

Sunday Service 2026

——— for seafarers around the world ———

A year of worship, hope and encouragement at sea



Revd. Noah Park

Seachurch Ministry

Mission to Seafarers Geelong

© 2026 Revd. Noah Park
Seachurch Ministry
Mission to Seafarers Geelong

This book is provided for worship and pastoral use.
It may be freely shared for non-commercial purposes.
All Scripture quotations are from recognised Bible translations.

Printed and distributed for the care of seafarers.

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	4
How to use this book	4
Sunday Service (4 January 2026)	5
Sunday Service (11 January 2026)	7
Sunday Service (18 January 2026)	9
Sunday Service (25 January 2026)	11
Sunday Service (1 February 2026)	13
Sunday Service (8 February 2026)	15
Sunday Service (15 February 2026)	17
Sunday Service (22 February 2026, Lent)	19
Sunday Service (1 March 2026, Lent)	21
Sunday Service (8 March 2026, Lent)	23
Sunday Service (15 March 2026, Lent)	25
Sunday Service (22 March 2026)	27
Sunday Service (29 March 2026)	29
Easter Sunday Service (5 April 2026)	31
Sunday Service (12 April 2026)	33
Sunday Service (23 April 2026)	35
Sunday Service (26 April 2026)	37
Sunday Service (3 May 2026)	39
Sunday Service (10 May 2026)	41
Sunday Service (17 May 2026)	43
Sunday Service (24 May 2026, Pentecost)	45
Sunday Service (31 May 2026, Trinity Sunday)	47
Sunday Service (7 June 2026)	49
Sunday Service (14 June 2026)	51
Sunday Service (21 June 2026)	53
Sunday Service (28 June 2026)	55
Sunday Service (5 July 2026)	57
Sunday Service (12 July 2026)	59
Sunday Service (19 July 2026)	61
Sunday Service (26 July 2026)	63
Sunday Service (2 August 2026)	65
Sunday Service (9 August 2026)	67
Sunday Service (16 August 2026)	69
Sunday Service (23 August 2026)	71
Sunday Service (30 August 2026)	73
Sunday Service (6 September 2026)	75
Sunday Service (13 September 2026)	77
Sunday Service (20 September 2026)	79
Sunday Service (27 September 2026)	81
Sunday Service (4 October 2026)	83
Sunday Service (11 October 2026)	85
Sunday Service (18 October 2026)	87
Sunday Service (25 October 2026)	89
Sunday Service (1 November 2026)	91
Sunday Service (8 November 2026)	93
Sunday Service (15 November 2026)	95
Sunday Service (22 November 2026)	97
Sunday Service (29 November 2026)	99
Sunday Service (6 December 2026)	101
Sunday Service (13 December 2026)	103
Sunday Service (20 December 2026)	105
Christmas Day (25 December 2026)	107
Sunday Service (27 December 2026)	109
Collection of Prayers	111

Introduction

This book has been prepared especially for seafarers. Over the past fifteen years, Sunday Service messages have been shared regularly with seafarers sailing across the oceans. These messages were written to encourage faith, offer comfort, and create space for worship in the unique and often challenging environment of life at sea.

Now, those messages have been gathered and collated into this book so that worship may take place on board your vessel, wherever you may be. Whether you are crossing vast oceans, waiting in port, or far from home and church, this book is offered as a companion for Sunday worship at sea.

This resource is arranged according to the **2026 Christian Lectionary**, so that it may be used by Christians of all denominations. By following the rhythm of the Christian year, seafarers can remain connected with the wider Church around the world, even while worshipping in their own place and time.

Life on board a ship brings together people from many nations, cultures, and languages. While we recognise this rich diversity, English is often the common working language at sea. For this reason, this book is provided in English so that crew members may worship together using a shared language. At the same time, it is also suitable for personal worship, allowing individuals to pray, read Scripture, and reflect quietly on their own.

How to use this book

This book may be used in many different ways depending on your situation onboard.

1. Each service is arranged in a two-page format, making it easy to copy and share. These pages may be printed for use onboard ships, handed directly to crew members in port or distributed digitally by email, as appropriate.
2. It may be used for group worship, led by a crew member or chaplain, with others joining together in prayer and Scripture. It may also be used for personal worship, allowing individuals to spend quiet time with God.
3. You are welcome to add hymns, songs, moments of silence, or other elements that help your worship. The order of service may be adapted freely.
4. Text shown in bold is intended to be read aloud together, helping the crew to participate as one voice during worship.
5. There is no single correct way to use this book. What matters most is the heart that comes before God.

It is my prayer that through this book, God may be glorified and that spiritual richness may overflow among those who use it. May it bring strength to the weary, peace to the anxious, and hope to those who feel far from home. Above all, may the season of Christ fill every sea we sail, and may God's presence be known and felt wherever this book is opened.

Noah Park
Chaplain
Mission to Seafarers Geelong

Sunday Service (4 January 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Eternal God,
who by a star led Magi to the worship of your Son:
guide the nations of the earth by your light,
that the whole world may see your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

The story of the wise men is a powerful part of the Christmas season. These men, called the Magi, came from far away in the East. They had seen a bright star in the sky and believed it was a sign that a new king had been born, the King of the Jews. They followed the light of that star all the way to Jerusalem, asking where this special child could be found. When King Herod heard their question, he became deeply troubled, along with the whole city. Herod gathered all the religious leaders and teachers and asked where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem." So Herod passed this message to the wise men.

The star appeared again and led the wise men until it stopped over the place where the child was. They were filled with joy. When they arrived, they found Jesus with Mary, His mother, and they bowed down to worship Him. They gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they took a different road back to their own country. The journey of the wise men is more than a beautiful story. It teaches us what it means to follow the signs that God gives and to seek Him with our whole hearts. The star caught their attention, but it was the Word of God that pointed them to Jesus.

The wise men did not find Jesus by the star alone. They needed help from Scripture. They asked questions and listened to people who knew the Word of God. In the same way, we also need both signs and the truth of Scripture. God may guide us through open doors, kind people, or moments of stillness. But we must be grounded in the truth found in His Word. The light may lead us in a direction, but it is the Word that confirms it. For those of you who work and live at sea, this is a lesson you already know well. You rely on

lights and instruments to navigate safely. In life, we need both the voice of God and the Word of God to stay on course.

As we enter this new year, God invites us to watch for His light. This light may come through the love of others, through quiet reflection, or through a powerful truth found in the Bible. Do not ignore what He shows you, and do not forget to read and reflect on His Word. Like the wise men, ask the right questions, seek wise counsel, and be open to change. They found Jesus not by luck, but because they were looking, listening, and willing to follow. They were also ready to take a different path when God told them to go another way. This too is part of wisdom, to change direction when God calls us to do so.

As the new year begins, let go of the burdens you carried last year. Let go of fear, shame, and old habits that weighed you down. Fill your life instead with the truth of God's Word, with trust in His voice, and with a heart that watches for His light. Even when the world feels dark, God's light still shines. He still speaks, and He still leads. The same God who guided the wise men will guide you. Keep your eyes on Jesus. You will find Him, just as they did. And when you do, give Him your heart in worship. He is still worthy of your praise.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Gracious God, we thank You for the light that still leads us today, just as it led the wise men to Jesus. As we begin this new year, help us to follow Your guidance with open hearts. Teach us to seek Your truth through Your Word and to listen when You speak. When the way is unclear, remind us that You are faithful to guide us. Shine Your light on our path. Bless our crew, our journey, and our families back home. Fill us with wisdom, courage and peace. May we always seek You, trust You, and worship You. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (11 January 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God,
who anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit
and revealed him as your beloved Son:
inspire us, your children,
who are born again of water and the Spirit,
to surrender our lives to your service,
that we may rejoice to be called your children;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and a lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

When Jesus came to the Jordan River to be baptised by John, something powerful happened. Even though John felt unworthy and tried to stop Him, Jesus said it was the right thing to do. As soon as Jesus was baptised, the heavens opened, and the Spirit of God came down like a dove. Then a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the one I love. I am very pleased with Him." These words were spoken before Jesus had done anything in public. He had not healed anyone yet, had not preached, had not gone through the hard days of testing. Still, God said, "I am pleased with You." This shows us that God's love comes first.

God did not wait for Jesus to earn approval. The love of the Father was already there. This is good news for us. Before we do anything, before we get things right, God loves us. His love is not something we earn. It is something He gives freely. We do not have to perform or be perfect. Just like Jesus heard those words, "You are my beloved," we too are called children of God. We are loved because we belong to Him. Many of us live in a world where we are measured by our work or results. But in God's eyes, we are already loved. And that love never fails.

Jesus began His ministry from a place of love and blessing. From there, He went into the wilderness to be tested. He faced struggles and temptations, but He returned strong and ready to serve. Our journey often mirrors this. We too are baptised and then face trials. We go through storms, doubts, and times when we wonder if we are enough. But we begin with the same truth: we are loved. This is not an easy path. Life as a follower of Jesus is not always smooth. But it is full of meaning. We are not called to avoid pain, but to love others even when it is hard, just as Jesus did. We find purpose when we live with care and compassion for others.

Sometimes we forget what our baptism means. It becomes just another moment in the past. But baptism is the beginning of a new life. It is a mark of who we are – children of God, deeply loved and called to live for Him. Martin Luther once said we should

remember our baptism every day. When you wash your face in the morning, let that water remind you that you belong to God. You are not forgotten. You are not alone. No matter how far you travel, no matter the waves or the distance from home, you are still a beloved child of God. And because of that, you are sent to live with purpose, to love others as you have been loved.

As we move forward into a new season, let us not forget who we are. We are not defined by our past or by the world's standards. We are defined by the love of God. That love comes first. It is the foundation for everything else. Like Jesus, we go out into the world with that love in our hearts. We serve, we heal, we forgive, we listen, and we bring hope. Not because we are perfect, but because God first loved us. Let every day begin with that truth. "Oh, how I love Jesus," we say. And we mean it, because He first loved us.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Loving God, thank You for calling us Your beloved, even before we do anything to earn it. Just as You spoke words of love over Jesus at His baptism, speak into our hearts today. Help us to live each day knowing we belong to You. When we face trials or feel alone, remind us that You are near. When we feel unworthy, remind us of Your grace and mercy. Strengthen us to share Your love through our words and actions. Watch over our families at home. Bless them with peace, joy, and safety while we are apart. Fill our hearts with hope and guide us with Your Spirit every day. Thank You for loving us first. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (18 January 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God,
whose Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, is the light of the world:
may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed
to the ends of the earth;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

John 1:35-42

The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!" When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?" They said, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" "Come," he replied, "and you will see." So they went and saw where he was staying, and spent that day with him. It was about the tenth hour. Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter).

This part of John's Gospel gives us a beautiful picture of how following Jesus begins. It starts with two men hearing John the Baptist say, "Look, the Lamb of God." John had seen Jesus before and knew who He was. Now, John points others to Jesus. The two disciples do not hesitate. They begin to follow Jesus. When Jesus notices them walking behind Him, He turns around and asks a simple question: "What do you want?" Their answer is humble. They ask where He is staying, and Jesus replies with three powerful words: "Come and see." These words changed their lives, and they still change lives today.

Jesus does not force anyone to follow Him. He invites. He does not test or demand anything. Instead, He opens the door and allows people to draw close, to spend time with Him, and to learn who He really is. The two men accept the invitation. They spend the day with Jesus. One of them is Andrew. After being with Jesus for just one day, Andrew knows he has found something life-changing. He runs to tell his brother Simon. He says, "We have found the Messiah." Then he brings Simon to Jesus, and something powerful happens. Jesus looks at Simon and gives him a new name, Peter. That moment begins a journey that will change Peter's life and impact the world.

This story reminds us that following Jesus often starts with something simple. It may begin with a question, a quiet moment, or someone pointing us in the right direction. Jesus calls us in gentle ways. He says, "Come and see." We do not need to understand everything at first. We just need to take the first step. As we walk with Him, our understanding grows. We begin to experience His peace, His love, and His purpose for our lives. We discover that He sees us as we really are and yet still calls us forward into something greater.

For those at sea, this message can speak deeply to your heart. You understand what it means to follow a light in the dark. You know how important it is to trust your direction and to stay on course. Jesus is like that light - steady, clear, and always leading us toward hope. You may feel far from land, but you are never far from God. Just like He saw Simon and gave him a new name, He also sees you. He knows your story. He knows your heart. He knows your potential. And He is calling you, right where you are, to come and see.

So today, take time to hear that call. Jesus is not waiting for you to become perfect. He is simply asking for your presence. Spend time with Him in prayer. Read a passage from the Bible. Open your heart and ask, "Where are You staying, Lord?" Then listen. Trust that He will show you. And like Andrew, once you have experienced the joy of being with Jesus, share it. Invite someone else to come and see. You never know how one small step, one quiet invitation, can change a life forever. And like Simon Peter, trust that Jesus sees more in you than you see in yourself. He is calling you to follow. Will you answer?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Lord Jesus, thank You for calling us to come and see. Thank You for knowing our hearts and still inviting us to walk with You. Like the first disciples, we want to follow You, even when we do not have all the answers. Give us courage to take that first step, and faith to keep going. Speak to us through Your Word and help us to hear Your voice. Watch over our families back home. Keep them safe and at peace. Guide our journey, protect our crew, and remind us that we are never alone. We trust You, and we thank You for loving us first. In Your name we pray, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (25 January 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Loving God,
the light of the minds that know you,
the life of the souls that love you,
and the strength of the hearts that serve you:
help us so to know you that we may truly love you,
and so to love you that we may faithfully serve you,
whose service is perfect freedom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Matthew 4:12-23

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he returned to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali - to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles - the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

After Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He returned to Galilee. This was the beginning of something new and powerful. Jesus moved to a town by the lake called Capernaum. There, He began to preach a simple message with deep meaning. He said, "Turn away from sin, for the kingdom of heaven is near." People who had been living in darkness, without hope or peace, were now seeing a new light. That light was Jesus. He had come to bring truth and healing to their lives. His words and presence offered something more than what they had known before.

One day, Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee. He saw two fishermen, Simon Peter and his brother Andrew, casting their nets into the water. Jesus said to them, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." At once, they left their nets and followed Him. A little later, Jesus saw two more brothers, James and John, in a boat with their father. They were preparing their nets. Jesus called them too, and immediately, they left their boat and their father to follow Him. These men were not rich or famous. They were regular workers. But they listened to Jesus and obeyed without delay.

Fishing was their everyday job. It required patience, skill, and hard work. Jesus used what they knew to teach them something new. He would now train them to reach people instead of fish. They would share the message of God's love and help others find new life. The same invitation Jesus gave to them is still offered to us today. He says, "Come,

follow me.” He calls us to love people, care for the lost, and bring others into the family of God. You do not need special training. You just need to be willing.

This message speaks in a special way to those who work at sea. You understand how to read the signs, how to navigate unknown waters, and how to trust the tools that guide your ship. In the same way, following Jesus is about trusting His direction, even when you cannot see what is ahead. It is about letting go of old ways and choosing a better path. Jesus is still walking along the shore of our lives and calling each of us by name. He does not wait for us to be perfect. He meets us where we are and leads us into something greater.

So let the image of the boat and the nets remind you of who you are. If you believe in Jesus and choose to follow Him, you are a fisher of people. This means that through your words and actions, you help others discover the love of God. You offer hope to those who are hurting. You remind others that they are not alone. You might be the reason someone decides to turn toward God. Do not be afraid to answer when Jesus calls. He has a purpose for your life, and He will give you everything you need. Say yes to His invitation. Leave behind what holds you back, and follow the one who gives life to all.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer’s Prayer)

Loving God, Lord Jesus, we thank you for loving us and for calling us to follow you. We thank you for the new life, which you give to all who believe in you. We give you thanks for your peace, for gift to us and for how you have promised it to the whole world. Help us to love others in the way you love us, help us to shine for you and to bring people into your kingdom. Help us to hear the good news, to repent, and so be ready to welcome our Saviour and to enter into the kingdom he brings. Help us and all seafarers to keep on the right course always, O Lord, and so be a blessing to you and your world, and to reach the safe port of heaven. **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (1 February 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Living God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The words of Jesus from the mountain remind us that God's blessing is often found in unexpected places and people. Jesus did not say the rich, the powerful, or the successful are blessed. Instead, He spoke about the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, and the ones who hunger for righteousness. He spoke about people who are merciful, pure in heart, those who work for peace, and even those who are insulted and persecuted. These are not the kind of people the world usually sees as strong or blessed. But Jesus tells us that God is near to them. He sees them. He meets them where they are. These are the people who are part of His kingdom.

This message helps us understand where and how God meets us. Many times, we look for God in special places or moments. We may expect Him only in churches, during prayer, or when we feel especially spiritual. But the truth is that life is not always filled with big, special events. Much of life is made up of ordinary days – working, eating, resting, helping others, or facing challenges. In these ordinary times and places, God is present. He meets us while we are busy with daily life, even when we do not expect Him. Whether we are at home, at sea, in the hospital, or simply sitting with a friend, God is there.

Jesus' words show us that God blesses people who are open to Him, even in their struggles. When we are poor in spirit, when we feel low or empty, God says the kingdom of heaven is ours. When we mourn, He promises comfort. When we choose gentleness, when we hunger for what is right, when we try to be kind and merciful, God is close. Even when we face rejection for our faith, God says our reward is great. These promises are not only for people in the Bible. They are for us today. They remind us that God meets us in our pain, our weakness, and our longing for something better.

It is not about reaching up to God through perfect faith or grand actions. Instead, God reaches down to us. He comes to meet us in our everyday lives. The proof of God's presence is not always found in big signs or emotional experiences. It is often found in how we grow, how we learn to love more, how we keep going in difficult times. It is seen in how we choose peace over anger, kindness over revenge, and trust over fear. When we walk humbly, love deeply, and act justly, we are living in God's way. And in doing so, we meet God again and again.

So, today, let us remember that God meets us where we are. We do not have to wait for a special day or a perfect moment. Whether we are joyful or sad, strong or weak, hopeful or tired, God is with us. He sees every act of love, every moment of pain, and every effort we make to live rightly. Let us trust His presence and believe in His love. Let us be the kind of people Jesus described on the mountain: people who are honest, kind, and faithful. And may we know deep in our hearts that we are truly blessed, for God walks with us through it all.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Loving God, thank You for meeting us right where we are - in our work, in our rest, in our joy, and in our pain. Thank You for the words of Jesus, reminding us that we are blessed, even when life is hard. Help us to live with mercy, kindness, and peace. Teach us to walk humbly and to trust You, even when we feel weak or unsure. Be near to those who are far from home today, especially our families and friends. Let us carry Your light wherever we go. May we bring hope to others, just as You have brought hope to us. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (8 February 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Faithful God,
you have appointed us your witness,
to be a light that shines in the world:
let us not hide the bright hope you have given us,
but tell everyone your love,
revealed in Jesus Christ the Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 5:13-18

"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

Jesus spoke to His followers with words that still reach us today. He said, "You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world." These are powerful words. They remind us of who we are and what God calls us to be. Salt brings flavor. Light brings clarity. Both are essential for life, and both are meant to serve others. Jesus does not say we might become salt and light someday. He says we already are. It is not something we must earn. It is who we are, because God has placed His Spirit in us.

Salt by itself is not much. No one eats a bowl of salt. But when added to food, it changes everything. It enhances flavour and helps preserve what is good. In the same way, we are called to be a good influence wherever we go. When we live with kindness, honesty, and love, we help preserve what is good in the world. We make life better for those around us. Light works the same way. A single light can help others see in the dark. Our light is not meant to be hidden. Jesus tells us to let it shine. That means living our faith openly, not for praise, but so others may see God's goodness through us.

Think about the people who have inspired you in your life. Maybe it was someone who shared love with you when you were struggling. Maybe it was someone who listened to you with care and wisdom. That person was a light to you. Their faith made your path clearer. In the same way, we can be that light to others. When we share truth, peace, and compassion, we shine in a world that sometimes feels dark and confusing. Jesus says that when others see our good works, they will give glory to God. Our purpose is not to draw attention to ourselves, but to help people find their way to God.

Jesus also tells us that He did not come to get rid of the law or the teachings of the prophets. Instead, He came to fulfill them. That means the message of love, justice, and mercy is still important. Jesus lived it out perfectly, and He calls us to follow Him. The

Bible is not just an old book. It is a living guide. It helps us understand who God is and how we are meant to live. When we live by its truth, we shine even brighter.

