

For further reflection:

1 Thessalonians 1: 4-5

For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction.

- Who has the Holy Spirit worked through to share the gospel with you?
- Who might you be called to take the good news of Jesus to?
- In what ways do you know yourself to be called and chosen by God?

Sunday 18th October is the **Feast of St Luke**. Luke is widely considered to be the author of both the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, and to have been a physician (Colossians 4: 14). In some traditions he is venerated as the patron saint of physicians and surgeons.

Loving and healing, God,
We hold before you in prayer all those working in the care professions. Grant each your wisdom, grace, kindness and protection in this difficult time.

We pray for communities across the North East struggling with the pandemic restrictions. Grant patience and wisdom; show us where we can share your love at this time. In Jesus' name, Amen

Traditional Prayer to St. Luke

Most charming and saintly Physician, you were animated by the heavenly Spirit of love. In faithfully detailing the humanity of Jesus, you also showed his divinity and his genuine compassion for all human beings. Inspire our physicians with your professionalism and with the divine compassion for their patients. Enable them to cure the ills of both body and spirit that afflict so many in our day. Amen.

Darlington District Worship at Home Sunday 18th October

*Our worship sheet this week is offered to the District
by Middlesbrough and Eston Circuit.*

Marks of Faith

Call to worship

Praise and thanksgiving to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who comes to us in his power and his love.

Hymn At the name of Jesus [H&P 74](#) [STF 317](#).

Prayer

Heavenly Father,
we thank you for all that has been good in the last week,
for all we have managed to do in your name.
Thank you for any opportunity we have had to speak to others about
you and to witness that you are our Lord and our God.
Thank you lord for this first day of a new week,
this day of Resurrection,
when we see you as the risen Jesus at work in our lives
and the life of the world.
Be with us in our worship today. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

We say the prayer that Jesus taught us saying;

Our Father...

Bible Readings

[Isaiah 45: 1-7](#)

[1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10](#)

[Matthew 22: 15-22](#)

When I read the letter to the Thessalonians I am inspired by the fact this letter was only written about twenty years after the Crucifixion. There is a definite assurance that the Christian people owe their identity even in these early days to Jesus and not to Rome. I also feel inspired by the words in verse 3 'Work produced by faith, labour prompted by love and endurance inspired by our hope in the Lord Jesus Christ' Today's readings are in my opinion about knowing God and identifying with him as our God who inspires all we do. In the gospel Jesus replies to those who were trying to trick him by showing him a coin with Caesar's head on it and asking him is it right to pay taxes to Caesar? Jesus gave a very clever answer, 'Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's' Jesus reminds us we have civic duties, we need to pay our taxes, but we must never forget that we give our lives to God and it is God with whom we identify, his will is our priority.

We played a board game 'Logos' with our grandson today which was all about brand names and symbols. It reminded me that we are surrounded by branding, for example wherever you go in the world certain brands such as McDonald's are recognised whatever the language or venue. In our lives we are branded for various things which add up to our identity. It may be the job we do or did, the area in which we live, the team we support... and so the list goes on, it all adds up to who we are.

What is the symbol which shows we belong to God? That we recognise Jesus as our Lord and Saviour and the Holy Spirit as the driving force of our lives? Is it wearing a cross round our necks or on our lapel? Maybe we should do this as a means of making a point and providing a talking point. Maybe another way of showing we serve a living God is by the way we live, the way we love and the kind of people we are who others may recognise as being a little bit different.



Prayer

Help us, Lord, to be the kind of people you want us to be. Help us to stand out as being different, of having something special in our lives. Help us to never be afraid of speaking of you and of standing up for what we know to be right. We pray for all who are persecuted for their faith, for all who campaign for a better world. In our prayers we remember before God all who are ill at this time, those who are sad and lonely. We pray for all who continue to work with the sick and to see a way of finding a cure to the Virus. Amen.

Hymn 'Blessed assurance' [STF 548](#) [H&P 668](#).

Let us make these words our own; '*Blessed assurance Jesus is mine!*

Our worship sheet this week was compiled by Dave Elliott

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