



## 11th Sunday of Trinity



God of glory,  
the end of our searching,  
help us to lay aside all that prevents us  
from seeking your kingdom,  
and to give all that we have  
to gain the pearl beyond all price,  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31 - 33 OT page 302  
Ephesians 4:25 - 5:2 NT page 191  
John 6:35, 41 - 51 NT page 95  
(NIV used in sermon preparation).

Immanuel  
St Andrew Church

Much befalls David's family, His daughter Tamar is raped by her halfbrother Amnon (David's eldest son) and her brother Absalom avenges Tamar by sending his servants to murder Amnon when he is drunk at a feast. Remember we heard that God spared David but he would be disgraced? In today's account we hear of Absalom's death at the hands of David's men despite David taking extreme measures to try to keep him safe! When the news is brought to the king he is beside himself with grief to the point of wishing he could have taken his son's place.

It seems unfair to us that David's disgrace should come through his children but that is one of the contradictions of the Old Testament. For instance consider these two teachings ~

'The Lord is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.'

Numbers 14:18

You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,

Deuteronomy 5:9

In contrast with ~

"Yet you ask, 'Why does the son not share the guilt of his father?' Since the son has done what is just and right and has been careful to keep all my decrees, he will surely live. 20 The one who sins is the one who will die. The child will not share the guilt of the parent, nor will the parent share the guilt of the child. The righteousness of the righteous will be credited to them, and the wickedness of the wicked will be charged against them.

Ezekiel 18:19-20

And Jesus' own teaching in John

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..

John 9:1-3

And the words of Paul ~

Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

Romans 12:19

If God's wrath ~ His extreme anger or displeasure ~ is ignited by our behaviour we are warned that He will respond. We are also taught not to make those responses on God's behalf ~ but to leave it to God.

There is clear teaching about the things that will cause God's wrath and therefore things we should avoid in our daily living!

In our epistle we hear that we should speak truthfully and avoid lying or falsehood because we are all members of one body ~ in other words we have to live together ~ whether as a natural family, church, school or work community as well as alongside our neighbours who may be strangers!

We can be angry but not allow it to become a sin ~ so we can be incensed by injustice but only to provoke us to positive responses not those that cause further distress or damage. We must not steal but use our time productively and usefully so that we have something to share with those in need. We should affirm each other so that we can all grow to our own potential ~

remembering God knows our potential as our creator.

Above all we must not grieve the Holy Spirit of God so we have to consciously get rid of bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander and any form of malice. When we remove those from our personalities and lives we make space for compassion and kindness enabling us to forgive one another and, of course, the example for forgiveness is given to us from God who, through Jesus Christ, forgives each of us! God is love and we should walk in the way of love.

What might that mean for you day by day?

Call to mind what makes you angry? How do you deal with your anger? Who is affected when you get angry? Has your anger ever caused damage? How might you change your behaviour in the future?

During the week ask yourself the same questions considering bitterness, slander and the other behaviours that grieve God's Spirit.

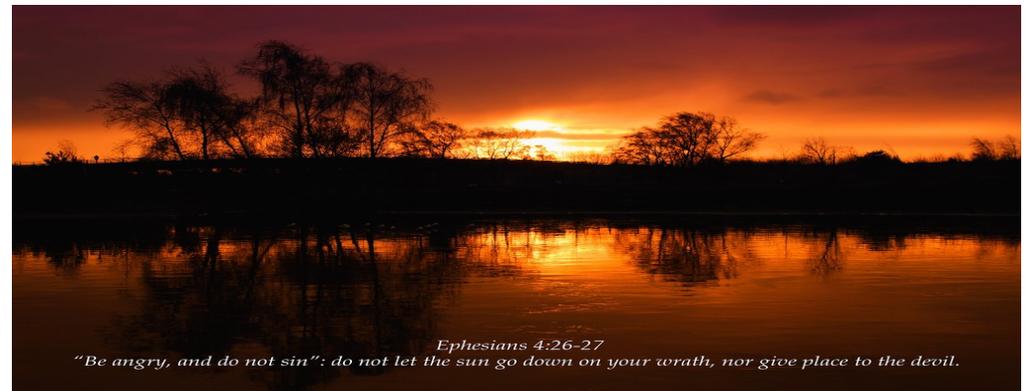
Remember that God loves you and forgives you. God knows how hard it is for us to live in love and to experience His peace. But he gives us all we need in Jesus.

Remember the words of our Lord in our Gospel this morning ~

"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

John 6:51



Ephesians 4:26-27

"Be angry, and do not sin"; do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.