So, how can we be salt and light today? It starts with small choices. Speak kindly when others are harsh. Forgive when it is hard. Help someone without expecting anything in return. Stand up for what is right, even if you stand alone. Spend time with God in prayer and in His Word. Encourage someone who feels forgotten. Each of these things is like salt, bringing flavour and hope. Each act of love is like light in the darkness.

God made you with a purpose. He put His light in you so you could help others see. You are not here by accident. Your life matters. Your faith matters. The world needs what you have been given. So do not be afraid to shine. Do not be afraid to live as the salt of the earth. Wherever you are - at sea, at home, at work, or in a quiet moment; remember what Jesus said: You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. Let your life reflect His love, so others may find their way to Him.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Loving God, thank You for reminding us that we are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Help us to live each day with purpose, sharing Your love through our words and actions. May our lives bring flavor where there is bitterness, and light where there is darkness. Strengthen us when we feel weak or hidden. Give us courage to stand for what is right, even when it is hard. Let Your light shine through us so that others may see Your goodness and give glory to You. Bless our families and those we care about. Keep us faithful in every place You send us. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (15 February 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God,
you gave the law to guide our lives:
grant that we may never shrink from your commandments,
but, as we are taught by your Spirit,
may fulfil your law in perfect love;
through Christ our Lord and Master,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 5:33-37

“Again, you have heard that it was said to those of ancient times, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but carry out the vows you have made to the Lord.’ But I say to you, Do not swear at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let your word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’; anything more than this comes from the evil one.

Out at sea, trust is everything. Whether you are on deck, in the engine room, or steering through rough weather, you rely on each other's word. When a crew member gives an instruction or shares information, you trust that it is true. There is no space for guessing or confusion. That is why Jesus' words in Matthew chapter five are so meaningful, especially for those who work on the sea. He says, “Let your yes be yes and your no be no.” Jesus is teaching about something simple but powerful. He is teaching about integrity. That means being honest, dependable, and truthful in both our words and actions. He tells us not to make grand promises or swear by anything in heaven or on earth. Just say what you mean. Be clear. Be truthful. Be a person others can count on.

For seafarers, this lesson makes a lot of sense. You already live this way in your work. You know how important it is to follow through on tasks, to watch each other's backs, and to speak with care. A small lie or mistake at sea can have big consequences. Trust is built on doing what you say. Jesus wants that same kind of trust to shape every part of our lives - our work, our friendships, our families, and our faith. Jesus is not asking for complicated promises or fancy words. He is asking for plain truth. Speak honestly. Keep your promises. Let your words match your actions. When we do that, people begin to notice something different about us. They see Christ working in us. They see that our faith is real and that our God is trustworthy.

But integrity is not always easy. Sometimes it might feel easier to hide the truth or say what others want to hear. Sometimes we feel pressure to promise things we cannot deliver. But Jesus wants more for us. He wants us to live in a way that brings honour to God and builds up the people around us. He calls us to be truthful, even when it is hard. Even when it costs us something.

Think about how a compass works on a ship. If it is even slightly off, it can lead the whole crew in the wrong direction. Our words work the same way. A small lie, a careless promise, or a broken word can cause harm. But when we speak with truth and live with honesty, we help others stay on course. Our words become a guide and a light for others.

Jesus is our perfect example. He never broke a promise. He kept His word, even when it meant pain and suffering. In the garden before the cross, He asked His Father if there was another way. But when He saw that the path ahead was necessary, He obeyed. He followed through. He became the perfect promise keeper. And because of His faithfulness, we have hope and life.

So let us take Jesus' words to heart. Let your yes be yes and your no be no. On the ship, with our families at home, in daily choices and quiet prayers, let us be people who are known for honesty. Let others see that our words can be trusted – not because we are trying to look good, but because we follow the One who is always good.

In a world where many words are empty, your truth can shine like a light. Your honesty is a testimony. You may not preach with words, but your life tells the story of Jesus. So stay on course. Speak truth. Keep your word. And let your life reflect the One who keeps every promise.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Loving and faithful God, thank You for being the One who always keeps His promises. Help us to follow Your example and be people of truth and integrity in all we say and do. As we work at sea, guide our words, our actions, and our choices, so that our yes is yes and our no is no. Give us strength to be honest even when it is difficult. We lift before You our families and our children at home. Surround them with Your protection, Your peace, and Your love. Keep them safe while we are far away. Comfort them when they miss us and fill their hearts with hope and joy. Bless our homes with unity and harmony. Lord, let our lives shine with Your light. Help us to honour You in every place we go. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (22 February 2026, Lent)

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,
whose mercy endures for ever. Amen.

Almighty God,
whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet did not sin:
give us grace to direct our lives in obedience to your will,
that, as you know our weakness,
so we may know your power to save;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Lent is a season of reflection, repentance, and renewal. It mirrors the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness, fasting and facing temptation. For seafarers, who often spend long periods away from land, family, and comfort, this story has deep meaning. Like Jesus in the wilderness, you know what it means to be isolated, to be tested, and to rely on something greater than yourself to keep going. Lent reminds us that these hard moments are not wasted. They are opportunities to draw closer to God.

In Matthew 4, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness. He fasts for forty days and nights. He is hungry, tired, and vulnerable. That is when the devil comes. The temptations begin. First, he tempts Jesus to turn stones into bread. Then, he tempts Him to test God by throwing Himself from the temple. Lastly, he offers Jesus all the kingdoms of the world in exchange for worship. Each time, Jesus responds not with fear or anger, but with Scripture. "Man shall not live by bread alone," He says. "Do not test the Lord your God." "Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only."

Lent calls us to follow this same path. It invites us to examine our own hearts. What temptations are we facing? It may not be turning stones into bread, but maybe it is the temptation to give up, to stop praying, or to rely only on ourselves. At sea, temptations come in many forms – frustration, loneliness, anger, despair. Lent helps us name those struggles and bring them before God, not in shame, but with hope. Jesus knows what it means to be tested, and He offers us strength for the journey.

What gave Jesus victory in the wilderness was His trust in the Father and His grounding in God's Word. He did not try to face the devil with clever words. He answered with truth. That is a powerful lesson for us. When we hide God's Word in our hearts, we are not defenceless. When we pray, when we confess, when we fast, we are not alone. We are walking with Jesus. And like Him, we are being strengthened for whatever lies ahead. This Lenten season, whether you are sailing through calm waters or braving storms, know that God is shaping you. Lent is not just about giving something up. It is about turning back to God with all your heart. It is a time to clean the deck of your soul, to throw out the distractions, and to focus again on what truly matters. Jesus came through the wilderness ready to begin His ministry. You too are being prepared for something greater. God is working in you, even now.

So let us use these forty days wisely. Let us pray with purpose, confess honestly, and walk humbly with our God. Let us remember that the wilderness is not the end of the story. Resurrection is coming. New life is coming. But before that, there is this time to grow. Stand strong. Know that your Saviour walks with you through every desert, every deep sea, and every storm. In Christ, you have everything you need to overcome.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;**

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Heavenly Father, thank You for guiding us through the storms and the stillness. As we journey through this Lenten season, help us to walk closely with You. Strengthen our hearts when we feel weak, and remind us that Jesus overcame the wilderness so we could find hope. Bless every seafarer with protection, peace, and purpose. Watch over our families and children at home, fill them with comfort and joy. Teach us to live with faith, love, and truth. May our lives reflect Your light in a world that longs for hope. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (1 March 2026, Lent)

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,
whose mercy endures for ever.

God of mercy,
you are full of tenderness and compassion,
slow to anger, rich in mercy,
and always ready to forgive:
grant us grace to renounce all evil and to cling to Christ,
that in every way we may prove to be your loving children;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

John 3:9-17

Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

At sea, life teaches us about trust, endurance, and the vastness of creation. Seafarers understand the power of the wind, the depth of the sea, and the value of light in darkness. During Lent, we are reminded of something even greater - the depth of God's love, shown through Jesus Christ, who was lifted up for our salvation. In John chapter three, Jesus speaks with a man named Nicodemus. Nicodemus was a religious leader with many questions, just like many of us have questions when life is hard or unclear. Jesus tells him, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." Jesus was speaking about His future on the cross. He would be lifted up, not to condemn the world, but to save it.

This message speaks to every person, including those who work on ships, far from home, in quiet waters or raging storms. When you are out at sea, you know what it means to look up for direction, to rely on the light of a distant star, or to follow a steady compass. Jesus, lifted up on the cross, is our true and steady guide. In Him, we find forgiveness, purpose, and eternal life. John 3:16 reminds us of the heart of our faith: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." God's love reaches into every corner of this world, even the deep sea. No distance can keep His love from you. Whether you are sailing near the shore or crossing the ocean, God is present.

Lent is a time to reflect, to turn back to God, and to prepare our hearts for Easter. It is a time to remember the sacrifice Jesus made, and to renew our trust in Him. As seafarers, you may not have a church building around you, but your ship can become a place of

worship. Your daily duties can become moments of prayer. You can talk to God while standing watch or working below deck. He hears you.

The cross is a symbol of suffering, but it is also a symbol of victory. When Jesus was lifted up, He carried the weight of our sins and gave us hope. He invites us to look to Him, to believe, and to receive the life that never ends. That hope is stronger than any storm and more faithful than any tide. You may face loneliness or fatigue. You may miss your family and feel the pressure of your responsibilities. But remember this: God sent His Son not to condemn you, but to save you. He knows your journey. He walks with you. He stands watch over you. And He gives you peace that reaches beyond the waves.

Let the cross remind you that you are never alone. Look to Jesus, and you will find strength. Trust in His love, and you will find peace. Share His light with your crewmates, through kindness, honesty, and care. Let your life reflect the one who was lifted up for you. In this Lenten season, may your faith grow stronger. May the sea not be a barrier, but a bridge that reminds you how far God's love reaches. And may the cross of Christ be your compass, guiding you home to the heart of God.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;**

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Lord God, thank You for loving us so deeply that You sent Your Son to be lifted up for our salvation. Today we lift ourselves before You as seafarers. Watch over us on our voyages. Calm the storms, guide our ships, and fill our hearts with peace. Be near to our families waiting at home. Protect our children, strengthen our loved ones, and bring comfort during times of separation. In every harbour and on every sea, remind us that we are never alone. Help us to trust in Your love and to carry Your light wherever we go. May we find hope in the cross and strength in Your presence. In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (8 March 2026, Lent)

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,
whose mercy endures for ever. Amen.

O God, the fountain of life,
to a humanity parched with thirst
you offer the living water that springs from the Rock,
our Saviour Jesus Christ:
stir up within your people the gift of your Spirit,
that we may profess our faith with freshness
and announce with joy the wonder of your love.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

John 4:19-26

The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Life at sea teaches us many things. We become familiar with different types of water - calm seas, rough waves, quiet ports, and roaring storms. We work around water, live above it, and sometimes face its great power. Yet, even with so much water around us, we can feel a deep dryness in our hearts. We might feel tired from the demands of the job, lonely because of the distance from home, or even forgotten by those on land. In the Gospel of John chapter four, Jesus meets a woman at a well and offers her something more than just physical water. He offers her living water. This is not only her story, it is also ours. Each one of us longs for something deeper, and Jesus is the only one who can truly satisfy that thirst.

The woman Jesus met was someone others ignored. She came to the well during the hottest part of the day, likely because the other women avoided her. She carried shame, pain, and a past that made her feel unworthy. But Jesus did not judge her or push her away. He spoke to her with respect and love. He knew everything about her and still saw her as worthy of a new beginning. That is exactly how He sees each of us. No matter how far we are from home or how heavy our hearts may feel, Jesus comes to meet us. He does not wait for us to have everything together. He steps into our ordinary moments and offers us hope. He speaks truth to our soul and offers us living water that refreshes and restores us from within.

In His conversation with the woman, Jesus says that true worship is not about a place. It is about the heart. He says the time has come when people will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. That is good news for seafarers. We do not need to be in a church building to draw close to God. We can worship Him wherever we are - on the bridge, in the engine room, during a quiet night watch, or in our bunk during rest. God is not far. He

is near. His Spirit reaches every ocean and every port. He knows our hearts, hears our prayers, and welcomes our honest worship.

After meeting Jesus, the woman at the well did not keep her experience to herself. She ran to tell others. She told her village about the man who knew her and loved her anyway. Her testimony led many others to believe. The change in her life was real and others noticed. We are called to do the same. When we know the love of Jesus, it is not meant to be hidden. It is meant to shine through our words and actions. When we work faithfully, show kindness, and support one another on board, we reflect His light. Even in small ways, our faith can become a beacon for those around us.

Many of us carry worries and questions. We may wonder if God still sees us or if He still cares. But the message of Jesus is this: He does see us, and He does care. He comes to meet us just as we are. He offers us living water, not just for today but for every day. He gives us strength for the journey and peace for the storms. No matter where the ship may sail, we are never beyond His reach. His love does not run out. His presence never fails. So today, let us open our hearts and receive what only Jesus can give - true life, deep peace, and living water that never runs dry.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Dear Lord, thank You for meeting us with love and grace wherever we are, even in the middle of the sea. We are grateful for the living water Jesus offers. Fill our hearts with peace, hope, and strength. When we feel tired or lonely, remind us that You are near. Guide our work, protect our ship, and bless our crew. Watch over our families and children waiting at home. Help us to love others, speak with kindness, and live with truth. Let our actions show that we belong to You. Thank You for never leaving us. Thank You for refreshing our souls and giving us a purpose. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (15 March 2026, Lent)

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,
whose mercy endures for ever.

Gracious God,
in order that we children of earth
might discern good from evil
you sent your Son to be the light of the world:
as the light of Christ shines upon us,
may we learn what pleases you,
and live in truth and goodness;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

John 9:1-7

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

On the Fourth Sunday of Lent, we reflect on the story of a man born blind who is healed by Jesus. This powerful event is more than just a miracle. It reveals who Jesus is and what He offers to those who are hurting, forgotten, or searching for light in the dark. For those of us at sea, this message speaks clearly. We know what it means to walk in darkness, to feel isolated or uncertain. But Jesus tells us that even in those moments, God is near and His light is strong.

As Jesus and His disciples passed by, they saw a man who had been blind from birth. The disciples asked, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" They assumed suffering must come from guilt or failure. But Jesus replied, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned. This happened so that the works of God might be revealed in him." In that one answer, Jesus shifts our thinking. He reminds us that pain is not always punishment. Struggle is not always the result of wrongdoing. Sometimes it is the place where God's power is most clearly seen.

Jesus then performs a unique act. He spits on the ground, makes mud, puts it on the man's eyes, and tells him to go wash in the Pool of Siloam. The man obeys. He walks to the pool, washes, and comes back able to see. There is deep meaning here. Healing often involves action. God offers grace, but we must respond. The man's faith was shown by his steps. He trusted what Jesus said. He went even before he saw. That is how faith often works. It leads us forward before the full answer is visible. As seafarers, you understand this moving forward through fog and storm, guided by trust and experience. Faith works in much the same way.

Jesus also tells His disciples, "While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." That is His promise to us. He is not only a healer, He is also our light. In a world full of darkness,

confusion, and despair, He shines with truth, hope, and peace. At sea, we know how precious light is. A small light on the horizon can mean safety. It can lead us home. In our lives, Jesus is that light. He helps us see clearly. He guides us when all around seems unclear. He brings purpose, direction, and courage to those who follow Him.

This Lent, we are invited to let Jesus open our eyes. We are called to trust Him, to act on His word, and to carry His light to others. The man who had been blind became a witness. People could not deny the change in him. We too can be living signs of God's power. When we show kindness, honesty, and peace in our work, we reflect the light of Christ. When we forgive, when we serve, when we pray, we shine His light. Whether on board a ship or at home with family, our lives can show that Jesus is alive and at work. Let us walk in His light. Let us trust Him in our trials. Let us go where He sends us. The same Jesus who healed the blind man is with us today. He sees us, He calls us, and He gives us sight to see the world through His eyes.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Gracious and loving God, thank You for being our light, our guide, and our healer. As we sail through life's calm waters and storms, remind us that You are always near. Help us to see with eyes of faith, to walk in Your truth, and to reflect Your love in all we do. Watch over us and our fellow seafarers wherever we are in the world. Be with our families at home, especially our children. Protect them, bless them, and help them grow in love, joy, and peace. Give strength to parents separated from their loved ones and comfort to children who miss them. May our homes be filled with Your presence and our hearts with Your grace. Lead us safely in our journeys, both on sea and in land. In the name of Jesus, our Saviour, we pray. **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (22 March 2026)

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,
whose mercy endures for ever.

Life-giving God,
your Son came into the world
to free us all from sin and death:
breathe upon us with the power of your Spirit,
that we may be raised to new life in Christ,
and serve you in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

John 11:39-45 "The Raising of Lazarus"

"Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Out on the open sea, you know darkness and deep waters. You know waiting, rough storms, and long nights under stars. In those times, the horizon may feel empty, the waves endless. Yet this Scripture shows that even the deepest death can meet the rising light of God. In the story of Lazarus, Jesus does something no one could expect. A man who had died and been buried for four days is brought back to life. With that act, Jesus reveals that no grave, no tomb, no finality is final when God speaks. For sailors who often feel far from land, far from comfort, far from control, this is a message of hope. Even when things seem hopeless, God can bring life.

When Jesus arrives at the tomb, He meets grief and pain. He sees mourning, sorrow, tears of loss. The sisters and friends are weeping. But in that place of sorrow, Jesus does not turn away. He weeps with them. He is moved by their grief. That moment shows us who God is: He is not distant, He feels with us, He shares our sorrow, and He meets us in our deepest losses. When we are far from home, when we long for loved ones, when the sea brings danger or separation, God sees. He knows. And He draws near. We are never alone.

Then Jesus does something astonishing. He calls out with a strong voice, "Lazarus come forth." And the man who was dead walks out. Grave cloths and burial bandages fall away. Life returns. In that moment, death loses its power. The darkness is broken by light. This miracle points not only to healing but to resurrection. It shows that Jesus is not just a healer, but the source of life itself. Later, Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life." For those who follow Him, death has no final say. We have hope, even beyond what we see.

For us at sea, this message matters. When we face loneliness, danger, storms, or separation from loved ones, we can hold on to the promise that God brings new life. When sickness strikes, or weariness presses on, we can remember that our Saviour is stronger than death. This world may be unpredictable. The seas may rage. But God remains the same. His word has power. His love reaches us. And even when we feel buried beneath regret or fear, He can call us back to life. He can raise us up. We need only trust Him.

Finally, this story invites us to live differently. Those who saw Lazarus walking out of the tomb believed in Jesus. His power, His compassion, His identity were revealed. When we live by faith, when we trust that God is alive and powerful, our lives become a walking witness. As seafarers, we travel far and wide. We meet people from many places. Our words and actions ripple like waves across the sea. Let us show kindness, mercy, and hope. Let us speak truth. Let us share the life we have received. Let our lives point others to the one who calls life from death. In this season of Lent, let us open our hearts, trust God's timing, and walk in the light of resurrection hope.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Heavenly Father, you are the God who brings life from death and hope in the darkest hour. Thank You for the power of Jesus revealed in the raising of Lazarus. As we sail through calm seas and stormy waters, remind us that You hold our lives in Your hands. Watch over every seafarer on every voyage. Protect our bodies, steady our minds, and calm our fears. Be near to our families waiting at home. Give peace to their hearts while we are gone. Grant us courage when danger comes and comfort when we feel alone. Help us to trust You in all things. May our lives reflect Your love, mercy, and light. Draw us and those we meet into the new life You give. We pray in the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (29 March 2026)

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,
whose mercy endures for ever.

God of all,
you gave your only-begotten Son
to take the form of a servant,
and to be obedient even to death on a cross:
give us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus
that, sharing in his humility,
we may come to be with him in his glory,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 21:1-11

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "Say to Daughter Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and placed their cloaks on them for Jesus to sit on. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest heaven!" When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

On Palm Sunday, we remember how Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The crowds gathered on the road to welcome Him. They laid down cloaks and branches from trees in His path. They shouted: "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" This welcome was more than enthusiasm. It was a declaration of hope. The people recognised something in Jesus. They sensed that He was the promised king who would bring justice, peace, and freedom.

