community transformation.

All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ,

our servant leader and friend.

Amen.

Final Blessing:

(A Franciscan Benediction as adapted at Anglicare Australia National Conference 2016)

May God bless you with discomfort:

At easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships
so that you may live a life of depth.

May God bless you with anger:

At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people
so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with tears:

To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and violence,
so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and
to turn their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness:

To believe that you can make a difference in the world,
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done
and bring justice and kindness to all.

May God bless us with delight:

At our diversity, in the richness of the cultures of our ancient land,
so that we may all dance the spirit of our dreaming
expecting to be surprised at the beauty of the other.
And may the blessing...