



## Thursday 15th October Holy Communion

### Welcome

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

### Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen**

### Prayers of Confession

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself". There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen**

Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy**

Christ have mercy

**Christ have mercy**

Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.**

## Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## New Testament Reading: Ephesians 1:1-10

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God's holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfilment— to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading: Luke 11:47-end

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**Glory to you, O Lord**

“Woe to you, because you build tombs for the prophets, and it was your ancestors who killed them. So you testify that you approve of what your ancestors did; they killed the prophets, and you build their tombs. Because of this, God in his wisdom said, ‘I will send them prophets and apostles, some of whom they will kill and others they will persecute.’ Therefore this generation will be held responsible for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the beginning of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was killed between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible for it all.

“Woe to you experts in the law, because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you have hindered those who were entering.”

When Jesus went outside, the Pharisees and the teachers of the law began to oppose him fiercely and to besiege him with questions, waiting to catch him in something he might say.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

### **Sermon: Jose John**

What is your reaction when someone criticises you? Do you feel angry and resentful, or even hurt? Constructive criticism might be easier to take, but even that can sometimes prove difficult.

In our reading this morning, which forms part of a longer passage both the Pharisees and Teachers of the Law or Scribes face severe criticism from Jesus which provokes in them something much more than anger and hurt, an overwhelming desire to put Him to death.

Jesus has been addressing a large crowd and afterwards is invited by a Pharisee to eat with him and his fellow Pharisees and Teachers of the Law. We are not told why and it is all the more surprising since Jesus has when addressing the crowd, in which the Pharisee might have been, called them a wicked nation since they were still asking for proof that He truly was the Messiah, despite the many miracles and signs they had already witnessed. I believe the invitation had an underlying agenda and that he and his friends were intending to question Jesus hoping that He might give them answers that would help to build up a case against Him. They would not have been prepared for what was about to take place. Instead, from the outset, Jesus questions and criticises their understanding of the Scriptures and the Law and their lack of concern for the ordinary people in their care.

Before going to table, Jesus did not go through the elaborate ritual of handwashing practiced by the Pharisees, originally intended only for priests, but now enforced on everyone. This was noticed but nothing was said. Jesus knowing what they were thinking says '**you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness**' rebuking them for putting more stress on outward signs than those of their inner being, their hearts and souls. He then launches into a scathing attack on the hypocritical way the Pharisees carry out their religious duties.

Jesus tells them that *they have got their priorities wrong.*

They religiously tithed the required amount and more, including mint and rue and every other herb, but neglected to show those in their care justice and the love of God. Jesus was in agreement with their tithing but believed they should be doing more for those whom they had a care for.

He then accuses them of *putting reputation above character*. **'You love the best seat in the synagogues and greetings in the market place'**. The more recognition they got the greater their reputation. This didn't do much for their character making them arrogant, full of pride and anything but humble. Their insincerity meant that though they appeared to be righteous they were, like the cups and plates mentioned earlier, clean on the outside but dirty inside; nothing came directly from the heart, so consequently their teaching of the scripture to the people was superficial and lacking in depth.

Of these three criticisms directed at the Pharisees might cause you and I the most problems? What is the greatest lesson you and I can learn from this passage?

Following Jesus' criticisms One of the guests, a lawyer, said: **'Teacher, you insult us also'**.

I think he may, on reflection, have regretted saying these words, for they then become the focus of Jesus's sharp criticism.

The lawyers or scribes were teachers of the Mosaic law who claimed that nobody except them could understand or explain it. In contrast to modern day law, their civil law and their religious law were the same.

Jesus criticises them for placing heavy burdens on the shoulders of the people who already had many other issues to deal with day to day. The lawyers confronted them with all kinds of regulations that according to them were essential for the people's salvation, yet they themselves did not follow them: **'You load people with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers'**. They weren't a very good example to those they were supposed to be teaching, were they!

Next came a criticism about the building of splendid

tombs in honour of the prophets of old, whilst their real state of mind mirrored that of their ancestors who had killed them. Throughout history true servants of God have been rejected by those most in need of their ministry. Sadly it is still happening today. We don't seem to be any different from those who failed to listen to God's message over 2,000 years ago.

Lastly Jesus criticizes them for hindering rather than Helping people to come to God. They were unable, or didn't want to see that the kingdom of God was already there, Jesus was bringing it in. They, like the Pharisees saw Jesus as a trouble maker. But one who through his popularity with the crowds who followed Him a very present and great threat to their authority.

As Jesus left them the already enraged Pharisees and Lawyers endeavoured to question Jesus about many things hoping they might catch Him out and He might say something that would provide them with something they could use against Him.

## **Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayers

### The Peace

The peace of the Lord always be with you  
**And also with you.**  
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Father, you made the world and love your creation. You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour. His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death. And so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels praising you, and saying:  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith

**Christ has died**

**Christ has risen**

**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours.  
Now and for ever.  
Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

**We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen**

## Prayer after Communion

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast: for here we receive you, here the memory of your passion is renewed, here our minds are filled with grace, and here a pledge of future glory is given, when we shall feast at that table where you reign with all your saints for ever.  
**Amen**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

## Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
**In the name of Christ. Amen**

If you have any prayer or pastoral needs, please don't hesitate to contact  
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