For seafarers and others who travel far from home, the image of a journey has deep meaning. You know what it is to arrive at a port after stormy seas. You know the joy of safe landfall. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, it was like a ship coming into harbour after a perilous voyage. People waited. They watched. They longed for a saviour. And when He came, they celebrated. Their hope rose like cheers at the sight of light on the horizon.

Jesus chose a donkey for His entrance. A donkey was not a horse used in war or in royal display. It was a humble animal. By riding a donkey, Jesus showed that His kingship was not about power or conquest. His reign would be gentle, humble, and for the common people. For you who sail, who humble yourselves before great oceans and whose strength is tested by storms and tides, this matters. Jesus does not come as a king with pomp and splendour. He comes as One who walks alongside you. He knows hardship. He offers mercy.

As the crowd praised Him, many cheered for freedom from Roman rule. They hoped for a political deliverer. But Jesus came with a different mission. He came to free people from sin, from fear, and from death. His kingdom is not one of borders or flags. It is one of love, mercy, and life. When you stand on deck under a vast sky, or when you stare out at endless water, you know the world is wide and uncertain. In those spaces, Jesus offers certainty. In those spaces, He offers hope. He offers Himself.

As we enter Holy Week, Palm Sunday marks the beginning of a journey. A journey toward the cross. A journey toward sacrifice and love. But also toward resurrection and new life. For those at sea and everywhere, this journey matters. It reminds us that God draws near even when we are far from shore. It reminds us that humility and service are more powerful than pride. It reminds us that real kingship is love.

So, as the branches of joy were laid down before Jesus long ago, let our lives lie before Him today. Let us welcome Him not just with words, but with hearts ready to follow. Let us declare with the crowds: "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." Let us praise Him, trust Him, and journey with Him. In every harbour, in every port, in every storm and at every calm, may we remember that the King has come.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Loving Father, thank You for sending Jesus to us as King and Friend. As we remember His entry into Jerusalem, help us to welcome Him today in our hearts. Guide us safely through life's storms and lead us into your peace. Watch over all who travel on the sea. Protect them, shelter them, and bring them safely home. Bless their families waiting in hope. Give courage to those who feel alone and strength to those who are weary. May we carry the praise of "Hosanna" wherever we go. May our lives honour You in all we say and do. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Easter Sunday Service (5 April 2026)

Christ is risen. Alleluia! **He is risen indeed, alleluia!**

Glorious Lord of life,
by the mighty resurrection of your Son
you overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, who celebrate with joy
Christ's rising from the dead
may be raised from the death of sin to the life of righteousness;
through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

On the morning after the Sabbath, just as the first light of day touched the sky, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to visit the tomb of Jesus. Their hearts were heavy with sorrow, their steps slow with grief. They had come to mourn, to weep at the place where Jesus had been buried. But what they found was not silence and death. They found an earthquake, an angel, and a message that changed the world forever. The angel of the Lord descended from heaven, rolled away the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes as white as snow. The guards trembled and fell like dead men, but the angel spoke calmly to the women: "Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here. He has been raised, just as he said."

That simple message, "He is not here. He is risen," is the heart of our Christian faith. Jesus had conquered death. The tomb was empty not because His body was moved, but because His power was greater than the grave. He rose in glory, fulfilling the promise He had made. The stone was rolled away not to let Jesus out, but to let us in. It was a divine invitation to see with our own eyes that death had been defeated and that life had won. The women, filled with fear and great joy, ran to tell the disciples. And on the way, they met Jesus. He greeted them not with judgment or power, but with peace. They fell at His feet and worshipped Him. Then He gave them the same message: "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee. There they will see me."

This is the good news of Easter: Jesus is alive. He did not remain in the tomb. He rose again and came back to walk among His people, to give peace, and to show the power of God. And this same Jesus is with us today.

For those of us who live and work at sea, Easter offers special comfort. Life on the ocean brings many challenges. The waters are vast, the storms are real, and often we are far from home. But the message of Easter meets us right where we are. Jesus comes to us not only in churches or special places. He comes to us wherever we are. On the ship, in the engine room, on the bridge, in our cabins. He brings light into our dark places, peace into our troubled hearts, and hope into our waiting souls.

Easter is not just about what happened long ago. It is about what is still happening today. It is about the living Christ who walks with us, who strengthens us, and who never leaves us. The resurrection means that love is stronger than hate, hope is stronger than fear, and life is stronger than death. It means we are never alone. Christ goes ahead of us, just as He went ahead of His disciples to Galilee.

So let us rejoice today. Let us open our hearts to the risen Lord. Let us turn from fear and live in the joy of the resurrection. Like the women at the tomb, let us run to share the good news. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. And because He lives, we too shall live.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Heavenly Father, we praise You for the empty tomb and the risen Christ. Thank You that death is defeated, light has overcome darkness, and hope is alive. As we sail the wide seas and face unknown waters, remind us that You go before us. Protect our ships, bring us safely through storms, and guard our hearts in lonely hours. Bless our families waiting at home. Strengthen us with Your presence. Fill us with peace, faith, and joy. May we carry Your resurrection light wherever we go. Let our lives reflect Your victory and bring hope to others. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (12 April 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Almighty and eternal God,
the strength of those who believe
and the hope of those who doubt:
may we who have not seen, have faith
and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

John 20.24-29

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

The disciples of Jesus gathered behind locked doors. They were afraid. Jesus had been crucified, and even though some had heard that He was alive, they were filled with confusion and fear. Suddenly, Jesus appeared among them and said, "Peace be with you." These simple words changed everything. The disciples saw the risen Lord, and their fear turned to joy. It was a powerful moment of comfort and reassurance.

But one disciple was not there. Thomas, also called Didymus, missed this miraculous appearance. When the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord," Thomas could not believe it. He said he would not believe unless he saw the marks of the nails in Jesus' hands and put his hand in His side. Many people have called him Doubting Thomas, but in truth, he was only asking for what the others had already experienced. He wanted to see Jesus for himself.

A week later, the disciples were again in the same house, and this time Thomas was with them. Again, though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and repeated, "Peace be with you." Then He turned directly to Thomas and invited him to touch His hands and side. Jesus said, "Stop doubting and believe." At that moment, Thomas no longer needed to touch anything. His doubt turned to faith, and he responded with a beautiful declaration: "My Lord and my God."

Jesus then said something very important, not only to Thomas, but to all of us who would come after: "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." That blessing is for you and for me. It is for all those who trust in the risen Christ without seeing Him with physical eyes. This is the heart of Christian faith, believing without seeing, and trusting that Jesus is who He says He is.

For seafarers and for anyone far from home, this story has a special meaning. Life at sea brings many challenges - storms, loneliness, long days of waiting. In these times, doubt can easily enter our hearts. Like Thomas, we may long for clear signs that God is with us. But this passage reminds us that Jesus does not abandon us in our doubts. He meets us where we are. He offers peace. He invites us to believe. And He reminds us that even when we cannot see Him, He is near.

Let us take comfort in the story of Thomas. It is not a story of failure but of grace. Jesus did not scold Thomas. Instead, He gave him what he needed to believe. That same grace is available to us. Whether we are working on a ship, waiting at home, or walking through uncertainty, Jesus comes with peace and truth. Let our hearts respond like Thomas. Let us say with faith, "My Lord and my God." And may that faith guide us through every season of life.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Loving Father, thank You for the risen Christ who walks with us through every storm and every wave. Thank You for meeting us in our doubts and giving us the faith to believe. Be with us now as we sail the seas. Guide our ships, steady our hearts, and calm our fears. Watch over our families waiting at home. Grant us safety, peace, and hope while we are apart. Help us to trust You even when we cannot see the way. Fill us with courage and grace. Let our lives reflect Your love, bring comfort to others around us, and point to Your presence in every port. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (23 April 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

O God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Luke 24:27-35

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Life is a journey, filled with both joy and sorrow, clarity and confusion. For seafarers, this truth is even more vivid. Days at sea can bring breathtaking beauty or deep loneliness. It is in such journeys that the story of the road to Emmaus becomes especially meaningful. In Luke chapter 24, we meet two disciples walking a road with hearts weighed down by grief. They had hoped Jesus was the one to redeem Israel, but after the crucifixion, their hopes seemed lost. Even the report of an empty tomb did not restore their faith. They were walking away from Jerusalem, away from the place where their dreams had ended. But as they walked, someone joined them. It was Jesus, though they did not recognise Him. This is a powerful reminder to all of us. Even when we feel alone, even when we are burdened with doubts and do not understand what is happening around us, Jesus walks beside us. He listens. He cares. He meets us right where we are, not where we think we should be.

As Jesus listened to the disciples, He did not rush to correct them. Instead, He opened the Scriptures. He helped them understand that everything that had happened, the suffering, the death, even the confusion, was part of God's plan. He connected the promises of Moses and the prophets with His own story. Slowly, the disciples began to feel something shift inside. Later, they would describe it as their hearts burning within them. That is what happens when Jesus speaks. His Word ignites something deep in us. It warms our souls and renews our hope. As they approached their village, the disciples asked Jesus to stay with them. "It is nearly evening," they said. They did not want Him to go. So He entered their home. And at the table, everything changed. Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to them. In that moment, their eyes were opened. They recognised Him. The risen Lord had been with them all along, and now they saw Him clearly.

This moment of recognition did not happen in a temple or during a great miracle. It happened around a simple table. Jesus revealed Himself through a shared meal, through the breaking of bread. He shows us that He is not far away or hidden in mystery. He is present in the everyday moments. He comes to us in prayer, in Scripture, in fellowship, and in acts of kindness. We meet Him when we least expect it, on the road, at work, even in our struggles.

Once the disciples realised who had been with them, they did not stay still. Though it was evening and they had just arrived, they got up and returned to Jerusalem. They had a message to share: Jesus is alive. The tomb is empty. The story is not over. Their sorrow had turned to joy, and they wanted others to know.

This is the call for us as well. We are all walking our own roads. Sometimes we feel close to God. Other times, we feel lost or disappointed. But Jesus walks with us through it all. He speaks through His Word. He shares Himself in the breaking of bread. He opens our eyes and lights our hearts on fire. When we recognise Him, we are called to rise, to return, and to tell others. Christ is alive. His presence changes everything. Let us open our hearts to see Him. Let us invite Him to stay with us. And let us share the joy of the resurrection with the world around us.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Lord Jesus, thank You for walking with us, even when we do not see You. Thank You for speaking to our hearts and filling us with hope. As we journey across the sea and through life, stay close to us. Open our eyes to Your presence. Make our hearts burn with faith. Watch over our families and children while we are away. Give them peace and strength. Keep our vessels safe, calm the storms, and bring us home in Your time. Let every journey draw us nearer to You. In Your holy name we pray. **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (26 April 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

God of all power,
you called from death our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep:
send us as shepherds to rescue the lost, to heal the injured,
and to feed one another with understanding;
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

John 10:1-10

"Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

In John chapter ten, Jesus speaks of Himself as both the gate for the sheep and the good shepherd. He describes a sheepfold, a safe place for sheep to rest. Only the shepherd enters by the gate, while others try to sneak in to harm the flock. The sheep listen to the shepherd's voice and follow him because they know and trust him. Jesus uses this image to show how He protects, leads, and loves His people.

This passage speaks clearly to all of us, especially those who live and work at sea. On the ocean, the world can feel vast and uncertain. The waves rise, the wind shifts, and safety can feel far away. But just as the shepherd keeps watch over his flock, Jesus watches over each of us. He knows us by name. He calls us to follow Him. He leads us to safety and gives us peace.

Jesus says, "I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture." These words give comfort and direction. In a world filled with danger and confusion, Jesus offers a way that leads to life. He is not just any guide. He is the one who opens the door to peace, purpose, and eternal hope.

At sea, we depend on clear signals and steady leadership. We follow the compass, trust the captain, and rely on one another. In the same way, we are called to trust Jesus, who goes ahead of us. He knows every wave and every storm. He is not far from us. He walks with us. When we feel lost, His voice brings clarity. When we are tired, His presence gives rest.

The sheep follow the shepherd because they know his voice. That is what faith looks like: listening for Jesus each day, not only in prayer but also in our choices, in our actions, in how we treat others. The more we listen to Him, the more we learn to recognise His voice even in the noise of life. He does not force us to follow. He calls us gently, lovingly, and patiently.

Jesus contrasts Himself with the thief who comes to steal, kill, and destroy. The world is full of false promises and empty paths. But Jesus offers something real. He says, "I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly." That abundance is not found in riches or fame. It is found in love, peace, forgiveness, and the deep knowledge that we are never alone.

For seafarers, this promise of abundant life is especially precious. Life at sea can be lonely, demanding, and at times frightening. But Jesus is with us, on deck, in the engine room, in quiet moments and busy ones. He is our shepherd. He is our gate. He brings us into the safety of His care and leads us through every challenge. Let us open our hearts to the voice of the shepherd. Let us follow Him with trust, knowing He will never lead us astray. Let us care for one another as members of His flock. And may we find true life in Him, the life that begins now and lasts forever.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Loving Father, thank You for sending Jesus to be our shepherd and our gate. Thank You for calling us by name and guiding us through every part of life. We ask for Your blessing on all seafarers today. Keep us safe in every port and on every voyage. Calm our fears, steady our hearts, and fill us with courage. Be with our families while we are away. Watch over our children, strengthen our loved ones, and surround them with peace. Help us to hear Your voice, to follow with trust, and to bring hope to others. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (3 May 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Everliving God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
give us grace to love one another,
to follow in the way of his commandments,
and to share his risen life;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

John 14:5-14

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may for anything in my name, and I will do it."

In John chapter fourteen, we hear one of the clearest declarations from Jesus: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." When Jesus said those words, He was speaking to people who felt uncertain. Thomas voiced what many hearts feel: "Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" The question rings out across generations. In a world full of paths, promises, and shifting values, many of us ask the same. We want a guide. We long for a sure direction. Jesus does not send us a map. He offers Himself. He does not say, "Follow my teachings only", or "Keep a set of rules to reach God." He says, "I am the way." That means our journey to the Father is not about a path we walk alone. It is about trust in a living person. It is about walking with Him. In storms and calm seas, on deck or below in the engine room, this truth gives us security. He is not distant. He moves with us. He leads us.

Then Jesus said He is the truth. In times when words are twisted by fear or convenience, when the world changes its values day by day, the truth becomes like shifting sand. But in Jesus, the truth stands firm. His life, death and resurrection show us who God is. Through Him, we see love, justice, mercy, grace, and holiness bound together. In Him, we find a foundation that does not crumble under pressure or time. Jesus also calls Himself the life. Real life. Not just a life of breath and blood, but abundant life. A life that holds hope beyond suffering, peace beyond pain, purpose beyond passing days. For a seafarer, often far from home, facing storms, loneliness, fatigue, this promise is more than words. It is an anchor and a shelter. It means that wherever the sea brings us, we belong. In Him we have a home.

When Philip asked Jesus to show the Father, Jesus answered simply that seeing Him was seeing the Father. "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father," He said. Through Jesus, we meet God in truth and love. God became flesh in Jesus. God walked among us. That means the mystery of the divine becomes personal and real. We can reach out in prayer, in faith, and meet the living God who knows us by name.

The earliest followers of Jesus were known as followers of the Way. Their identity came from the trust they placed in Christ, and the life they built around faith in Him. We are called the same. Belief is not a matter of rules or rituals alone. It is a living walk. A daily trust. A daily listening. A daily following. On deck, at sea, in ports, at home - the Way, the Truth, the Life goes with us.

So if you ever feel lost, turn to Jesus. If you ever doubt, trust in Him. If you ever fear storms, physical or spiritual, remember: He is the gate, the shelter, the guide. In Him we come in and go out. With Him we find pasture, purpose, hope. May our lives show to others the way we have found. May our words, our deeds, our love point to Him. Because He is the Way. He is the Truth. He is the Life.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Loving Father, thank You for sending Jesus as our guide, our truth, and our life. When we sail unknown seas or walk-through uncertain days, remind us that Christ goes with us. Help us trust Him not only as Saviour but as our daily companion. Watch over all seafarers now at sea. Keep our hearts steady, our minds clear, our hopes alive. Bless our families waiting for us at home. Give them peace and faith as they wait. Let our lives testify to Your presence. May we walk in truth, love our neighbours, and carry hope wherever we travel. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (10 May 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you
joys beyond our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love for you,
that, loving you above all else,
we may obtain your promises
that exceed all we can desire;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

John 14:15-21

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

In John 14, Jesus speaks with tenderness and truth to His disciples. He knows that the time is drawing near for His crucifixion, and He wants to comfort and prepare them. "If you love me, you will keep my commandments," He says. It is a call to obedience, not from fear but from love. And with that call comes a promise, a promise that He will ask the Father to send another Advocate, the Spirit of truth, to be with them forever. This passage is filled with deep reassurance. Jesus is telling His friends that they will not be left alone. They will not be abandoned. He says, "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you." He speaks to their fear and to ours. Whether we are on a quiet shore or far out on the open sea, these words speak peace to our hearts. The Spirit of God, the presence of Christ, will remain with us always.

The Spirit is not something the world can understand. Jesus says the world cannot receive the Spirit because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But for those who belong to Christ, the Spirit is familiar. "You know Him," Jesus says, "because He abides with you, and He will be in you." This indwelling presence is not visible to the eye, but it is known deeply in the soul. It is peace in a storm, strength in weakness, and wisdom in moments of confusion.

Jesus reminds His disciples that love for Him is not just an emotion. It is shown through action. "Those who love me will keep my word," He says. Love is not empty words or shallow feelings. It is expressed in how we live, in the choices we make, and in how we treat others. True love listens to Jesus. It trusts His teaching. It seeks to walk in His way. When we do this, Jesus promises that both He and the Father will come and make their home with us.

This kind of love transforms our lives. It fills us with purpose. It shapes how we speak, how we serve, how we live. For seafarers, this love can be a steady anchor. When we are far from those we love, when the routine of the ship becomes weary, when loneliness creeps in, the Spirit reminds us that we are never alone. Christ is present. God is with us. His love is not tied to a place. It lives in the heart of every believer.

And Jesus does not only offer comfort. He also gives hope. "Because I live, you also will live," He says. This is the heart of the Christian message. Jesus lives. And because He lives, we are promised new life, now and forever. We are not simply surviving each day. We are living in the presence of the risen Christ. That truth changes how we view the world, how we treat others, and how we face the future.

We are invited to trust in this promise, to hold fast to this truth. When we love Christ and keep His word, we experience His love more deeply. We see the evidence of His work in our lives. We feel the presence of His Spirit in our hearts. And we carry that light to others, to our shipmates, to our families, and to those who have yet to know Him.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your promise of the Holy Spirit, our Comforter and Guide. Be with us on every voyage, on every wave, on every watch. Keep our hearts open to Your love. Help us honour Your word, love others, and walk in truth. Guard our ships through storms, calm our fears, and bring us safely home. Watch over our families waiting at home. Keep our children safe and fill them with hope. When the night is long and the sea is rough, remind us that Your Spirit lives within. Give us courage, faith, and peace. May we shine Your light to others wherever we sail. In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (17 May 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

O God,
whose Son, Jesus, prayed for his disciples,
and sent them in to the world
to proclaim the coming of your kingdom:
by your Holy Spirit, hold the Church in unity,
and keep it faithful to your word,
so that, breaking bread together,
we may be one with Christ in faith and love and service,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Acts 1:6-11

Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

In Acts chapter one, we hear the final words of Jesus before He ascended into heaven. He says to His followers, "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." These are powerful words, and they matter to us today, especially to those who spend their lives travelling across the seas.

Seafarers often feel the distance from home, from family, and from the familiar. Yet, in these words, Jesus speaks directly to us. He calls us to be His witnesses – not just in our churches or on land, but even on the open ocean, in every port, and among every crew. The calling to be His witness is not tied to a location, but to the heart. Wherever we go, we carry Christ with us.

When Jesus spoke these words, His disciples were hoping for earthly change. They asked, "Is this the time You will restore the kingdom to Israel?" But Jesus pointed them to a greater mission. He reminded them, and reminds us, that we are not here just to wait for God to act. We are here to live our faith and share it.

Life at sea is full of challenges, but it is also full of opportunity. We meet people from every nation and every background. We sail into places where hope is needed. We can be the ones who bring that hope.

We do not need a pulpit to witness. We witness by how we speak, how we work, how we treat one another. We witness through small acts of kindness, through prayer, and by sharing what Jesus has done in our lives. Maybe someone on board is feeling lost. Maybe someone is burdened with fear or guilt. You can be the voice that says, "You are not alone. God is with you."

