



Thursday 27th August 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

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 24:42-end

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

“Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, ‘My master is staying away a long time,’ and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon: Jose John

In the previous chapter Jesus criticizes the Scribes and Pharisees accusing them of hypocrisy, telling his followers that whilst they are obliged to follow their teaching, following what they say but not what they do, since they do not practice what they preach. They love to be honoured and held in high esteem rather than setting an example by serving others. They have placed heavy burdens on the people by expecting them to keep the many laws they have added to the original law of Moses. They are so bound up in law keeping that they fail to see just who Jesus is and do not treat the Jewish people with justice, mercy or love. Jesus ends by saying that they will bring dishonour and discredit to Jerusalem because of their actions.

Chapter 24 opens with Jesus and the disciples leaving the Temple. The disciples point out its magnificence but Jesus warns them that beautiful as it may be, the temple like all earthly things would be destroyed, which came true in AD 70.

On the Mount of Olives when the disciples were alone with Jesus they asked him to tell them more about when he would return and how they would recognise the coming of the end of the world.

Jesus tells them to take care not to be deceived by the many who proclaim to have been sent by Him after he has left them. There were many false prophets in the early days of Christianity and Paul also speaks of them, and they exist to this day. Jesus goes on to speak of the many terrible things that will happen that will alarm them and cause them to think the end of the world is coming, but they will not be true signs. The events he predicts include wars, famines and earthquakes. All of these have come true – through the centuries there have been many wars and within the last 75 years two World Wars, with war still rife in many areas of the world. Throughout the centuries there have been famines and many earthquakes, both in recent years. Disasters such as this appear to be increasing due to global warming.

Jesus goes on to tell the disciples that they will suffer hatred, torture and even death because of their devotion to Him, which indeed they did. He, himself, was to be crucified only a few days after the final discourse with his disciples. Many Christians today suffer persecution, torture, imprisonment and death for their belief in many countries throughout the world.

Jesus speaks too of the numbers who will cease to believe, how families will be divided and even one person set against another. This is just as true today as when Jesus spoke these words. Friends you may have had for many years fail to see you as the same person when you begin a Christian journey, it can also cause problems within families. However, Jesus says, whoever endures all these things to the end will be saved. The gospel of the kingdom will have been proclaimed throughout the whole world before the end comes.

Jesus then tells of the abomination and desolation that is to come as prophesied by Daniel where people will be living as normally, just as they did in the time Noah and some will be taken and others left. There is indecision as to what this means. Some believe that those who are taken are the ones who will not enter the kingdom and those left will. However if you take the story of Noah who with his family were left to survive along with two of every living animal and bird it is the other way round. Those who are seen fit to enter the kingdom will be left and the others taken. Again false prophets and false christs are spoke of and again they should be ignored for 'as the lightning comes from the east and shines as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.'

Before the coming of the Son of Man, however, 'the sun will be darkened, the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven and the powers of the heavens will be shaken'. Only after this will the Son of Man come on the clouds of heaven with great power and glory. This is just as he left the disciples when ascending into heaven when he promised to come back and take them with Him.

The disciples wanted to know when this would happen. I believe because he said he would come back to take them to be with Him they expected it to happen in their lifetime. Jesus could not answer their question for even he did not know, it being something only known to the Father. So two millennia on we are still awaiting the coming of the Son of Man to judge the earth. Do any of you remember some decades ago on odd occasions someone walking around in Cambridge wearing a placard declaring 'The end of the world is nigh'? I certainly do which shows my age! We do not know when and at what hour Jesus may come, so as he told his disciples then and us now, we need to stay alert and awake so that we are not found to be ready. So how can we do this? What if He comes at midnight or some hour during the night and we are asleep? How can we be ready? We don't need to literally be awake. It is more to do with living a life that follows his teaching. It is a case of being spiritually ready, rather than physically. If we do the best we can to be more and more like Him in our worship, our actions towards others and sharing our love with all, not just those easy to love but our enemies also, just as He does, though all will be judged, we may be found to be worthy to be gathered to him.

We pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance in our journey of faith that at the end we may be found worthy to enter the kingdom. Amen.

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, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word, through whom you have created all things; who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour. By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh; as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin, he lived on earth and went about among us; he opened wide his arms for us on the cross; he put an end to death by dying for us; and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life; so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever 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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying:

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption. As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty 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

Lord of all mercy, we your faithful people have celebrated that one true sacrifice which takes away our sins and brings pardon and peace: by our communion keep us firm on the foundation of the gospel and preserve us from all sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. 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