



Thursday 6th 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

Father in heaven, whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain, and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at Jerusalem: give us strength so to hear his voice and bear our cross that in the world to come we may see him as he is; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen

Old Testament Reading: Daniel 7:9-10;13-14

“As I looked, “thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze. A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshipped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.

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

Gospel Reading: Luke 9:28-36

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord

About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem. Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.)

While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon: Rev'd Alan Partridge

I have commented before on Yuri Gagarin's reported remarks after his space flight around the globe in 1961. He commented he had not seen God, well perhaps...

"After the flight, some sources claimed that Gagarin, during his space flight, had made the comment, "I don't see any God up here." However, no such words appear in the verbatim record of Gagarin's conversations with Earth-based stations during the spaceflight. In a 2006 interview a close friend of Gagarin, Colonel Valentin Petrov, stated that Gagarin never said such words, and that the phrase originated from Nikita Khrushchev's speech at the plenum of the Central Committee of the CPSU, where the anti-religious propaganda was discussed."

Well said or not, the search for God is familiar across the centuries, to almost all the human race, and there is a frustration, a longing for tangibility. If God is there why does he seem to hide himself? What is "he" like? Good, bad or ugly?

That frustration that God cannot be seen, was shared by no less a man than Moses. We see this in the book of Exodus. He asked God point blank if he could see his glory, but God denied him that privilege. Only hidden in the cleft of a rock could Moses see any part of God and live. Isaiah was granted a vision but only of God's robe in the temple, filling the temple, and his response "holy, holy, holy" is one we still use.

How is the invisible to become visible? The answer is in this passage from Luke 9 and remembered this day the feast of the transfiguration. Luke's first 8 chapters tell us of the real humanity of Jesus and now on the Mount of Transfiguration, we see nothing less than the shining of God's glory. That is the point the verses tell us that Jesus is God. Peter got it and never forgot it, (see 2 Peter 1:16-19). Jesus is the way to see what God is like. Jesus is the way for us to see God's face and survive.

It is an extraordinary story, full of drama and wonder. Jesus has just predicted that he will suffer death, v21. A total shock, what kind of messiah does that? Not one that Peter recognises. Jesus predicts that (v26) he will rise in triumph as the “son of man” but words are cheap and Peter needs some evidence, so 8 days later Jesus takes him and John and James up a mountain, so that he might see this experience. There on the mountain Jesus is transfigured (v29) as he was praying “the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzlingly white”. What is this glory that the disciples saw? I think it is best to see this as the invisible glory of God being made visible. The purity of God in Jesus face. If you like, his moral quality given physical expression.

Thus, in verse 29, we see the real Jesus as he is today, only five scars are absent, as I speak reigning in glory. This glory is eternal. The veil is drawn aside, and we have a glimpse that far outshines any man, even Moses and Elijah who stand with him now. A moment of high honour then, but not for Jesus as Peter thought, it was an honour for his ancient companions Moses and Elijah.

Peter will have to realise that Jesus is even greater than his greatest heroes. He has to see that Jesus is not merely the son of man who must suffer, he is also the divine king who will reign.

The clouds part for Peter, James and John, and the bigger picture is revealed. It is like that for these three, just for a moment they see beyond the normal to the new normal that will be. A glimpse of the purity, the glory of Jesus.

Do we think badly of Peter, that he needed this reassurance? But in fact he speaks as so often for us. We lose a loved one, they have died, we miss them, we wonder are they safe? Have they gone to be with Jesus? For the faith of the strongest Christian tires with age, our spiritual enthusiasm can fade, cynicism, weariness, pain all can cloud our vision. We need a glimpse of what heaven is like. What a privilege then to see even for a moment that this world is by no means all that there is. To see it for a moment is life changing, you cannot unsee it, unless you are prepared to commit intellectual suicide.

We will see this more clearly at the end of the age, and still today it can be shown to us. In Jesus the kingdom of God has become present in us, in each other, in the church but there is more. We also see the mission of Jesus (v31). Two key words here, firstly departure, what will happen, what is to come, his departure for his death in Jerusalem. Luke gives us a clue, a great big illuminated sign! The same sign you see over fire doors in Greece, exodus, exit for us. That is the word used in the Old Testament as the people of Israel move from slavery to freedom in the promised land. Jesus is going to bring about an exodus of God’s people. That is his mission, why he has come. He leads us out of the slavery of sin, into the presence of God, by his death and resurrection. Secondly the other word is fulfilment, Jesus mission, his very being is a fulfilment. Jesus lives the script that was written hundreds of years before, written in the law and the prophets.

Along the road to glory stands the cross and from now on in Luke’s gospel Jesus travels that road, alone on a path that no one else can tread. He is the risen son on the throne. He is also the obedient son who goes to the cross. It is the path of cost and determination.

We will remember that cost as we share bread and wine together. God came into the world to die; it is the purpose of God to build a kingdom by dying, to gain a victory by defeat, a crown but of thorns. Lastly the Transfiguration shows us the uniqueness of God see v34, 35.

Listen to him, the heavenly voice commands Peter to listen, (v 33) “Master its good for us to be here let us put up three tents, one for you, one for Moses, one for Elijah”. What has he done wrong? Do you see it?

It is as the two are leaving Jesus that Peter speaks, as if he wants to prolong that moment, that experience, to meet Moses and Elijah face to face! Why not stay a little longer? But God corrects Peter. The time has gone to hang on Moses words, rather the son has come listen to him alone. And it is with Jesus that they must leave, to go down the mountain to what awaits them. Henceforth listen only to Jesus. Have you understood that? There are so many competing voices, but “this is my son, listen to him.”

It is not an option for us to put in ear plugs and ignore Jesus word, when we don't quite like it! We need to sit up and listen to his voice alone. The test for us is not what Jesus said to me once, but what is he saying today? Do I know him today? Will we listen to him in the days to come? I pray that we will.

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.

Almighty God, good Father to us all, your face is turned towards your world. In love you gave us Jesus your Son to rescue us from sin and death. Your Word goes out to call us home to the city where angels sing your praise. We join with them in heaven's song:

**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.**

Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven.

To the darkness Jesus came as your light. With signs of faith and words of hope he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.

This is his story.

This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

The crowds came out to see your Son, yet at the end they turned on him. On the night he was betrayed he came to table with his friends to celebrate the freedom of your people.

This is his story.

This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food; he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: This is my body, given for you all. Jesus then gave thanks for the wine; he took the cup, gave it and said: This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

This is our story.

This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free. Defying death he rose again and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

This is our story.

This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Send your Spirit on us now that by these gifts we may feed on Christ with opened eyes and hearts on fire. May we and all who share this food offer ourselves to live for you and be welcomed at your feast in heaven where all creation worships you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours 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

Holy God, we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ: may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed, that all the world may know his power to change and save. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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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