There is a story about an artist who painted a shipwreck. In the stormy sea, a man was clinging to a rock. But later, the artist changed the painting. He kept the storm and the rock, but this time the man was reaching out to rescue another person from the water. That is the true image of faith. We hold on to Christ, our rock, but we also reach out. That is what it means to be a witness. We receive grace, and we pass it on.

The angels asked the disciples, "Why do you stand looking into the sky?" It is a gentle push to stop waiting and start living. As seafarers, we may feel far from land, but we are never far from God. He has given us the Holy Spirit. He has called us to go, to sail, and to share. When we bring encouragement, when we offer peace, when we help each other through the long watches and the rough seas, we are witnessing to the love of Christ.

So let us go from this day with renewed purpose. Let us take these last words of Jesus and carry them into every ship and every harbour. Let us live with faith, speak with love, and serve with joy. As the waves move beneath us, may the Spirit of God move through us, so that all who meet us may come to know the One who brings peace to every storm.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;**

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Loving God, thank You for the calling to be Your witnesses, even upon the sea. Thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit who strengthens and guides us on every voyage. Watch over us as seafarers today. Keep us safe through calm and storm. Fill our hearts with courage and peace. Help us to share Your love with every person we meet on board and in every port. Be with our families at home, give them comfort and hope until we are reunited. May our lives reflect the light of Christ, and may we always know that You are near. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (24 May 2026, Pentecost)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God,
at the feast of Pentecost
you sent your Holy Spirit to the disciples,
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel;
empower us with that same Spirit
to witness to your redeeming love and draw all people to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Pentecost is a powerful moment in the life of the early church. It is the day when the Holy Spirit came upon the followers of Jesus in a way that changed everything. A sound like a mighty wind filled the place where they were gathered. Tongues of fire rested on each of them, and they began to speak in different languages. People from many nations heard them and understood the message in their own native tongue. It was the beginning of a new kind of community, formed by the Spirit of God.

For those of us who live and work at sea, this story speaks in a special way. The disciples were gathered in one place, waiting and uncertain. But when the Spirit came, they were sent out with boldness and power. In the same way, we often leave home and go into the world across the waters. The ship becomes our place of work and worship. And just like the disciples, we are not alone. The Spirit of God comes to us wherever we are.

The miracle of Pentecost is not only about the sound and fire. It is about understanding. People from many lands heard the same good news in words they could understand. God spoke in every language, reminding us that the gospel is for all people. As seafarers, we meet people of many cultures, many voices, many stories. And through the Spirit, we are united by one message: Jesus Christ is risen and through him we have life.

Pentecost is often called the birthday of the church. But the church that was born on that day was not a building or a place. It was a community of people filled with faith and the Spirit. That means church is not something we go to, it is something we are. Whether we gather in port or on board, whether we are on watch or at rest, when we pray and listen for God, we are part of the church. The Spirit makes us one family.

The people in that upper room were not perfect. They had been afraid. They had failed Jesus. They had locked the doors. Yet God still came to them and filled them with the Holy Spirit. That is good news for us. Even when we doubt, even when we feel far from God, even when we struggle, God still comes. The Spirit brings peace, courage, and strength. At sea, we may feel far from land, but we are never far from the love of God.

As people of Pentecost, we are called to be witnesses. That does not mean we must always speak with loud voices or preach with many words. Sometimes our witness is in the way we live, the kindness we show, the peace we offer. The Spirit gives us the power to forgive, the strength to serve, and the hope to keep going. Whether in calm waters or stormy seas, we are not alone. God is with us.

So today, as we remember the coming of the Holy Spirit, let us open our hearts once again. Let the wind of God move through us. Let the fire of God warm our souls. Let the voice of God speak through us in every word of love and truth. We are not only seafarers, but we are bearers of the Spirit, messengers of peace, and part of a great story that began on Pentecost and continues in each of us.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;**

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Loving and faithful God, thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out at Pentecost. Thank You for reaching us wherever we are, even in the middle of the sea. Fill us once again with Your Spirit. Guide us as we work, protect us as we travel, and strengthen us when we are weary. Help us to share Your love with all we meet. May our hearts burn with the same fire that touched the first disciples. Bless our families waiting for us at home. Keep us connected through Your Spirit. Let our lives reflect Your light, and may we always know Your presence. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (31 May 2026, Trinity Sunday)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given to us your servants
grace by the confession of a true faith
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity,
and in the power of the divine majesty
to worship the Unity:
keep us steadfast in this faith,
and evermore defend us from all adversities,
for you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 28:16-20

Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Today, we reflect on one of the most powerful passages in the Bible, known as the Great Commission, found in Matthew 28:16 to 20. After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples and gave them a mission. He said, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." He also promised, "I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

This message is especially meaningful for those of us who live and work at sea. We often find ourselves at the ends of the earth, far from home, far from churches, and far from familiar faces. Yet Jesus' words remind us that we are never far from him. He is with us always, on calm waters and during raging storms, in busy ports and in the quiet of the open sea.

Trinity Sunday is a day to celebrate the mystery of God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is not just a teaching for theologians. It is a truth that we experience daily. As seafarers, we know what it means to trust the unseen. We may not always see land or even the stars, but we trust our instruments. In the same way, we may not always see God, but we trust in his presence.

God the Father created the seas and the skies. He knows the name of every star above and the depth of every ocean below. He knows your name and cares for you. God the Son, Jesus Christ, walked on water, calmed the sea, and called fishermen to follow him. He understands your life and your struggles. And God the Holy Spirit is with you, even now, guiding your thoughts, comforting your heart, and strengthening your faith.

When Jesus told his disciples to go to all nations, he included people of every race, language, and culture. As seafarers, you have a special role in that mission. You travel to many nations, meet people from all walks of life, and carry the love of Christ wherever you go. You may be the only example of Jesus some people ever see.

But the mission is not always easy. Sometimes you may feel tired, lonely, or unworthy. Sometimes you may doubt, just like some of the disciples did. And yet Jesus still gave them the mission. He did not wait for perfect people. He chose ordinary people and gave them an extraordinary purpose. And he gave them a promise: "I am with you always." When you serve others on board with kindness, when you offer a prayer in the quiet of your cabin, when you encourage someone who feels alone, you are sharing the love of Christ. Your life can be a living witness, even when words are few. God can use your work, your patience, and your presence as a light to others.

So remember this truth: You are never alone. You are called, you are loved, and you are sent. Whether your ship is anchored near land or journeying across vast oceans, Christ is with you. The Father watches over you. The Holy Spirit lives within you. And Jesus walks beside you. You are part of something greater than yourself. You are part of the mission of God to bring hope, healing, and salvation to the world.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Loving and faithful God, we thank you for the mission you have given us, and for the promise that you are with us always. Bless us as we journey across the seas. Be our strength when we are weary, our peace in moments of fear, and our guide through uncertain waters. Watch over our families waiting at home. Protect our hearts with your love and fill our days with your presence. May we carry your light into every port and be witnesses of your grace to all we meet. Keep us safe, bless our work, and remind us daily that we are never alone. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, hold us close now and always. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (7 June 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

O God,
you have assured the human family of eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Saviour:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in him,
who lives and reigns with you and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 9:9-13

As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him. While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and "sinners" came and ate with him and his disciples. When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?" On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

In the Gospel of Matthew, we hear the story of Jesus calling a tax collector named Matthew. He sees Matthew sitting at his booth and simply says, "Follow me." Without hesitation, Matthew gets up and follows Jesus. That moment, simple on the surface, changes everything, not only for Matthew, but for millions who have come to know the love of Christ through the Gospel he would later write.

Matthew was not a person of high standing. As a tax collector working for the Roman Empire, he was seen as a traitor to his people, someone who took advantage of others. People despised him. And yet, Jesus did not walk past him. Jesus stopped, looked him in the eye, and said, "Follow me." Jesus did not wait for Matthew to clean up his life first. He called him as he was. And then, Jesus dined with Matthew and others who were labelled sinners.

The religious leaders were offended. They asked the disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" Jesus answered with one of the most important truths in the Bible: "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners. Go and learn what this means: I desire mercy, not sacrifice."

These words cut through religion and go straight to the heart of the Gospel. Jesus desires mercy. He calls not the perfect, but the broken. Not the proud, but the humble. He is the doctor for those who know they are unwell. He is the Saviour for those who know they need grace.

For seafarers, this message holds deep meaning. Life at sea can be lonely. Mistakes can feel heavier, regrets can linger longer, and moments of weakness can feel like failure. But Jesus walks up to each of us, just like he walked up to Matthew, and says, "Follow me." He is not asking if we are perfect. He is asking if we are willing to receive mercy and to live in it.

But this call is not only to come in. It is also a call to go out. Jesus sends us out into the world, not with judgment, but with mercy. We are called to show grace, to forgive, to help those who are cast aside, to welcome those others avoid. It is not easy. Mercy rarely is. But it is our calling.

There is a story from history. During the time of war in France, a mother pleaded with Napoleon to spare her son's life. The son had been sentenced to death. She asked not for justice, but for mercy. Napoleon replied, "He does not deserve mercy." And the mother answered, "That is why it is mercy." He was moved and granted her request. God does the same for us. We do not deserve mercy, but we are given it freely. And we are asked to pass it on. That is our mission, even at sea, even in isolation, even among strangers. The love we share may be the only Gospel someone ever sees.

Let us answer Christ's call, to receive mercy, and to live as people of mercy in a world that longs for healing.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Gracious God, thank you for calling us, just as we are, into your grace and mercy. Thank you for meeting us on the decks of ships and in the quiet of the ocean. Teach us to follow you with humble hearts. Help us to show mercy where there is hurt, patience where there is pressure, and kindness where there is loneliness. Watch over our ships, our shipmates, and our families. Keep us safe in every port and every storm. Let us reflect your love to all we meet, not through words alone, but through acts of compassion. May our lives speak of the grace we have received. In the name of Jesus, who calls and saves us, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (14 June 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

O God,
you have assured the human family of eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Saviour;
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in him,
who lives reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 10:7-13

As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give. "Do not get any gold or silver or copper to take with you in your belts— no bag for the journey or extra shirt or sandals or a staff, for the worker is worth his keep. Whatever town or village you enter, search there for some worthy person and stay at their house until you leave. As you enter the home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it; if it is not, let your peace return to you.

In Matthew chapter ten, Jesus sends out his disciples with a powerful message: "The kingdom of heaven has come near." This message is not about something far away or something we must wait for in the future. Jesus is saying that the kingdom is already here. It is present among us whenever love is shared, peace is offered, and justice is pursued. Wherever God's presence is welcomed, the kingdom of heaven is near. Jesus tells his followers to go out and proclaim this message with their words and their actions. He says, "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons." These are signs that the kingdom of God brings healing, restoration, and freedom. While we may not perform miracles in the same way, we can still take part in this mission by bringing hope to the hopeless, comfort to the hurting, and love to the lonely.

Then Jesus says something deeply important: "Freely you have received, freely give." This reminds us that everything we have from God is a gift. His love, his grace, his forgiveness, even the strength to live each day – all of it is given freely to us. And just as we have received without earning it, we are called to give without expecting anything in return.

This is a powerful call, especially in a world that often teaches us to hold on tightly to what we have. Jesus invites us to live with open hands and open hearts. He tells his disciples not to take gold or silver, not even a bag or extra clothes. In other words, do not let your trust be in your possessions. Let your trust be in God. Let your confidence rest not in what you carry, but in the One who carries you.

Many seafarers understand what it means to travel light, to rely on what is essential, and to trust in God through the dangers and distances of the sea. Life at sea teaches us how to be ready, how to work as a team, and how to depend on God when storms rise or the journey becomes long. In that way, you are already living the Gospel mission.

Jesus also teaches us how to relate to others. He says, "When you enter a home, give it your greeting. If the home is deserving, let your peace rest on it. If not, let your peace

return to you.” We are to approach others with a heart of peace. If that peace is not received, we do not fight. We simply carry our peace with us and move on. That is what it means to live as Christ’s messengers.

We do not need to shout to be heard. We do not need to force others to believe. What we need is to live our faith with gentleness, with sincerity, and with peace. When we do that, God uses us in quiet but powerful ways.

Jesus is still sending us today, wherever we go, including onto the ships and into the ports of the world. The kingdom of heaven is near. It is near in your daily work, in your service, in your acts of kindness, and in every word of encouragement you offer. So go with open hands and an open heart. Freely you have received. Freely give. And let God’s peace go before you.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer’s Prayer)

Gracious God, thank you for calling us to proclaim your kingdom wherever we are. As seafarers, we sail far from shore, but we are never far from your care. Fill our hearts with your peace so we may share it with others. Give us the courage to serve without seeking reward. Teach us to trust you when the journey is uncertain and the days are long. Help us to offer hope, to speak gently, and to live joyfully in your name. Bless the homes and hearts we encounter. Protect our loved ones as they wait for us. May your kingdom be seen in our work and your presence be known in every port. In Jesus’ name we pray, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (21 June 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Gracious God,
we who were baptised into Christ Jesus
were baptised into his death:
we pray that, as you raised him from death,
so by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may live the new life to your glory,
knowing ourselves to be dead in sin
but alive for you in Jesus Christ;
Who lives and reigns with you and Holy Spirit,
One God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 10:24-29

“The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household! “So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care.

In Matthew 10, Jesus speaks to his disciples as he prepares them for the mission ahead. He reminds them that they will face opposition. They may be misunderstood, rejected, or even persecuted for following him. But he also gives them words of strength and comfort. Jesus says, “A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a servant above the master.” In other words, if Jesus himself faced hardship, his followers can expect to face it too. But we do not face it alone. He tells them three powerful words that echo across time and space: “Do not fear.”

These words are repeated several times in this passage. Why? Because fear is real. The disciples were human. Like us, they had questions. What if things go wrong? What if we are not strong enough? What if we fail?

Seafarers often know this fear. There is the fear of storms, the fear of being far from home, the fear of isolation, and the fear of what may go wrong on board. Life at sea demands courage. Jesus does not pretend that danger is not real. He knows it is. But he tells us that God’s presence is greater than any fear we face.

Jesus says that nothing is hidden that will not be revealed. Everything covered will be made known. This is both a warning and a comfort. God sees all things. He sees what we do in secret, and he sees what others may try to hide. This means justice belongs to God. It also means that our efforts, even the quiet ones no one notices, are not wasted. Then Jesus says something very personal and powerful. “Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father knowing. Even the hairs of your head are all numbered. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.”

What a beautiful reminder. We are known. We are seen. We are valued. Not because of our titles or talents, but because we belong to God. Every person matters to God. Every seafarer on every ship, in every ocean. You are never forgotten, even in the middle of the sea. Your work matters. Your prayers matter. Your faith matters.

God is not distant. He is near. He is in the wind and in the calm. He is in the noise and in the stillness. He knows your name. He knows your struggles. And he calls you to live with courage, trusting that his eye is always on you.

So today, hold on to this truth. You are not alone. You are never out of God's reach. No wave is too high, no night too dark for him to see you. Let this promise give you peace. Let it shape how you live and how you love others on board and back at home. Jesus said, "Do not be afraid." It is not a command to ignore reality. It is an invitation to trust that the one who watches over the sparrows is the same one who watches over you.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Loving and watchful God, we thank you that even the smallest sparrow does not fall without your care. We praise you for your constant presence, even when we feel far from home. Bless every seafarer today. Calm our fears, steady our steps, and remind us that we are never out of your sight. Watch over our families as they wait for us. Strengthen us with your peace when the sea is rough and when our hearts are heavy. Help us to walk in faith and serve with kindness. May we live each day knowing we are precious in your eyes. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (28 June 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

O God,
your Son has taught us
that those who give a cup of water in his name
will not lose their reward:
open our hearts to the needs of your children,
and in all things make us obedient to your will,
so that in faith we may receive your gracious gift,
eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Matthew 10:40-42

"He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me. Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward."

In Matthew chapter ten, Jesus gives us a powerful promise. He says, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." And he goes even further, saying that even the smallest act of kindness, like giving a cup of cold water to a disciple will not go unnoticed by God.

This teaching speaks directly to every follower of Jesus, including those who work at sea. Seafarers know what it means to offer and receive welcome. Whether on board a ship or in a distant port, you understand how important a warm smile, a shared meal, or a small act of kindness can be. Life at sea often demands community. Without it, even the strongest can feel isolated.

Jesus says that when we receive others in his name, we are receiving him. Every welcome we extend, every kindness we show, every word of hope we speak is received by God himself. In a world that often feels cold and harsh, Jesus is calling us to bring warmth. Not through great gestures or grand offerings, but through small, consistent acts of love.

That is the heart of Christian life. Welcoming Christ in others. Serving Christ through others. Sharing what we have been given, even if it is something as simple as a cup of water.

Seafarers often carry more than cargo. You carry the image of Christ into every part of the world. Every interaction, every moment of patience or forgiveness, every act of support on a ship is a witness to who Jesus is. And Jesus promises that nothing done in his name is ever wasted. God sees every act of service, no matter how small.

This promise is not only about what we do for others. It is also about what others do for us. Many of us struggle to receive help. We feel we must always be strong, always give, never ask. But Jesus tells us to receive as well: to receive welcome and to receive kindness. To let others offer us that cup of cold water.

We are all in need at some point. None of us sails through life without storms. And in those moments, God comes to us through others, their prayers, their care, their presence. In receiving their love, we are also receiving the love of God.

Jesus does not promise a reward like money or fame. The reward is deeper. It is the joy of knowing we belong to God. It is the peace of serving with love. It is the strength of knowing our smallest actions matter.

So let us be people who welcome and receive. Let us remember that our lives are part of something much larger, God's work in the world. Every act of kindness builds the kingdom. Every cup of cold water is sacred.

Let us give and receive with open hands, open hearts, and open lives. Let us be the hands and voice of Jesus wherever we go.

And may every ship, every port, every home, every heart be a place where Christ is welcomed, and his name is honoured through small and faithful acts of love.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;**

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Loving God, we thank you for the simple and powerful truth that even a cup of water given in love is seen by you. Help us to serve others with kindness and joy. Teach us to welcome Christ in everyone we meet. As we journey across the seas, make us vessels of your grace. Give us courage to care, strength to give, and humility to receive. Watch over our seafarers and families, bless every port we enter, and let your presence guide us through calm and storm. Fill our hearts with peace, and may we never forget your promise to reward every act of love done in your name. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (5 July 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God,
your Son Jesus Christ has taught us
that what we do for the least of his brothers and sisters
we do also for him:
give us the will to serve others
as he was the servant of all,
who gave up his life and died for us;
yet lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 11:25-30

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

In this passage from the Gospel of Matthew, we hear one of the most comforting invitations that Jesus ever gave. He says, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." For those who live and work at sea, these words speak directly to your experience.

Life at sea can be difficult. Long hours, hard labour, separation from family, and the uncertainty of the ocean can leave you feeling worn out, not just physically, but also emotionally and spiritually. Even when the sea is calm, there may be storms inside - worries, doubts, and pressures that do not go away. Jesus knows this. He sees every sailor's struggle, every quiet prayer, every tired heart. And He offers something the world cannot give, real rest.

Jesus does not offer quick fixes or false promises. He does not say there will be no storms, but He does say this: "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me." A yoke is something used to connect two animals so they can share the work. When Jesus asks us to take His yoke, He is not adding to our load. He is inviting us to walk beside Him, to let Him carry the weight with us. In fact, He promises that His yoke is easy and His burden is light.

Why is it easy? Because when we are joined with Jesus, we are not walking alone. He is strong where we are weak. He is calm when we are anxious. He is faithful even when we are unsure. His burden is light because it is not a burden of guilt or fear. It is the way of love, peace, and trust. At sea, routines and responsibilities can make it easy to forget God is near. But Jesus does not stay on the shore. He walks the decks with us. He is present in the quiet of the night watch, in the roar of the engines, and in the stillness of the open sea. He is near when we feel alone, and He listens even when we do not know what to pray.

This passage also reminds us of the heart of Jesus. He says, "I am gentle and humble in heart." These are not the words of someone who looks down on us or demands perfection. Jesus is not here to accuse us or to make our lives harder. He came to give us life. He came to give us peace. His gentleness invites us to trust Him. His humility reminds us that He understands our struggles. He lived a life of hardship, too. Jesus wants us to come to Him with all that we carry – our worries, our mistakes, our fears, and our questions. He does not ask us to fix ourselves first. He simply says, "Come." Come and learn from me. Come and rest in me. Come and find peace for your soul.

Seafarers know what it means to carry loads and to follow a course. Let Jesus be your course and your captain. Trust Him with your journey. Let Him carry the weight with you. And in doing so, discover the peace and strength that come only from walking with Him. May you find that His words are true. His yoke is easy. His burden is light. And in Him, there is rest.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the promise of rest that you give to all who are weary. We come to you as seafarers, sometimes tired, sometimes anxious, and sometimes lonely. Carry our burdens with us, Lord. Calm the storms within our hearts as well as the waves beneath our ships. Be our strength, our compass, and our peace. Watch over our families while we are away. Help us to walk closely with Jesus, to take His yoke upon us, and to learn from Him. May we find true rest in His love, and may that rest renew our strength each day. Thank you for your constant presence at sea and on land. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (12 July 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Bountiful God

we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word:
by your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy,
and to live according to it,
that we may grow in faith and hope and love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 13:1-9

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells a simple story about a sower who went out to sow seed. Some seeds fell on the path and were eaten by birds. Some fell on rocky ground and sprouted quickly, but withered in the sun because they had no root. Some fell among thorns and were choked. But some seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, a hundredfold, sixtyfold, and thirtyfold. Jesus then said, "Let anyone with ears listen." This is more than a farming lesson. It is about how the Word of God works in the world and in our hearts. The seed is the Word of God. It is God's message of love, mercy, forgiveness and life. But the seed is also much more than words spoken. The seed is Christ himself, the living Word made flesh, who came that we might have life and have it abundantly.

For those of us who spend our lives on the sea, this image is clear. We know what it means to cast something into the deep. We know what it means to sow hope into uncertain winds. We also know that not all waters give a good catch. Some waters are rough, some paths are hard, some days are long and lonely. And yet the farmer sows seed everywhere, trusting that life will grow. Jesus did not say that only some soil is worth sowing, or that we must only share our faith where it seems easy. He said to sow widely, trusting that the seed of God's love will find good soil wherever it falls. The seed may be ignored, it may be forgotten, it may be choked out by weeds. But even when that happens, the seed is not lost. God's purposes are larger than we can imagine. We may not see the full harvest in our own lifetime, but the Word of God does not return empty.

As seafarers, you travel across many waters and carry many stories. You may share a kind word with a shipmate, pray with a stranger in a distant port, or live the gospel through simple acts of care. These are moments of sowing. You may not know how they will grow. Some words may be heard and forgotten. Some may take root deeply. But God graciously waters all seed that is planted with love and trust.

Jesus himself is the greatest sower. He sowed not in a field of easy conditions, but in the soil of human hearts. He brought healing to the sick, hope to the despairing, peace to the troubled, and life to the dead. Many rejected his message. Others welcomed it and were transformed. The harvest of faith is beyond measure. It is the work of God through Jesus Christ.

In Isaiah, we hear the promise that God's Word will not return empty but will accomplish what God desires. This promise holds true for us today. Whether we are on deck, in our cabins, at home with family, or in distant lands, the Word of God continues to work. It may be quiet. It may be unseen. But it is at work.

So let us listen with ears open, hearts ready, and hands willing to sow the seed of Christ's love. Let us trust that God is the one who brings the growth. Let us share the good news without fear, with patience and with joy. The harvest belongs to God. The joy of sowing belongs to us. Wherever we travel, in calm waters and in storms, may the Word of Christ take root and grow in our lives and in the lives of those we meet. Let us walk in faith, sow love freely, and expect that God will bring forth a harvest beyond what we can imagine.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Loving God, thank You for Your Word that brings life, hope, and peace. As we journey across the seas, may we carry Your message of love with us. Help us to sow Your Word in every place we go. Make our hearts like good soil, ready to receive Your truth and bear fruit. Be with us when we face storms and when we face quiet waters. Strengthen our faith, deepen our trust, and fill our lives with courage. Watch over our families waiting at home and protect them with Your care. May we reflect Your grace to all we meet. Guide us with Your Spirit and lead us in Your ways. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (19 July 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Saving God,
in Jesus Christ you opened for us
a new and living way into your presence:
give us pure hearts and constant wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 13:24-30

Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' "An enemy did this," he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' "No," he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells the parable of the weeds and the wheat. A farmer goes out and sows good seed in his field. But while everyone is asleep, an enemy comes and scatters weeds among the wheat. As the plants grow, the weeds appear. The farmer's servants are concerned. They ask if they should pull out the weeds. But the farmer says, "No. If you try to pull them now, you might uproot the wheat too. Let both grow together until the harvest." This story speaks deeply to us as followers of Jesus. It shows us how good and evil, faith and doubt, peace and trouble often grow side by side in our lives. We see it in the world. We see it in the church. We see it in our own hearts. And still, God is patient. He does not rush to destroy. He waits for the right time.

For those who work at sea, this message is especially powerful. The sea is a place of both beauty and danger. Some days are calm, others are filled with storms. Sometimes the journey is peaceful, and other times it feels full of uncertainty. Just like the field in the parable, life at sea holds both wheat and weeds. There is good work, friendship, and a sense of purpose. But there may also be loneliness, temptation, or frustration. Jesus reminds us that God is the good sower. He has planted something valuable in you. Even if you feel far from land or far from home, God has not forgotten you. His word is planted in your heart. His Spirit is present in your daily work. Even when life feels mixed with struggle and joy, God is not done growing something good in you.

We may wonder why God allows evil to remain. Why does he not remove it all now? But the parable tells us something important. God is careful with what he loves. He does not act in haste. If He were to tear out all that is bad too soon, it might damage the good. God is not only powerful, He is wise and patient. He waits for the full harvest.

There is a lesson here for us as well. We are not called to be the harvesters. That is God's job. We are called to be the wheat. To grow in faith. To be patient. To hold on during the hard days. To trust that God will make all things right in his time. On board a ship, there is much that is outside your control. The weather, the waves, the workload, and even the people around you. But what you can control is your heart. You can choose to be kind. You can choose to pray. You can choose to keep believing. These are the signs of good wheat growing in your life.

Sometimes you may feel surrounded by weeds. You may feel that the good is being choked or buried. But Jesus says, do not worry. Let them grow together. God will sort it out. In the end, He will gather what is His, and nothing good will be lost.

The sea teaches us to wait, to trust, and to endure. In the same way, Jesus teaches us to wait for the harvest. To trust the sower. To keep growing no matter what surrounds us. So take courage. God is at work. Even here. Even now. The harvest will come.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Gracious God, thank you for planting your Word in our hearts like good seed. Help us grow strong in faith, even when we face trials at sea. When we feel burdened by worry, loneliness, or doubt, remind us that you are near. Teach us to trust your timing and leave judgment to you, focusing instead on living with love, patience, and hope. Watch over all seafarers. Keep us safe through every voyage. Strengthen our bodies and calm our hearts. Be with our families far away and comfort them with your peace. Let our lives reflect your goodness, even in difficult times. May we be fruitful in faith, and ready for your harvest. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (26 July 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

O God, the fount of wisdom,
you have revealed to us in Christ
the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price:
grant us your Spirit's gift of discernment,
that, in the midst of the things of this world,
we may learn to value the priceless worth of your kingdom,
and be ready to renounce all else
for the sake of the precious gift you offer.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 13:44-50

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells us three short stories about the kingdom of heaven. He says it is like treasure hidden in a field, like a pearl of great value, and like a fishing net thrown into the sea. Each story helps us understand what the kingdom of God is like and why it is worth giving everything to follow Him.

The first image is of a man who finds a hidden treasure in a field. Once he discovers it, he hides it again and then joyfully sells all he owns to buy that field. The second story is about a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds one of great value, he also sells everything to own it. In both stories, the people recognise the value of what they have found and are willing to give up everything else to make it theirs.

As seafarers, you know what it means to seek and to sacrifice. You know the cost of time away from family, the challenge of long days, and the uncertainty of life at sea. But Jesus reminds us here that there is something even more valuable than our comfort or our possessions. There is a treasure waiting to be found, and that treasure is the kingdom of God. This treasure is not gold or silver. It is the peace of knowing God. It is the joy of being loved by Him. It is the hope that goes beyond the storms of life and reaches into eternity. Jesus is offering this treasure to us. But to receive it, we must be willing to let go of other things. We must be willing to put God first and trust that He is enough.

The third parable is about a fishing net cast into the sea, gathering fish of every kind. Once full, the fish are sorted. The good are kept, and the bad are thrown away. This story is not only about judgment, it is also about patience. God does not ask us to do the sorting now. That is His work. Our calling is to live as faithful fishers, sharing His truth and grace with everyone.

At sea, you may often feel far from everything familiar. But you are never far from God. His kingdom is near, even on the ocean. His Spirit is with you on every journey. Every act of kindness, every prayer whispered on deck, every choice to do what is right even when it is hard, is a part of His kingdom growing in you.

These parables remind us of what matters most. God is building something eternal, and He invites us to be part of it. He invites us to treasure Him more than anything else. Not just to admire the pearl, or to notice the treasure, but to act. To give our lives in return. The world will offer many things that seem valuable, but only one thing lasts forever. That is the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the promise of His kingdom. And once you find it, you will know it is worth everything.

No matter where you are sailing today, remember this: God's treasure is not far from you. It is already planted in your heart. Keep seeking Him. Keep trusting Him. And one day, when the net is full, you will see that everything you gave up was worth what you received.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Loving God, thank You for the treasure of Your kingdom and the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. We thank You for calling us to follow You, even across the seas. Be with us as we sail, when the waters are calm and when they are rough. Help us to see Your presence in every sunrise and hear Your voice in the quiet of the ocean. Give us the courage to keep seeking You daily. Keep our hearts strong, our faith secure, and our eyes fixed on the hope You have promised. Bless our families waiting at home, and bring us safely back to them. May we always treasure You above all. In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (2 August 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

O God, giver of life and health,
whose Son Jesus Christ has called us
to hunger and thirst for justice:
refresh us with your grace,
that we may not be weary in well-doing,
for the sake of him who meets all our needs,
Jesus Christ our Saviour;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 14:13-21

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

In this passage, Jesus feeds over five thousand people with only five loaves and two fish. What begins as a moment of personal sorrow becomes a moment of powerful compassion. Jesus had just received news of the death of John the Baptist. He withdrew to a quiet place, likely to grieve and rest. But when the crowd followed him, Jesus chose compassion over comfort.

For those who live and work at sea, this story speaks directly to your lives. You understand hunger, isolation, and the feeling of being far from home. Like the crowd, you come with needs. And like Jesus, you are often asked to give more than you feel you have. Jesus sees the crowd and has compassion. That is where the miracle begins. He does not send them away. He tells the disciples, "You give them something to eat." They respond with what little they have. Five loaves. Two fish. In human terms, it is not enough. But in the hands of Jesus, it becomes more than enough.

Jesus takes what is offered, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it to the people. Not only are they fed, but there are twelve baskets left over. That is the abundance of God. And that is the message for us. God does not wait until we have much. He begins with what we offer now. Even the little you have – your time, your energy, your prayers, your kindness – it can become more than enough when given in faith.

This passage is not only about physical hunger. It is about spiritual hunger too. Many seafarers feel spiritually hungry. Days at sea can be long and lonely. Worship is not

always easy. Fellowship is limited. You may feel like you only have crumbs of faith left. But give those to Jesus. Let him bless what you bring. Let him multiply it in your heart and in the hearts of those around you.

Notice also what Jesus does not do. He does not perform the miracle alone. He involves the disciples. He tells them to bring the food. He gives the bread to them, and they give it to the people. That is how ministry works. Jesus is the source, but he works through us. You, too, are called to serve others on board. Your smile, your listening ear, your helping hand may be the miracle someone else needs. There is a beautiful truth hidden in the story. The miracle does not just feed the crowd. It forms a community. Strangers sit down together. They eat together. They are satisfied together. That is what happens when we allow Jesus to take what we have and use it for his kingdom.

To divide the bread is not just to multiply it. It is to change its nature. It becomes a gift. It becomes communion. In the same way, Jesus takes us, our lives, our work, our faith, and transforms them. He reveals the value within us. He calls us not just to be filled but to be broken and shared for the good of others. Dear friends at sea, you are not forgotten. Jesus sees you. He has compassion on you. And he is still at work, blessing and breaking and feeding the world through you.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Loving Lord Jesus, thank you for being the Bread of Life for us even when we feel far away at sea. Just as you had compassion on the crowds, we trust that you see us, care for us, and walk with us across every ocean. Bless the work of our hands. Use our small gifts to bring hope and kindness to others on board. Feed our hearts with your peace and give us the strength to serve with joy. Watch over our families at home and keep them in your love. May we always find our true satisfaction in you, knowing that in your hands, nothing is wasted and all things are made whole. In your holy name we pray, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (9 August 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Mighty God and ruler of all creation,
give new strength to our faith,
that we may recognise your presence
even when all hope seems lost.
Help us to face all trials with serenity
as we walk with Christ through the stormy seas of life
and come at the last to your eternal peace.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

In Matthew 14, we find the disciples out at sea, following Jesus' command to cross to the other side. These men were not lost or disobedient. They were doing exactly what Jesus had told them to do. Yet even in their obedience, they found themselves caught in a violent storm. That alone is a powerful truth: following Jesus does not mean we avoid the storms of life.

For those who spend their lives at sea, this story is especially real. The wind, the waves, the uncertainty of weather, and the loneliness of the open water – these are not abstract ideas. They are your daily reality. And this is where Jesus comes to meet us, not just on dry land, but out on the waves.

The disciples are exhausted and afraid. Then, in the early hours of the morning, Jesus comes to them, walking on the water. At first, they are terrified, thinking it is a ghost. But Jesus says, "Take heart, it is I. Do not be afraid." These are words of peace, assurance, and strength. They are words we all need to hear.

Peter, always bold, says, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." Jesus says one word: "Come." And Peter steps out. He actually walks on the water. He does something no human can do on their own, as long as his eyes are fixed on Jesus. But then Peter notices the wind. He sees the size of the waves. Fear enters his heart,

and he begins to sink. He cries out, "Lord, save me!" And immediately, Jesus reaches out his hand and pulls him up. Not later, not after the storm, immediately. Jesus brings Peter back into the boat, and the wind dies down. The sea becomes calm. Those in the boat worship him, saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God."

There is so much for seafarers to take from this story. First, even when storms come, it does not mean we are abandoned. God often sends us into the storm not to harm us, but to teach us to trust. Second, Jesus always comes. He may not come when we expect him, but he never forgets us. Third, we must keep our eyes on him. As long as Peter focused on Jesus, he walked on water. But when he looked at the storm, he sank. In the same way, we must stay focused on Jesus, not our fears, not the chaos around us. Jesus is stronger than any storm.

And finally, when we fall, Jesus catches us. He is patient with our doubts, and he is faithful to save us. At sea, or on land, he is the same Lord, full of power and mercy. So let this story be your reminder: the waves may rise, the wind may blow, but Jesus is near. He speaks peace, invites you to walk in faith, and never lets go.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;**

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Lord Jesus, we thank you that you meet us even in the storms of life. When the winds rise and the seas grow rough, remind us that you are near, walking toward us with love and strength. Help us to keep our eyes fixed on you and not on the fears around us. When we begin to sink, reach out your hand and lift us again. Bless every seafarer with courage, calm, and your constant presence. Watch over our families and guide us safely home. Fill our hearts with faith and peace, knowing that you are Lord of every ocean and every storm. You are our anchor, our captain, and our Saviour. In your holy name we pray, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (16 August 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

God of freedom,
you have broken the tyranny of sin
and sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts:
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,
that all people may know the glorious liberty
of the children of God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly.

The Gospel of Matthew tells the story of a Canaanite woman who approaches Jesus in desperation. Her daughter is suffering greatly, tormented by a demon. This woman is not part of the Jewish faith or community. Yet she cries out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me." At first, Jesus says nothing. The disciples grow irritated and want her sent away. When Jesus does respond, he speaks of his mission to the people of Israel. Still, the woman kneels before him and pleads, "Lord, help me."

Jesus answers her with a challenging image: "It is not right to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." Her reply is bold but humble: "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Moved by her faith, Jesus says, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you desire." Her daughter is healed instantly. This story is full of barriers, national, cultural, religious, and social. She is a foreigner, a woman, an outsider. She has every reason not to approach Jesus, but she does anyway. Her love for her daughter and her faith in Jesus give her the courage to speak.

This woman's faith is persistent. She does not give up when Jesus is silent. She does not stop asking when the disciples dismiss her. She believes that even crumbs from the Lord are enough to bring healing. And she is right. Jesus praises her, not just for asking, but for believing so deeply in who he is.

For those who work at sea, this story may feel familiar. You often find yourself far from home, far from familiar routines, far from church, family, and comfort. Sometimes you may feel like your prayers go unheard. Sometimes you may feel like outsiders, wondering if anyone sees or understands your burdens.

But the story of the Canaanite woman reminds us that faith reaches across all distances. You do not need to be in a church building to be heard by God. You do not need perfect words or a perfect life. What God honours is a heart that keeps calling out, that trusts even when answers are delayed. Jesus does not turn her away. In fact, he draws out her faith. He honours her determination. He praises her trust. And he brings healing into her life.

To all seafarers: God hears your voice, even in the middle of the ocean. He sees your heart, your longings, your struggles. Your faith matters. Your prayers matter. When you cry, "Lord, help me," he listens. When you keep trusting, even in storms, He walks with you. You may feel like you only have crumbs, but crumbs from God are more than enough. He provides. He heals. He welcomes all who come to Him with faith.

So keep calling out. Keep believing. Keep trusting Jesus. Like the woman from Canaan, your faith may be tested, but it will not be ignored. Great is your faith when you trust that Jesus is near, even on distant waters.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Loving Lord, thank you for always hearing our prayers, no matter where we are. Just like the Canaanite woman, we come to you with needs, trusting that you are kind and full of mercy. Strengthen our faith when we feel far from home, far from others, or far from hope. Help us to keep calling on your name with boldness and trust. Watch over us at sea, guard our families on land, and give peace to our hearts. We thank you that your love crosses all distances and your grace reaches all people. May we, like the woman in the Gospel, never give up but always believe in your power to heal, to restore, and to bless. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (23 August 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Creator God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless
until they find their rest in you:
teach us to offer ourselves to your service,
that here we may have your peace,
and in the world to come may see you face to face;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

In Matthew 16, Jesus brings his disciples to Caesarea Philippi, a place known for its pagan temples and idols. The city was filled with images of false gods and symbols of human power. In that very place of spiritual confusion, Jesus asks his disciples a question that cuts through all distractions: “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” The disciples give many answers: some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. Then Jesus makes it personal. “But who do you say I am?” Peter answers with boldness and faith, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus is moved by Peter’s response. He affirms that this was not revealed by flesh and blood, but by God the Father. Then Jesus gives Peter a new identity. “You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not overcome it.” This is more than a compliment. It is a declaration of purpose. Peter’s faith becomes the foundation for the church. The rock is not Peter’s strength, but his confession that Jesus is the Christ. That same truth continues to be the foundation of the church today. No force of darkness can destroy what Jesus builds.

This moment is not only about Peter. It speaks to every one of us. Each person must answer the same question: “Who do you say Jesus is?” That question takes on even deeper meaning when you are far from land, far from home, and far from regular fellowship. For you who live and work at sea, there are moments of quiet reflection and also moments of trial. When you say from your heart, “You are the Christ,” you stand on solid ground. Even though the sea is deep and wide, your faith connects you to the eternal church of Jesus Christ.

Jesus is not only a historical figure. He is alive. He is your Saviour, your strength, and your hope. As waves rise and winds shift, he remains your anchor. When storms of life

shake your peace, he is the one who remains steady. He knows your name. He knows your thoughts. He builds his church not with buildings, but with people like you – those who trust in him. Even when you fail, as Peter once did, Jesus restores you. He calls you again. He never gives up on you.

Jesus also gave Peter the keys of the kingdom, a symbol of trust and responsibility. This teaches us that faith is not just about receiving comfort. It is also about taking action. At sea, you are given many chances to live out your faith. You meet people from all walks of life. You can offer kindness, share encouragement, speak truth, and pray with others. A quiet act of love can be a powerful witness. In your everyday work, you can reflect the love of Christ. Your ship can become a place of light and peace because of your faith. So once again Jesus asks, “Who do you say I am?” Your answer shapes your life. When you say, “You are the Christ,” you step into a deep truth. You are never alone. You are not forgotten. You are part of something that will never be shaken. Whether the sea is calm or wild, Jesus is with you. He walks with you on every journey. He stands beside you in every storm. Trust him. Follow him. Let your life be built upon the rock that is Jesus Christ.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;**

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer’s Prayer)

Lord Jesus, you are the Christ, the Son of the living God. We thank you for being our firm foundation, even as we journey across the seas. Help us to keep our faith strong, like Peter, trusting in your promises even when storms arise. Remind us that we are never alone, that your love follows us to every shore and through every wave. Give us courage to confess you not only in words but in how we live. May our shipmates see your light in us. Keep our families safe while we are away and give us peace in our hearts. We place our trust in you, our anchor and our guide. In your name we pray, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (30 August 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

O God,
whose Son has shown the way of the cross
to be the way of life:
transform and renew our minds
that we may not be conformed to this world
but may offer ourselves wholly to you as a living sacrifice
through Jesus Christ our Saviour;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 16:21-28

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!" Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.

In this passage, Jesus begins to explain to his disciples the true path of the Messiah. He tells them clearly that he must go to Jerusalem, suffer greatly, be killed, and rise again on the third day. These are heavy words. Peter, just moments after proclaiming Jesus as the Christ, cannot accept what he is hearing. He pulls Jesus aside and says, "Never, Lord. This shall never happen to you." We understand Peter's reaction. None of us wants to see someone we love suffer. None of us wants to face pain or sacrifice. But Jesus responds with strong words: "Get behind me, Satan. You are a stumbling block to me."

Peter's mistake was that he focused only on the human side of the message. He heard about death, and not about resurrection. He saw defeat, not victory. Jesus makes it clear that to follow him means to set aside human ideas of success and safety. "If anyone would come after me," Jesus says, "he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." These words are not easy. They go against our natural desire for comfort and control. But they are the way of life. Jesus calls his followers to let go of their lives in order to find true life.

For those of you working at sea, the call of Jesus speaks deeply. Life aboard ship can already feel like a daily sacrifice. You are away from your family. You miss the comfort of home. You may feel tired, lonely, or unappreciated. But Jesus knows what sacrifice means. He does not ask us to take up our cross alone. He walks with us. He leads the way. He does not promise ease, but he promises life. A life that is meaningful, grounded in love, and rooted in God's eternal purpose.

We often see a version of Christianity that promises only blessings, healing, and success. But Jesus never hid the cost. Following him means surrender. It means forgiveness, even when it is hard. It means putting others first. It means being faithful

even when it is not easy. Jesus does not offer a crown without the cross. But through the cross, he brings resurrection. Through death, he brings life. He gave his life not only to save us but to show us how to live with courage, hope, and humility.

Taking up your cross does not always mean dramatic suffering. Sometimes it means choosing patience instead of anger. It may mean offering help to a struggling crewmate. It may mean praying for someone who has hurt you. It means living with faith, even when you are unsure what tomorrow holds. Out at sea, you may face many challenges. But every act of love and every choice to trust God becomes a part of your cross. And Jesus says that those who lose their lives for his sake will find them.

So today, remember that Jesus understands the weight of the cross. He carried it first. He carried it for you. And he rose again to give you new life. Following him is not always easy, but it is always worth it. He gives us strength for the journey. He gives us purpose in our work. He gives us peace in the storm. As you sail from port to port, keep your eyes on Jesus. Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow him. In doing so, you will find the life that never ends.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;**

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Heavenly Father, we thank You for sending Jesus to show us the true way of life through the cross. Help us to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him daily. When the seas are rough and the nights are long, remind us that You walk beside us. Give us strength to serve, courage to love, and faith to trust even when the path is hard. May we find true life in surrendering to Your will. Bless every seafarer, keep them safe, and fill their hearts with Your peace. Let our lives shine with Your light wherever we go. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (6 September 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Go before us, O Lord,
and further us with your continual help,
that in all our works,
begun, continued, and ended in you,
we may glorify your holy name,
and finally, by your mercy, obtain everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 18:15-20

"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus teaches us how to respond when someone hurts us. He knows that even among believers, conflict and misunderstanding will happen. His teaching is not about punishment, but about the hope of healing and restoration. Jesus begins with this instruction: "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone." The goal is not to accuse or embarrass, but to restore what was broken in love and truth.

Jesus asks the person who was hurt to take the first step. That may seem unfair at first, especially when we feel we did nothing wrong. But Jesus knows that healing often begins when someone takes the initiative to make peace. Remaining silent or holding onto hurt only deepens the wound. By asking us to speak to the one who offended us, Jesus shows us that love is active. He calls us to confront wrongs with grace, speak honestly with compassion, and open the door to reconciliation.

Of course, Jesus knows that not every attempt at peace will succeed. That is why he gives us a second step. "If you are not listened to," he says, "take one or two others with you." This step is not about building pressure or blame. It is about community support. Sometimes, having others involved helps both parties to listen better, reflect deeper, and consider new perspectives. These witnesses can offer wisdom, keep things fair, and encourage understanding. Reconciliation is never a journey we walk alone. Jesus reminds us that others can help bring peace.

If the matter still remains unresolved, Jesus says it should be brought to the church. And if the person still refuses to listen, then "let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector." At first, this might sound like a final rejection. But we must remember how Jesus treated Gentiles and tax collectors. He never gave up on them. He welcomed

them, loved them, and invited them into God's kingdom. So even when someone will not be reconciled, we are called to keep loving them. We are never to respond with hate or revenge. Even in separation, the hope for restoration must remain alive in our hearts.

This message has special meaning for those at sea. On a ship, people from many cultures live and work in close quarters. Misunderstandings are common, and small issues can grow quickly if not addressed. But Jesus offers us a better way. He teaches us to seek peace quickly, to speak truth with kindness, and to bring healing where there is hurt. When you choose reconciliation, you create space for God's presence among you. Jesus says, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." That promise is true even on the open ocean.

Let us be people who value peace and unity. Let us not wait for others to make the first move, but step forward with courage and humility. Let us speak the truth with love, listen with compassion, and always be ready to forgive. Reconciliation is not easy, but it is holy work. Christ himself walks with us in every step of that journey. May our hearts reflect his patience and mercy. May our words bring healing. And may our lives, whether on land or sea, be marked by the love of the One who came to restore all things.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Gracious and loving God, thank you for your presence among us, even in the middle of the sea. Teach us to walk in the path of reconciliation, to speak truth in love, and to seek peace with those around us. When we are hurt, give us the courage to forgive. When we are wrong, give us humility to repent. Help us build a community where love overcomes division, and grace restores what is broken. Be with us in every conversation, every conflict, and every attempt to make peace. Let your Spirit guide us to live as your people, bound together by your mercy. In Jesus' name we pray, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (13 September 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

O God,
you call your Church to witness
that in Christ we are reconciled to you;
help us so to proclaim the good news of your love,
that all who hear it may turn to you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded.... "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

In Matthew 18, Peter asks Jesus a question many of us have asked in our hearts. "Lord, how many times must I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" Peter likely thought he was being generous. But Jesus replies, "Not seven times, but seventy-seven times." With this answer, Jesus reveals that forgiveness should not be limited or calculated. It should be a constant way of life, a reflection of the endless mercy of God. To explain his teaching, Jesus tells a parable. A king decides to settle accounts with his servants. One servant owes him an enormous amount, ten thousand bags of gold. He cannot pay, and so the king orders him, along with his family, to be sold. But the servant falls on his knees and pleads for mercy. The king, moved with compassion, cancels the entire debt and lets him go. This is a picture of God's grace to us. We owe more than we can ever repay. Yet God, in love, forgives us fully and freely.

However, the story does not end there. The forgiven servant goes out and finds a fellow servant who owes him a much smaller amount, just a hundred silver coins. Instead of showing the same mercy he received, he grabs the man by the throat and demands payment. He refuses to forgive. When the king hears of this, he is angry and hands the servant over to be punished. Jesus ends the parable with a strong message: This is how our heavenly Father will treat us if we do not forgive others from the heart.

This parable reminds us of two great truths. First, we are recipients of great mercy. Second, we are called to show that mercy to others. Forgiveness is not easy. Sometimes we feel deeply hurt, betrayed, or wronged. The sea can be a place of isolation, where tensions rise and relationships strain. Crew members live and work in close quarters. Misunderstandings and mistakes happen. But Jesus calls us to forgive not just once, but

again and again. Forgiveness is not about forgetting or pretending the hurt did not happen. It is about choosing mercy over revenge, grace over judgment.

We forgive because we have been forgiven. We let go of bitterness because Jesus let go of our sins. Each time we forgive, we open our hearts to healing. We allow God's love to flow through us to others. Forgiveness brings freedom. It releases us from the heavy chains of anger and resentment. It builds peace where there was once pain.

As seafarers, you live a life marked by movement and distance. But forgiveness connects you deeply to the heart of Christ. Wherever you sail, carry the gift of mercy with you. Let it shape how you speak, how you respond, and how you build relationships with others. Be known as someone who shows grace, even when it is difficult. In this way, you shine the light of God's kingdom across the waters.

Let us forgive as we have been forgiven. Let us be vessels of mercy, filled by the love of our Saviour. And may we always remember, the one who calmed the storm also quiets our hearts with his peace when we choose to forgive.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;**

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Gracious Lord, thank you for your endless mercy that forgives us more than we deserve. Help us to carry that same spirit of forgiveness into our lives at sea. When we are wronged or hurt, give us the strength to let go of anger and choose grace. Remind us of your love that reaches us in every ocean. Keep our hearts soft, our words kind, and our actions guided by your truth. Bless every seafarer and bring unity aboard every vessel. Watch over our families and children while we are away. Protect them, provide for them, and fill their hearts with peace and joy. May your presence always be with us. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (20 September 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Loving and righteous God,
your boundless generosity exceeds
all that we can desire or deserve,
and you give to the last worker all you promised to the first:
liberate us from all jealousy and greed,
that we may be free to love and serve others,
and in your service may find our true rewards;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Matthew 20: 1-16

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. "About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. "He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. "The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 'These who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' "But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

In this parable, Jesus tells us about a landowner who goes out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agrees to pay them a fair wage, a denarius, for a full day's work. Later, he hires others at different times of the day, even up to the last hour before sunset. But when the day ends, he pays each worker the same wage, regardless of how long they worked. The early workers grumble. "We worked through the heat of the day. Why should they, who worked only an hour, be paid the same?" But the landowner replies, "Did you not agree to work for a denarius? Am I not allowed to be generous with what is mine?"

This parable turns our understanding of fairness upside down. It is not really about wages or labour but about the grace of God. In the kingdom of heaven, God's generosity cannot be measured by human standards. God is not bound by the math of merit. Instead, He gives freely, out of love and compassion.

For us who work and live among others, especially in confined and demanding environments like life at sea, this lesson speaks loudly. We often compare ourselves with others. "I have worked harder," we think. "I have sacrificed more." And when someone else is blessed or recognised, we may feel overlooked or even jealous. But Jesus challenges us to rejoice in God's grace, not just when it is given to us, but also when it is given to others. The landowner's question is worth reflecting on: "Are you envious because I am generous?" God's generosity is not a threat to us. In fact, it is our hope.

If God only gave based on what we deserve, who among us could stand? But His mercy reaches to the farthest person, to those who come early and those who arrive late. We all depend on the same grace.

As seafarers, you understand the value of teamwork and shared reward. Each crew member plays a part. Some work on deck, others in the engine room, some in the galley. The work may differ, but the goal is the same, a safe and successful voyage. In God's kingdom, it is not about who worked the longest but who trusted in the call. Whether you came to faith as a child or only recently, the reward is the same, eternal life and fellowship with God.

This parable also reminds us not to wait to answer God's call. The landowner keeps going out to find workers, even at the last hour. He wants everyone in His vineyard. God still calls us today. He calls us to serve, to love, to forgive, to believe. No one is too late. And no one is too small in His sight. So let us not compare or complain. Let us not measure God's goodness by what we think we deserve. Instead, let us thank Him for calling us into His vineyard and rejoice that His grace reaches all.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;**

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Gracious God, thank You for Your amazing grace that reaches each of us. Teach us not to compare or complain but to trust in Your generous heart. Help us to rejoice in Your blessings, whether they come early or late. As we sail across the seas, guide our work and give us strength. Help us to serve with humility and joy. Bless our shipmates, our families, and especially our children. Keep them safe while we are away and fill their lives with peace and love. Remind us daily that we are part of Your vineyard, each with a purpose, each held in Your care. May we reflect Your grace to all we meet. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (27 September 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Grant, O merciful God,
that your people may have that mind that was in Christ Jesus,
who emptied himself, and took the form of a servant,
and in humility became obedient even to death.
For you have highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name
that is above every name, Jesus Christ, the Lord;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, in everlasting glory. **Amen.**

Matthew 21:23-32

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

In this parable, Jesus tells the story of a father with two sons. He asks both to go work in the vineyard. The first son says, "I will not," but later changes his mind and goes. The second son says, "I go, sir," but does not go. Jesus then asks, "Which of the two did the will of the father?" The answer is clear: the one who actually went and worked, even though he first refused. This story reminds us that obedience is not just about words, it is about actions. It is not enough to say the right things or make good promises. God is looking for hearts that are willing to turn around, to change direction, and to follow through. The son who at first refused but later obeyed is like those who may have lived sinful or rebellious lives but have repented and chosen to follow God.

Jesus told this parable to the religious leaders of the time, those who were respected for their knowledge and outward piety. But many of them did not believe or repent when John the Baptist came preaching righteousness. Meanwhile, tax collectors and prostitutes, those considered outcasts, believed John and changed their lives. Jesus points out the irony: those who were expected to obey God did not, while those who seemed far from God responded with repentance and faith.

As seafarers, you may come from different paths and experiences. Some of you may have known God for many years. Others may just now be seeking Him. This parable tells us it is never too late to say yes to God with our lives. Even if we have made mistakes, even if we have turned away in the past, today we can still respond to His call. God is not looking for perfect words, He is looking for a heart that says, "I will go," and then actually goes.

Life at sea teaches us that words alone do not get the job done. Promises mean little if they are not backed up by action. The same is true in our walk with God. When we say we follow Jesus, we are called to live it out - in our work, our words, our relationships, and our decisions. It may mean forgiving someone who wronged us, helping a shipmate in need, praying for our families back home, or simply choosing honesty and kindness every day.

The good news of this parable is that God's grace is wide enough to include all of us. Whether we've been like the son who said "no" at first or the one who said "yes" but fell short, God gives us the chance to respond again. He is patient, loving, and ready to welcome us into His vineyard.

So let us not be content with empty promises. Let us live our faith. Let our actions show that we belong to Christ. And if we have failed in the past, let today be a new beginning. God does not hold our past against us when we come to Him with sincere hearts. He is always ready to restore, renew, and send us out again to do His work in the world.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your mercy and patience with us. Help us to be like the son who turned around and obeyed. Teach us to follow You not just in words, but in action. As we work at sea, guide our steps, our decisions, and our hearts. Give us the strength to do what is right, even when it is hard. Bless our families and children while we are far from home. Keep them safe and fill their lives with peace. May our lives reflect Your love wherever we go. And when we fall short, give us grace to try again. Thank You for never giving up on us. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (4 October 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God,
your Son Jesus was the stone rejected by the builders,
and, by your doing, he has been made the chief cornerstone:
grant that, by the power of his Spirit working in us,
we may become living stones built up into your dwelling place,
a temple holy and acceptable to you;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 21:33-41

“Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. ‘The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said. ‘But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ‘Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?’” “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.”

In this parable, Jesus tells the story of a landowner who carefully plants a vineyard, builds a wall, digs a winepress, and sets up a watchtower. He prepares everything needed for a fruitful harvest. Then, he rents the vineyard to tenants and goes away. When harvest time comes, he sends his servants to collect what rightfully belongs to him. But the tenants respond with violence. They beat, stone, and kill the servants. Even when the landowner sends his own son, they kill him too.

This story mirrors the history of God’s people. God, the landowner, created the world with care and love. He gave His people everything they needed to flourish in faith and righteousness. The servants represent the prophets, men and women sent by God to call people back to justice, mercy, and worship. But time and time again, the people rejected them. Then God sent His Son, Jesus. And like the son in the parable, Jesus was rejected and killed outside the vineyard, on the cross.

This parable reminds us of the seriousness of rejecting God’s messengers, and most of all, rejecting Christ. It challenges us to examine how we are responding to God’s call in our lives. Are we bearing fruit in His vineyard, or are we holding back what belongs to Him?

As seafarers, you live and work in a unique “vineyard.” Your ship, your duties, your interactions, all of this is ground where fruit can be grown. The fruit God seeks is not grapes, but the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

You may not always feel seen or appreciated in your work. You are far from home, and the pressures of life at sea are real. But remember, God is the owner of the vineyard. He sees your labour, your faithfulness, your efforts to stay kind in harsh moments, your prayers said in quiet corners of the ship. And He is calling each of us to give back to Him, not just in words, but in actions and attitude. This parable also speaks to God's patience. The landowner did not immediately destroy the tenants. He gave them chance after chance. In the same way, God is incredibly patient with us. He gives us time to repent, to change, to begin again. But He also desires a response. When He calls, will we listen? When He asks for fruit, will we give?

At sea, just like on land, we can be tempted to live for ourselves, to ignore God's voice and focus only on surviving the day. But Jesus reminds us that this life is not just about survival. It's about stewardship. Everything we have is a gift from God: our time, our work, our families, even the sea itself. We are not owners, we are tenants. And one day, the owner will return to ask what we've done with what He gave us. Let us choose to be faithful stewards. Let us listen to His voice. Let us honour His Son. And when harvest time comes, may He find in us a life full of fruit, offered freely and gratefully.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;**

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Heavenly Father, we thank You for planting us in Your vineyard. Help us to be faithful stewards of the life, work, and gifts You have given us. On the sea and at home, may we bear good fruit - fruits of love, patience, and kindness. Bless our families and children while we are away. Protect them, comfort them, and keep our hearts connected across the distance. Teach us to respond to Your call with obedience and joy. Strengthen our faith when we feel weary, and fill us with Your peace. May our work bring You glory, and may our lives reflect the love of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Be with us always, Lord, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (11 October 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Saving and healing God,
you have promised
that those who have died with Christ shall live with him:
grant us grace to be continually thankful for all you have done for us,
and in that thankfulness to be eager to serve and live for others,
so that we and all your children may rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Philippians 4:4-9

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Apostle Paul writes to the church in Philippi from prison, yet his words overflow with joy and encouragement. “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!” It may seem strange to rejoice when life is difficult, but Paul shows us that joy in the Lord is not based on circumstances. It is rooted in the nearness and faithfulness of God. Paul reminds us that the Lord is near. That truth alone changes how we live. Knowing that God is close gives us comfort, courage, and peace. For those at sea, far from home and facing daily challenges, this promise is especially powerful. Even on distant waters, even in lonely moments, God is near. He is present, and He is listening.

That is why Paul tells us, “Do not worry about anything.” Of course, life gives us many reasons to worry: family, work, health, and safety. But Paul offers a better way. He urges us to bring everything to God in prayer. Not just our fears, but our hopes, our needs, and even our thankfulness. When we pray, we are not just speaking into the air, we are speaking to a Father who loves us deeply.

Prayer opens the door for the peace of God to enter our lives. Paul says it is a peace that “surpasses all understanding.” It may not always make sense, especially when circumstances are hard. But it is real. It calms our hearts and minds and helps us stand firm in Christ, even when the waves of life try to shake us.

Paul also calls us to guard our minds. What we focus on shapes how we live. He tells us to think about what is true, honourable, just, pure, lovely, and commendable. At sea, where it is easy to feel isolated or fall into negative thinking, this command is vital. By fixing our minds on the good, we build resilience, peace, and hope. It keeps our spirits from sinking.

This practice is not just mental, it is spiritual. Paul says, "Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me." Faith is not only about belief, but about action. When we live out what we know to be true: kindness, honesty, humility, and love; we begin to experience the peace of God in new ways. Just as a freezer stays cold when filled with good things, our lives remain spiritually strong when filled with truth, prayer, and praise.

When we are empty, every challenge drains us. But when we are full of God's presence and the fruits of faith, we are strong and steady, even when tested.

Paul's message is simple yet powerful: Rejoice. Pray. Think on good things. Live out your faith. These are not just religious words, they are a pathway to deep joy and peace. They are tools for seafarers and for everyone who longs for hope in hard times.

Let us rejoice not because life is perfect, but because God is faithful. Let us pray not because we have all the answers, but because we know the One who does. Let us fix our minds on what is good, and keep living what we believe. When we do, we will find that the God of peace is truly with us, on sea and land, in calm and in storm.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Gracious Lord, thank You for being near, even when we are far from home. Help us to rejoice in You always. Teach us to pray with open hearts and thankful spirits. Let Your peace guard our minds when worry tries to take hold. For every seafarer, bless the work of our hands and keep us safe on the waters. Watch over our families and children back home. Surround them with love, protection, and joy. Help us to fill our minds with what is good, pure, and worthy of praise. May we be a light to those around us, shining with Your peace. Be with us always, guiding and strengthening us with Your grace. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (18 October 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Saving and healing God,
you have promised
that those who have died with Christ shall live with him:
grant us grace to be continually thankful for all you have done for us,
and in that thankfulness to be eager to serve and live for others,
so that we and all your children may rejoice in your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap Jesus in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, "Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

In today's Gospel, we witness a moment when two unlikely groups, the Pharisees and the Herodians, come together to trap Jesus with a question. They ask, "Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar?" This was not an honest question, but a test. If Jesus said yes, the Jewish people who resented Roman rule might turn against him. If he said no, the Roman authorities could arrest him for encouraging rebellion. Jesus, aware of their trap, asked for a coin and said, "Whose image is on this?" When they answered, "Caesar's," he replied, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

With this answer, Jesus avoided their trap and revealed a powerful truth. He made it clear that there are things in life that belong to human systems - like money, law, and government, but there are also things that belong only to God. Our souls, our worship, our love, and our very lives belong to the One who created us. Just as the coin bore Caesar's image, we bear the image of God. Jesus is calling us to live in this world with wisdom, fulfilling our responsibilities, but never forgetting our deeper calling to live for God.

For those who live and work at sea, this message speaks in a special way. Life on board a ship follows structure, schedules, and routines. You serve under rules that help keep the ship running safely. But even as you follow orders and carry out tasks, you are more than just a worker. You are a child of God, created in his image, valuable and loved. The sea may separate you from many things, but it cannot separate you from the presence of God. Wherever you are, His Spirit is with you.

Jesus' words also challenge us to examine where we place our loyalty. The Pharisees and Herodians were more interested in protecting their power and traditions than in

discovering the truth. They tried to trap Jesus because he did not fit their expectations. But faith is not about comfort or control. It is about surrendering our own plans and opening ourselves to what God wants to do in and through us. A relationship with God requires humility, trust, and a heart willing to change.

As you travel across oceans and meet people from many places and cultures, remember what truly defines you. Your true worth is not found in titles, tasks, or wages, but in the image of God within you. You are not forgotten. You are not invisible. Your life matters deeply to God. "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's" means do your work with honesty and care. But "Give to God what is God's" means live with faith, compassion, forgiveness, and love. It means reflecting the heart of Christ in all you do.

This passage reminds us that we are not just part of human systems. We are part of something greater, the Kingdom of God. In that Kingdom, justice, mercy, and love are the highest values. In that Kingdom, every person is seen, known, and treasured by God. So let us remember today that we belong to Him. Let us live in a way that reflects His goodness. Wherever we go, even to the farthest sea, may our lives be a daily offering to the God whose image we bear.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Gracious God, we thank You for reminding us that we are made in Your image. Help us to give to You what truly belongs to You, our hearts, our faith, and our daily lives. On the seas and in distant places, guide every seafarer with Your peace. Protect our vessels, calm our storms, and bless the work of our hands. Watch over our families and children at home. Bring comfort to those who wait and strength to those who sail. Teach us, O Lord, to live with integrity, to serve with joy, and to walk always in the light of Your truth. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (25 October 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

One God,
whose Son has taught us that love is the fulfilment of your law:
stir up within us the fire of your Holy Spirit,
and pour into our hearts your greatest gift of love,
so that we may love you with our whole being,
and our neighbours as ourselves;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 22:34-40 "Greatest Commandment"

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 neighbour as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

In today's passage, the Pharisees, having seen Jesus silence the Sadducees, gather once more to test him. One of them, an expert in the law, steps forward with a carefully crafted question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" It was a trap. The religious leaders often debated which of the hundreds of laws in Scripture was the most important, and any answer Jesus gave could have been used to discredit him. But Jesus doesn't hesitate. He speaks clearly and powerfully: "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 neighbour as yourself." This response is not just clever, it is revolutionary. Jesus takes the entire framework of the law and the prophets and compresses it into two commands. He takes what was complex and often burdensome and simplifies it into something anyone can understand: love God and love others. In doing so, Jesus reorients the focus of religious life from legalism to relationship. Instead of memorising every law, followers are called to live in love. These two commands are not separate, they are connected. Loving God should lead us to love others.

Jesus' answer isn't only a theological insight; it is also deeply practical. To love God with all your heart, soul, and mind means making him the centre of your life. It means worshipping him, trusting him, and obeying him fully. But that love cannot remain private. It must overflow into how we treat those around us. Love for God must show up in love for our neighbour, in kindness, forgiveness, service, and grace. These two loves are inseparable.

For those who work at sea, this commandment speaks with deep relevance. Life on board can be demanding and isolating. Tempers may rise, misunderstandings may occur, and cultural differences may create tension. Yet Jesus calls you to love God in your daily work and love your shipmates as yourself. This kind of love brings light into confined and stressful environments. It shapes conversations, softens hearts, and builds

unity where it might not naturally exist. Loving your neighbour aboard ship can mean listening, helping, forgiving, or simply showing respect in difficult moments.

Love, according to Jesus, is the meaning of life. It is not about avoiding trouble, checking religious boxes, or keeping up appearances. It is about living each day with purpose, to glorify God and serve others. Why do we rise each morning? To love God and love our neighbour. Why do we work, speak, or serve? For the same reason. Love must be the motive behind all we do. If this becomes the foundation of our daily lives, everything changes. Our work becomes worship. Our relationships become opportunities for grace. Our burdens become lighter, and our joy becomes deeper.

Let us not miss this powerful truth: the greatest commandment is not difficult to remember, but it takes our entire lives to live. We are called to love fully, honestly, and constantly. Not only when it is easy, but especially when it is hard. God's love is what gives our lives meaning. And when we live in that love, toward God and toward our neighbour, we reflect the heart of Christ to the world. Whether on land or sea, this is our calling. Let us make love our highest aim, our deepest truth, and our daily mission.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;**

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Gracious God, we thank You for the clear command to love You with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbour as ourselves. Help us to live each day with that purpose. On the seas and in our homes, teach us to show compassion, patience, and kindness. Be with all seafarers as we work far from our loved ones. Strengthen our hands, calm our hearts, and keep us safe. Watch over our families and children who wait at home, fill our days with peace and hope. Let our love reflect Your love, and let our service bring glory to Your name. In all we do, may we choose love. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (1 November 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Creator God,
you have filled the world with beauty:
open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works,
that, rejoicing in your whole creation,
we may learn to serve you with gladness,
for the sake of him through whom all things were made,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Joshua 3:11-17

See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD, the Lord of all the earth, set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap.” So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them. Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water’s edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.

The story in Joshua 3 tells us about a pivotal moment in the life of God's people. After years of wandering in the wilderness, the Israelites stand on the edge of the Promised Land. But one obstacle remains: the Jordan River, which is at flood stage. It seems impossible. Yet God commands them to move forward in faith. The priests, carrying the Ark of the Covenant, step into the water, and at that very moment, the river stops flowing. The people cross on dry ground, just as their parents once did at the Red Sea.

This crossing of the Jordan symbolises more than just moving from one place to another. It represents a deep spiritual truth: that we must often take a step of faith before we see the miracle. Just like the Israelites, we are often called to move forward while the river is still rushing. God does not always part the waters ahead of time; sometimes He waits until our feet touch the edge. It is a powerful lesson in trust, God moves when we move in faith.

For many of us, the Jordan River takes different forms. It may be fear, doubt, loss, uncertainty, or a difficult decision. We know what God has promised, but getting there requires us to face something overwhelming. Seafarers know this reality well. The sea itself can be like the Jordan – wide, deep, and dangerous. And yet, just as He did then, God goes before us. His presence, symbolised by the Ark, leads the way. He invites us to follow, trusting that He will make a way even when we cannot see it yet.

The moment the priests obeyed and stepped into the river, God acted. That’s the heart of this passage. Faith is not just believing; it is acting based on that belief. The miracle did

not happen before they moved. It happened when they moved. This is how God often works. He asks us to trust Him enough to take the first step, even when the ground seems uncertain. And in that act of obedience, He reveals His power.

God's people walked through the river on dry ground, not in fear, but in faith. What seemed like a barrier became a testimony of God's faithfulness. That same promise holds true for us today. Whether we're facing personal struggles, separation from loved ones, or storms at sea, we are not alone. The God who parted the Jordan is the same God who walks with us now. He does not remove every obstacle, but He does lead us through them.

Let us be people who step forward in faith. Let us trust that when God says "go," He also makes a way. The journey may not be easy, but it leads to something beautiful, God's promises fulfilled. When we step into the unknown with God before us, the river cannot stop us. The same God who led Israel into the Promised Land leads us today into new life, hope, and purpose. So take the step. The water will part.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Gracious and faithful God, thank You for going before us, just as You went before Your people at the Jordan. Help us to trust You even when the path ahead feels uncertain. Strengthen every seafarer today, give courage to take steps of faith and calm every fear that rises like a flood. Watch over our vessels and keep us safe. Bless our families and children waiting at home with peace, patience, and protection. May our lives reflect Your presence, and may we always walk in Your promises. Remind us that with You, no barrier is too great, and no waters too deep. Lead us through, O Lord. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (8 November 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Eternal God,
you have taught us that the night is far spent and the day is at hand:
keep us awake and alert, watching for your kingdom,
so that when Christ, the bridegroom, comes
we may go out joyfully to meet him,
and with him enter into the marriage feast
that you have prepared for all who truly love you;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 25:1-13 The Parable of the Ten Virgins

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ ““No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’ “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Jesus shares a parable about ten virgins waiting for a bridegroom. Five are called wise, and five are foolish. They all have lamps, but only the wise bring extra oil. When the bridegroom is delayed, they all fall asleep. At midnight, the call comes: “Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!” The wise trim their lamps and are ready. The foolish, lacking oil, rush off to buy some. But by the time they return, the door is shut. Jesus ends with these sobering words: “Keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”

This story is not just about wedding traditions; it is a picture of the kingdom of heaven. It is a call to spiritual readiness. Jesus is the bridegroom, and we are the ones waiting for His return. The oil in the parable represents grace, faith, obedience, and spiritual preparedness. As seafarers, you know what it means to be prepared. A ship cannot leave port without checking its fuel, supplies, and safety systems. The sea is unpredictable, and readiness can mean the difference between safety and danger. Spiritually, it is the same. Life is uncertain, and Jesus tells us to keep watch, not by staying awake all night, but by living each day in readiness, full of grace and faith.

The wise virgins slept too, but they had already prepared. They didn’t panic when the call came because they had what they needed. Their oil was their inner spiritual life, nurtured long before the moment of testing arrived. The foolish virgins only looked ready on the

outside. They had lamps but no oil. In the same way, it is possible to look religious, to go through the motions, but not be spiritually alive.

God's grace is available to all. The oil is there for the taking, but you must receive it before the door closes. For sailors, that means walking closely with Christ every day, praying, seeking His Word, and living with integrity. It means forgiving others, trusting God in storms, and staying faithful even when far from home.

This parable also speaks to our responsibility. No one else can give you their oil. We cannot borrow someone else's faith. Each person must decide to follow Christ for themselves. The good news is this: the oil of God's grace is abundant and free. Jesus gave His life so you could have it. But like the wise virgins, we must choose to fill our lamps now, not later.

Don't wait for a more convenient moment. Don't let distractions or delays keep you from Christ. Whether on land or sea, in busy seasons or quiet ones, keep watch. Stay connected to God. Be like the wise virgins, ready, faithful, full of the light of Christ. Because when the cry goes out, and the door is opened, may you be found ready, not rushing to find oil, but shining brightly, ready to meet your Saviour face-to-face.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Lord Jesus, thank You for reminding us to be watchful and prepared. Help us, as seafarers and families, to keep our lamps filled with the oil of Your grace, ready for Your return. May our faith not grow tired, and may we use each day to draw closer to You. Strengthen us to live wisely, walking in truth and love. Bless every ship and crew, and bring peace to those waiting at home. Let us not be caught unaware, but always living with purpose, hope, and readiness. Teach us to trust in You and to share Your light wherever we sail. In Your name we pray. **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Go in peace and love and care for another in the name of Christ Jesus and may indeed the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, both now and forevermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (15 November 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Everliving God,
before the earth was formed,
and even after it shall cease to be, you are God.
Break into our short span of life
and show us those things that are eternal,
that we may serve your purpose in all we do;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 25:14-30

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

In the parable of the talents, Jesus tells a story about a master who goes on a journey and entrusts his servants with portions of his wealth. To one he gives five talents, to another two, and to another one, each according to their ability. Upon his return, the master finds that the first two servants have doubled what they were given. They are praised and rewarded. But the third servant, out of fear, hides his talent in the ground and returns only what he received. The master rebukes him, calling him wicked and lazy, and casts him out.

This parable is not just about money. It is about responsibility, trust, and how we use what God gives us, our time, our gifts, our influence, and our opportunities. God gives each of us different amounts and abilities. Some have much, some less, but everyone is given something. What matters is not how much we have, but what we do with what we have. The question this parable asks each of us is simple: are we being faithful with what God has placed in our hands?

The faithful servants took what they were given and used it. They did not let fear stop them. They took risks. They understood that the master expected growth, not just safekeeping. The unfaithful servant, however, operated out of fear. He saw the master as harsh and unfair, and so he played it safe, did nothing, and ended up losing everything. Jesus is telling us here that inaction is not neutral, it is disobedience. Hiding what God has given you is the opposite of faithful living.

For those of us working at sea or living far from home, this message hits close to the heart. Life at sea demands discipline, endurance, and trust. These are talents too. Each

day brings opportunities to be faithful: to encourage a crewmate, to serve with kindness, to pray when lonely, or to respond to difficulty with faith. The talents God gives are not always dramatic, but when used with love and courage, they multiply. A word of hope, a gesture of patience, or a small act of service can bless more people than you realise.

This parable also reminds us that God doesn't ask us to do everything alone. He gives us His Spirit, His Word, and one another. Like a crew working together on a ship, we each bring different strengths. God's expectation is not perfection but participation. He wants us to engage, to grow, and to trust Him. Even small steps of faith matter deeply to God. And when we invest what we've been given into His purposes, He welcomes us with joy and says, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

So ask yourself today: What has God placed in your hands? What gifts, chances, or responsibilities are waiting for you to act on them? Do not bury your purpose out of fear. Do not hold back because others have more. Use what you have for God's glory. Offer your work, your words, your time, and your heart to Him. If you do, you will hear the words we all long to hear: "Enter into the joy of your Master."

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;**

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Gracious and generous God, thank You for trusting us with the gifts You have given. Help us to use them wisely—not to hide them or keep them to ourselves, but to share them with others for Your glory. Give us courage to act, faith to trust, and hearts that are willing to serve. May we not be afraid of failure but be eager to be faithful. Guide us to invest in Your Kingdom with love, joy, and boldness. And one day, Lord, may we hear Your voice saying, "Well done, good and faithful servant." In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (22 November 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

God of power and love,
who raised your Son Jesus from death to life,
resplendent in glory to rule over all creation:
free the world to rejoice in his peace,
to glory in his justice, and to live in his love.
Unite the human race in Jesus Christ your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Matthew 25:31-40

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

Today we celebrate Christ the King Sunday, the final Sunday of the Church calendar. It is a time to reflect on Jesus as the King of kings, not a ruler of power and pride, but a King whose throne is built on compassion, justice, and humility. In Matthew 25, Jesus gives a clear picture of what will happen when He comes in glory. He will gather all nations before Him and separate people as a shepherd separates sheep from goats. The sheep are invited to inherit the kingdom. Why? Because they lived with love and mercy. They fed the hungry, gave water to the thirsty, welcomed strangers, clothed the poor, cared for the sick, and visited the imprisoned. Jesus says, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

This story teaches us something essential about the heart of God. Entrance into the kingdom is not based on fame, position, or religious knowledge. It is based on love in action. This parable tells us that true faith must show itself in the way we treat others. Christianity is not just about belief or tradition. It is about living out what we say we believe. A person who follows Christ must reflect His love through kindness, service, and compassion.

What is most striking is how unaware the righteous were of their good deeds. They asked, “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty?” They had not been trying to earn a reward. They were simply responding to the needs around them with kindness. Their actions were rooted in love, not recognition. Jesus identifies Himself so deeply with the poor and suffering that when we serve others, we are actually serving Him. He is present in the forgotten, the lonely, and the hurting.

For those who work at sea, this message holds deep meaning. Life on board can be stressful and demanding. Long hours, distance from family, and emotional pressure are all part of the journey. Yet even there, the call of Christ is clear. You may not see a crowd of people in need, but you do see your fellow crew members. You can offer a word of encouragement, a helping hand, or simply a kind smile. These small acts are holy in the eyes of God. They carry the weight of eternity.

Even the unseen moments matter. Helping someone through a hard shift, listening to a shipmate who feels homesick, or showing patience in a moment of frustration, these are moments when heaven touches earth. Jesus tells us that when we do such things, even if no one notices, He sees. And He receives it as an offering of love directly to Him. Every act of mercy counts. Every choice to love makes the kingdom more visible.

As we honour Christ the King, let us not only believe in Him but also live like Him. The King we serve does not sit behind walls of power. He walks among the weak. He listens to the forgotten. And He calls us to do the same. Let us open our eyes to the needs around us and respond with love. That is what it means to serve the King. Amen.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;**

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Gracious Lord, we thank You for being our King of compassion and mercy. As we sail through distant waters, help us to carry Your love in our hearts and actions. Teach us to serve one another with kindness, to notice the needs around us, and to respond with grace. Bless every seafarer with strength and peace. Protect our vessels, calm our storms, and guide us safely home. Watch over our families and children while we are away. May our lives reflect Your light, even in the darkest hours. Remind us, O God, that every act of love we show, no matter how small, is a service to You. Keep us faithful to You always. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (29 November 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Eternal God,
through long generations you prepared a way
for the coming of your Son,
and by your Spirit you still bring light to illumine our paths:
renew us in faith and hope
that we may welcome Christ to rule our thoughts
and claim our love;
to whom be glory for ever. **Amen.**

Mark 13:28-37

“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back - whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’”

Today marks the beginning of the season of Advent, a time of waiting, preparation, and hope. As we enter this sacred season, we are reminded that Advent is not just about preparing for Christmas, but about preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. In Mark 13, Jesus tells His followers to keep watch. He speaks of the fig tree and how its budding branches signal that summer is near. In the same way, we are to recognise the signs of His return and live with readiness.

Jesus emphasises a key truth: we do not know the exact day or hour of His coming. Not the angels, not even the Son, but only the Father. This should stir something in us, not fear, but urgency. The message is clear. Stay awake. Be alert. Be faithful. Live each day as if it matters in eternity. Because it does.

In this passage, Jesus compares His return to a man who goes away and puts his servants in charge. Each servant has a task. One is told to keep watch at the door. This is a powerful image of Christian life. We are not called to wait passively. We are called to wait actively, with responsibility, purpose, and faithfulness. God has given each of us gifts and roles in His kingdom. Our calling is to be faithful stewards while we wait for His return.

This Advent season reminds us that waiting is not wasted time. In a world that values speed and instant results, Advent teaches us the spiritual discipline of patience. Waiting on God sharpens our trust. It shapes our character. It draws us closer to Him. When we live in expectation, we begin to see God in the ordinary moments of life, in the kindness of others, in the quiet of prayer, in the beauty of creation, in acts of compassion.

For seafarers, this message has special meaning. Life at sea involves constant alertness. Whether navigating a storm or sailing through calm waters, you are always watching, always ready. This is a mirror of the spiritual readiness Jesus calls us to. Just as a ship must be prepared for sudden changes, so must our hearts be ready to welcome Christ at any moment.

Advent is also a season of hope. Amid uncertainty and hardship, we are reminded that Christ is coming again. His return is a promise of justice, peace, and restoration. It is the hope that sustains us when the night feels long. It is the light that guides us when the way seems unclear. We are not just remembering His first coming in Bethlehem. We are looking forward to His glorious return.

Let this Advent be a time to renew our faith, to realign our priorities, to forgive, to love, and to serve. Let it be a time to quiet our hearts and listen for His voice. Let it be a time to keep watch, not with anxiety, but with hope. Jesus is coming, and we want to be ready, not just with decorations and traditions, but with hearts full of faith and lives that reflect His light. Stay awake. Be alert. Keep watch. The King is near.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;**

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Gracious God, as we begin this Advent season, we ask You to prepare our hearts for the coming of Your Son. For all of us who sail far from home, fill us with peace and hope. May the light of Christ shine in every vessel, and may Your presence be our constant companion. Guide our work, protect our journeys, and comfort our families who wait on shore. Help us all to stay awake in faith, to live with purpose, and to serve with love. May our lives reflect the hope of Advent and the promise of Your return. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (6 December 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Merciful God,
you sent your messengers the prophets
to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation:
give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins,
that we may greet with joy
the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"-- "a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Today we enter the second week of Advent, a time of waiting, hope, and preparation. The Gospel reading from Mark opens with a powerful reminder that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is coming. Mark quotes the prophet Isaiah: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way." That messenger is John the Baptist, a voice crying out in the wilderness, calling people to prepare their hearts for the coming of the Lord. This message is not only for those who lived at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, but for all of us now as we prepare to welcome Christ again into our lives and into the world.

John the Baptist stood in the desert, dressed in simple clothes, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. People from all around Jerusalem and Judea went out to him. They acknowledged their need for change and were baptised in the Jordan River. Their response shows us that repentance is not a dusty old word, but a living movement of the heart. Repentance means to turn around, to change direction, and to begin walking in a new way. It is a choice to leave old ways behind and to seek God's grace, truth, and love.

Advent invites us to look honestly at our lives. We are each on a journey, and there are moments when we realise we have wandered off the path. We all live in a kind of wilderness, with doubts, distractions, and fears. But God does not abandon us there. He calls us out of the wilderness into a place of rest, peace, and joy. We prepare for Christ's coming not only with our words, but with our actions. We prepare by turning toward God, by turning toward love, and by turning toward life in all its fullness.

John's message was bold and simple: change your direction. He did not build a literal road in the desert. He called people to build a road in their hearts. That road is one of honesty, humility, and willingness to be transformed by God. This Advent, we are invited

to do the same. We are invited to notice where our lives need straightening, where our priorities need ordering, where our hearts need opening. Preparation begins with an honest look at ourselves and a readiness to receive God's mercy.

John also pointed forward to One who is greater than he. Though John baptised with water, he said that Jesus would baptise with the Holy Spirit. Water cleanses the body, but the Spirit transforms the soul. Advent reminds us that Christ does more than change our actions. He changes our hearts. As we prepare for His coming, we open ourselves to that transforming presence. We let go of old burdens and welcome new life. We practice gentleness, compassion, and peace, because Christ's coming is about healing and restoration.

So this Advent, let us hear John's voice in our own lives. Let us prepare the way of the Lord by turning away from things that separate us from God and from each other. Let us make straight the paths that lead to love and truth. And let us wait with hope, knowing that the God who began a good work in us will carry it to completion. Christ is near. May we be ready to welcome Him with open hearts and lives shaped by His grace.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;**

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Loving God, as we journey through this week of Advent, help us to hear Your voice in the quiet places of our lives. For those of us at sea, far from loved ones and familiar traditions, speak peace into our hearts. Help us to prepare the way for Your Son by turning from fear and toward faith, from weariness to hope. Renew our spirits with the comfort of Your presence. Guide our hands in our work and fill our words with kindness. Watch over our families waiting at home. As we prepare for the coming of Christ, may we shine with Your love in the places we sail. In the name of Jesus, who is our peace and our promise. **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (13 December 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Eternal God,
you sent John the Baptist
to prepare the way for the coming of your Son:
grant us wisdom to see your purpose
and openness to hear your will,
that we too may prepare the way for Christ
who is coming in power and glory
to establish his rule of peace and justice;
through Jesus Christ our Judge and our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

John 1:19-28

Now this was John's testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was. He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, "I am not the Messiah." They asked him, "Then who are you? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No." Finally they said, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'" Now the Pharisees who had been sent questioned him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" "I baptize with water," John replied, "but among you stands one you do not know. He is the one who comes after me, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie." This all happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday, which means 'Rejoice'. It is a special moment in the Advent season when we shift our focus toward joy. This joy is not based on possessions or circumstances, but on the One who is coming. It is a joy rooted in the promise of Jesus Christ. The rose-coloured candle on the Advent wreath reminds us that even in a season of waiting, we are never without hope. Joy is already near, because Christ is near.

In the Gospel reading, we see John the Baptist again. When questioned by religious leaders, John is honest and humble. They ask – are you the Messiah? He says no. Are you Elijah? No. Are you the Prophet? No. So they press him – who are you? John answers using the words of Isaiah, I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, Make straight the way for the Lord. John clearly understands his role. He is not the centre of the story. He is not the Saviour. He is the one pointing the way.

This kind of humility is rare in a world where many seek recognition. John could have claimed more for himself. Instead, he chose to make much of Jesus. He said, I am not worthy to untie the straps of His sandals. That humility made room for the joy of Christ to shine. Real joy is not found in being important. It is found in knowing Jesus and pointing others to Him. John teaches us that we do not need to be the light, we are called to reflect it.

John also tells the people, Among you stands one you do not know. Jesus was already present, but the people had not recognised Him. That is still true today. Sometimes we miss the presence of Christ in our daily lives. He is there in quiet moments, in small acts of kindness, in the encouragement of a friend, in the stillness of prayer. Advent is not only about waiting for Jesus to come. It is also about recognising that He is already near. We must open our eyes and hearts to see Him.

For seafarers, this message brings comfort and strength. Life at sea can feel distant and routine. There may be long hours, hard tasks, and moments of loneliness. But even there, the voice in the wilderness calls out: Prepare the way of the Lord. Christ is not far away. He is present on the ship, in the engine room, on the bridge, and in the quiet moments. His joy is not out of reach. It is with you, even when the shore seems far away. As we continue through this Advent season, let us take John the Baptist's example to heart. We are not the Saviour, but we can lead others to Him. We are not the light, but we can reflect it. Let our voices and our lives make the way for Jesus to be seen. In doing so, we will discover the joy that lasts, a joy that comes not from being noticed, but from helping others see the One who truly matters.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;**

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Gracious God, as we celebrate this third Sunday of Advent, fill our hearts with joy, not based on circumstances, but on the presence of Your Son, Jesus Christ. For those of us who sail the seas, help us to hear Your voice calling in the quiet moments. Remind us that even far from home, You are near. Let us be like John the Baptist, humble and faithful, always pointing to the Light. Strengthen us in our work and refresh our spirits when we grow tired. Bring comfort to our families waiting on shore. May joy rise in us like the morning sun, steady and sure. We prepare the way for You, Lord, with thankful hearts. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (20 December 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Gracious God,
whose eternal Word took flesh among us
when Mary placed her life at the service of your will:
prepare our hearts for his coming again
and keep us steadfast in hope,
that we may be ready for the coming of his kingdom;
for his sake, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Luke 1:26-38 The Birth of Jesus Foretold

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

As we arrive at the Fourth Sunday of Advent, our focus turns to Mary, a young woman from Nazareth, who receives a divine message that will change not only her life but the entire world. The angel Gabriel appears to her and says, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured. The Lord is with you." These words are powerful, but also confusing. Mary is troubled, unsure of what the angel means. She is an ordinary person, not royalty or a leader. Yet God has chosen her for something extraordinary.

Gabriel tells her that she will conceive and give birth to a son, and His name will be Jesus. He will be called the Son of the Most High, and His kingdom will never end. Mary, still trying to understand, asks, "How can this be?" Her question is honest. She is not doubting God, but wondering how such a thing could happen in her situation.

The angel responds with a message of reassurance. He tells her that the Holy Spirit will come upon her, and the power of God will overshadow her. This will not be by human effort, but by the work of God. And to strengthen her faith, Gabriel points to another miracle, her relative Elizabeth, who was said to be barren, is already six months pregnant. Then he says something that changes everything: "For nothing is impossible with God." Mary does not argue or run away. Instead, she responds with simple but deep faith. "I am the servant of the Lord," she says. "Let it be to me as you have said." In that moment, Mary shows us the true meaning of trust. She does not need to have all the answers. She only needs to know the One who has called her is faithful.

This story reminds us that Advent is not just about waiting for Christmas. It is about preparing our hearts to receive Christ. Like Mary, we are invited to trust God's word even when we do not understand the full picture. We are called to say yes to God, even when the path ahead seems uncertain.

For those who work at sea, this message is especially important. Life on the ocean is full of unpredictability. Schedules change, weather turns, and distance from home can feel overwhelming. But just as God was with Mary in her uncertainty, He is with you. God does not forget those who are far from land. He sees you. He walks with you in your daily duties. He speaks into your heart even in the quiet moments.

Mary's courage can be your courage. Her faith can be your faith. As you continue this Advent journey, ask yourself: What is God inviting me to trust Him with today? Where is He asking me to say yes? May we all learn from Mary to welcome the presence of Christ, not with fear, but with faith. Let us say, "I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be with me according to His word."

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Gracious God, we give thanks for the example of Mary, who trusted You in the unknown. We pray for all seafarers today, those far from home, working through long days and uncertain waters. Fill their hearts with peace and hope. Remind them that, like Mary, they are never alone. Let them feel Your presence in the quiet of the sea, in their work, and in the kindness they offer each other. Guide their ships, protect their journeys, and bless their families who wait on shore. May they know the joy of Christmas and carry the light of Christ wherever they sail. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Go in peace and love and care for one another in the name of Christ, and may the Lord keep you endlessly in his love, may the Spirit of God fill your lives with light and wisdom, and may the faith and the hope and the peace and the joy of God be yours, both now and forevermore. **Amen.**

Christmas Day (25 December 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

All glory to you, gracious God,
for the gift of your Son,
whom you sent to save us.
With the angels, let us praise your name,
and tell the earth his story,
that all may believe, rejoice, and proclaim your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Luke 2:11-20 The Birth of Jesus

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

On this holy day, we gather in spirit with millions around the world to celebrate a miracle that changed history. In Luke chapter 2, the angel speaks to shepherds with these words: "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord." This one sentence tells us everything we need to know about the meaning of Christmas. It is a message of joy, hope, and deep peace.

The shepherds were not religious leaders or wealthy people. They were ordinary workers watching over their sheep. And yet, the message of Christ's birth came to them first. This shows us that God does not look at status or titles. God reaches out to all people, wherever they are, including those working far from home or alone on distant seas. The angel tells them not to be afraid. That is the first message of Christmas. Do not be afraid. In a world full of uncertainty and pain, the birth of Jesus brings comfort and courage. God is not far away. God has come near. He has stepped into our world in the form of a child, wrapped in cloth, lying in a manger.

Suddenly, a great number of angels appear, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to those on whom his favour rests." Glory and peace. These are not just pretty words. They are gifts God offers to everyone who opens their heart to Jesus. The peace of Christ is not dependent on quiet surroundings. It is the kind of peace that reaches us in the middle of chaos, in the middle of storms, and in the middle of everyday life.

The shepherds could have ignored the message, but instead, they chose to go and see. Their faith turned into action. They hurried to Bethlehem and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby just as the angel had said. After seeing Him, they could not keep the good news to themselves. They shared it with others. And as they returned to their work, they were full of praise and joy.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, did something beautiful. She treasured all these things in her heart. That is what we are invited to do on Christmas. To treasure. To pause and remember what God has done. To let the light of Christ fill our hearts again, even if life has been heavy or uncertain.

For seafarers and those working away from home, the story of the shepherds is especially meaningful. The good news came to people in the fields, not in houses. The presence of Christ does not depend on location. Whether you are on a ship or on shore, the message is the same. Christ is with you. He is your Saviour, your peace, and your joy. Today, let us receive that gift with open hearts. Let us be like the shepherds, ready to listen, willing to go, and full of praise. For unto us a Saviour is born. Let us rejoice. Amen.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Gracious God, on this day when we celebrate the birth of Your Son Jesus, we thank You for the light and hope He brings into the world. We pray for all seafarers who are far from their homes and families today. May they feel Your presence with them on every journey. Fill their hearts with peace and joy as they remember the promise of Christmas. Watch over their vessels, guide their work, and protect them from danger. Comfort their loved ones at home and bring them all safely together again. May the message of Jesus be their strength and light. In His name we pray. **Amen.**

***Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.***

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

***For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.***

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Sunday Service (27 December 2026)

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
as in the beginning, so now, and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, wonderful creator,
you have made yourself known in your Son, Jesus.
In his birth you have restored the dignity of human nature.
In his death and resurrection
you have revealed to us the fullness of your grace and mercy.
In your love, and by the power of the Holy Spirit,
let us share in his divine life, even as he partook of our humanity,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Luke 2:22-32

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

As we come to the final Sunday of the year, our attention is drawn to a sacred moment in the Gospel of Luke. Mary and Joseph have brought their infant son Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem. According to Jewish tradition, this was a time of dedication and purification. For most, it would have been a routine act of religious obedience. But on this occasion, something extraordinary happens.

In the temple, a man named Simeon is waiting. Simeon is not a priest or a prophet with a public ministry. He is a quiet, devout man who has spent his life in prayerful expectation. The Scriptures describe him as righteous and devout, and we are told that the Holy Spirit was upon him. Simeon had been waiting for the consolation of Israel, a term that refers to the coming of the promised Messiah. God had made a promise to Simeon: that he would not die before seeing the Saviour with his own eyes.

Moved by the Spirit, Simeon enters the temple just as Mary and Joseph arrive with the child Jesus. At that moment, the long years of waiting are fulfilled. He takes the baby into his arms and blesses God, proclaiming, "My eyes have seen your salvation." Though Jesus is just a baby, Simeon sees beyond what is visible. He sees the fulfilment of God's promise. He sees light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory for Israel. In that small child, Simeon sees the hope of the entire world.

Simeon's response teaches us a powerful lesson about trust, patience, and faith. He did not demand proof or dramatic signs. He did not need to witness miracles or great events.

His eyes recognised the Messiah because his heart was prepared by faith. He knew that God's promises are sure, even when their fulfillment comes in small and quiet ways. As we come to the close of this year, we too are invited to reflect with hearts like Simeon. The passing of time may bring uncertainty, disappointment, or long periods of waiting. We may wonder if God hears our prayers or sees our needs. But Simeon reminds us that God always keeps His promises. Salvation has come in Jesus Christ, and even when we cannot see everything clearly, we are invited to trust that God is working.

For those at sea, this message carries deep meaning. Life on board can feel repetitive or lonely. The days may blur together, and the longing for home can grow heavy. But like Simeon, you are not forgotten. The same Spirit that led him to the temple is with you wherever you sail. Christ is present with you in the quiet moments, in the fellowship of crew, and in the unseen strength that carries you forward.

As we prepare to enter a new year, let us give thanks for what has been and look forward with hope for what is to come. Like Simeon, may we have eyes to see God's salvation in the world around us. May we hold onto peace, knowing that the light of Christ shines even on the open sea.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Seafarer's Prayer)

Gracious God, as we come to the close of another year, we thank You for Your faithfulness through every season. We lift up all seafarers to You today, those near and far, those sailing and those resting ashore. May we, like Simeon, see the light of Your salvation and be filled with peace. Keep us safe on every journey. Strengthen our hearts and bless our families. As we face the waves of life, may we always know Your steady hand and Your guiding presence. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

Collection of Prayers

Seafarer's Prayer

*Lord God, I come to You as a seafarer.
Please keep me and my crewmates safe on every voyage.
Protect our ship from danger, storms, and accidents, and guide us securely to every port.
Give me peace when I feel afraid, lonely, or stressed.
When I am far from home and those I love, remind me that You are near me,
watching over me, and that I am never alone.
Strengthen my body and mind. Give me good health, courage, and a clear mind,
so that I may work wisely and make good decisions at sea.
Help us on board to live and work together in unity.
Teach us patience, kindness, and understanding toward one another.
May our ship be a place of respect, support, and peace.
Lord, be with me wherever I sail.
Protect my family while I am away, and bring us safely together in Your time.
In Jesus' name, **Amen.***

Prayer for My Family, My Children, and Our Parents

*Lord God, while I am far away at sea, I lift my family into Your loving care.
Fill our home and their hearts with Your peace.
When they worry or feel lonely, comfort them and remind them that You are always near.
I pray especially for my children.
Protect them each day and help them grow in wisdom, health, and strength.
Guide their lives and their future, and let them always feel loved, even when I am away.
I also pray for our parents. Bless them with good health, comfort, and dignity.
Give them peace in their hearts and strength for each day,
and thank You for their love, sacrifice, and prayers.
Lord, please provide for my family's daily needs.
Give them stability, wisdom, and Your faithful care.
Take care of what I cannot do while I am away.
Give us emotional strength during this time of separation.
Protect us from fear and discouragement, and keep our love strong across every distance.
In Your perfect time, bring us safely together again with joy and thanksgiving.
Keep my family safe at home, and keep me safe at sea.
In Jesus' name, **Amen.***

Prayer for Seafarers Who Do Not Yet Believe

*Gracious God, we pray for seafarers who do not yet believe.
May they encounter Your love and truth. Keep their hearts open to hope and faith.
Send caring people who reflect the compassion of Christ,
and let them experience peace that comes from You.
In Jesus' name, **Amen.***

Prayer for Ships and Safe Navigation

*Lord, we entrust every vessel to You. Protect ships from storms, accidents, and danger.
Bless equipment, engines, and systems to remain safe and reliable.
Give wisdom and calm judgment in every situation, and guide each ship safely to every port.
In Jesus' name, **Amen.***

Prayer for Shipping Companies and Vessel Managers

*Lord God, we pray for shipping companies and vessel managers.
Help them value safety and human dignity above profit.
Guide them to lead with fairness, responsibility, and compassion.
Give them a true concern for crew well-being, and help them make ethical and just decisions.
In Jesus' name, **Amen.***

Prayer for Port Authorities, Agents, and Harbour Workers

*Lord, we pray for those who work in ports and maritime services.
Protect their health, strength, and safety.
Help them treat seafarers with respect, kindness, and care.
Bless good communication and cooperation across teams,
and give them hearts that care for those at sea.
In Jesus' name, **Amen.***

Prayer for Maritime Schools, Cadets, and Students

*Lord God, bless maritime schools, cadets, and students.
Grant wisdom, learning, and strong character.
Build in them a deep respect for safety, life, and responsibility.
Prepare them not only in skill but in values,
so that future maritime leaders may serve with integrity.
In Jesus' name, **Amen.***

Prayer for Maritime Ministry and Seafarers' Mission Work

*Lord, we pray for chaplains, mission workers, and volunteers.
Give them strength, guidance, and spiritual wisdom.
Bless every seafarers' mission centre around the world.
Provide their needs and help their work to flourish,
so that the hope of Christ may reach every ship and every heart.
In Jesus' name, **Amen.***

Prayer for All Who Work at Sea

*Lord God, we pray for all who work at sea – fishermen, engineers, coast guards, naval workers, offshore crews, rescue workers, and port labourers.
Keep them safe in dangerous environments.
Grant rest, renewal, and emotional strength.
Bless their family relationships and give them purpose, dignity, and hope in their daily work.
In Jesus' name, **Amen.***

Prayer for the Global Maritime Industry and the World

*Lord of all nations, we pray for the global maritime industry and our world.
Bring justice, fairness, and peace across the oceans.
End exploitation, abuse, and unjust practices.
Strengthen international cooperation that values human life.
May Your love, peace, and righteousness be seen throughout the maritime world.
In Jesus' name, **Amen.***

*May your worship on the ocean be
a true offering of praise, and
may God bless you richly at sea and on shore*



Mission to Seafarers Geelong
seachurch@yahoo.com
mtsseachurch@gmail.com
www.seachurch.online