



## Sunday 12 July 2020

- All the Bible readings come from the *New Revised Standard Version*.
- The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration have been included at the end rather than *in situ* because many following the service will be in isolation and unable to celebrate the sacrament.
- The hymns are YouTube links. To hear the hymns please hover the mouse over each link, press Ctrl and then return.

## Introduction and welcome

**HYMN 1 I will sing the wonderous story** [\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

## The Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

**All Amen.**

The Lord be with you

**All And also with you.**

## The Preparation

**All 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.**

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.'

And 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.

**All Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Therefore, 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.

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.

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

All Amen.

## The Gloria

This version of the Gloria is sung to the tune of 'Cwm Rhondda'. Click [here](#) for the tune.

All Glory be to God in Heaven,  
Songs of joy and peace we bring,  
Thankful hearts and voices raising,  
To creation's Lord we sing.  
Lord we thank you, Lord we praise you,  
Glory be to God our King:  
Glory be to God our King.  
  
Lamb of God, who on our shoulders,  
Bore the load of this world's sin;  
Only Son of God the Father,  
You have brought us peace within.

**Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,  
Now your glorious reign begin:  
Now your glorious reign begin.**

**You O Son of God are Holy,  
You we praise with one accord.  
None in heav'n or earth is like you,  
Only you are Christ the Lord.  
With the Father and the Spirit,  
Ever worshipped and adored:  
Ever worshipped and adored.**

### The Collect for the Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God,  
send down upon your Church the riches of your Spirit,  
and kindle in all who minister the gospel  
your countless gifts of grace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All     Amen.

### First reading

A reading from the second book of the prophet Isaiah

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off. *Isaiah 55:10–13*

This is the Word of the Lord

All     Thanks be to God.

### Second reading

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans

There is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death. The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins. He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.

Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God. But you are not controlled by your sinful nature.

You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you. *Romans 8:1-11*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All      Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 2 Spirit of The Living God**      (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

## Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**All      Glory to you O Lord.**

Jesus went and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach.

He told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among

thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!

'Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.' *Matthew 13:1-9,18-23*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All Praise to you O Christ.**

## Sermon

Are you an optimist, or are you a pessimist? Are you a glass half-empty person, or are you a glass half-full person? Do you complain that rose bushes have thorns, or do you rejoice because thorns have roses? Do you see the storm clouds, or do you see the silver lining? There are various activities and things in life that can show us whether we are optimistic, or pessimistic. There are many things that can pull this trait out. Perhaps, the thing that does this best is gardening. The pessimist says, 'Why plant anything if nothing results because birds, bunnies, insects, deer, weeds, creeping charlie, blight, hail, or bad weather can ruin and kill what I'm trying to grow?! What is the point? Why take the risk and waste the time?'

The optimist, despite potential failure, plants. Why? Hope. A good farmer, or an avid gardener, lives in the confident hope of a rewarding harvest. Not every seed will produce, but enough will make it worth all the while. That is the parable of the Sower. In our Gospel reading, Jesus compares sharing God's Word to planting a field. He uses worldly realism that alert us to the potential failures, but He still calls us to faith and to action. He promises and teaches, that 'If you plant it, it will grow.' Our goal is to grow in faith that produces the fruit of the Spirit, including the desire to be planters of the seed of God's Word.

In our Old Testament reading, we see the foundation and confidence for such a promise, 'if you plant it, it will grow.' God starts by using a simile to introduce His

promise. He says, 'For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater.' Before the rain and snow are taken back up into the sky (as vapour and mist), they achieve the purpose for which they are sent. God then makes His point and gives His promise, '... so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.' God's Word will do the same! It accomplishes and will accomplish that which God sends it out for! Jesus says the Sower goes out to sow, and he throws seeds everywhere! Some seed fell alongside the path. The birds then came, and they picked and pecked that path clean. Not a seed remained. Jesus says that these people hear the Word, but they don't listen to the Word. Jesus says the devil, the evil one, snatches away that seed, that word. 'Snatch' evokes a powerful image. It is an overpowering, a wrestling away, a show of force. It is a ripping out of someone's hands. It is a disregard for someone else. I think of an older brother ripping something out of the hand of a little brother. It is never a pleasant experience to have something snatched from you. Sad to say, there are many things in our modern culture that provide open ground for the devil, our sinful flesh, and our evil world, to rob people of the Gospel before it ever takes root. It gets snatched from them, and with deadly consequence. But, the sower continues on. He still spreads that seed.

Some seed fell on rocky ground, where there wasn't much soil. The seed quickly sprouted, but since there wasn't much depth, it withered away once the sun hit it. Jesus says these people hear and listen to the Word, but only for a while. You will see many people praying or talking about faith. But, then we wonder, how many people continued to do so once they left! Once the crisis passes, faith can disappear. Once the need is gone, they have no need for Jesus. The seed withers away. But, despite this, the sower continues on.

Jesus says some seed fell among thorns. To the sower, this seemed like good ground. The perennial thorn roots weren't visible. Initially, it looked promising. But, once the seed sprouted up, the thorns grew first, and they choked the seed, limiting it, and killing it. It was unfruitful. Jesus says these people hear and listen to the Word, but imagine that God doesn't need their undivided attention and devotion. Jesus presents the challenge of faith in good times, with the lack of success so far, it is enough to make this optimistic sower a pessimistic one! It is enough to make anyone go home, throw the bag of seeds, and say, 'What is the use? It seems pointless! Nothing is working!' But, hold on. The harvest is to be expected.

All is not lost. This Word does that for which it is sent. Plant the Word, and it will grow. God promises!

The harvest is to be expected! Be the optimistic gardener! Some seed fell on good ground, and it produced an extravagant harvest! It produces 100x, 60x, 30x, what was sown. The sower's work wasn't in vain. Jesus says these are those who keep on hearing and listening to the Word. They grow in their faith and sanctification. The Gospel always bears fruit. It will always make a harvest. This Word makes a harvest in us. God's Word doesn't come back empty or void; it does what it is sent to do. This word delivers Jesus. It gives all that He has and is: His righteousness, His works, and His merits. It gives us all that Jesus gives and does: His grace, forgiveness, life, and salvation, won at the cross, confirmed at the Tomb. Jesus comes in that Word through baptism and His Supper. Jesus comes in that Word that is spoken and read. This Word, this Gospel message, always produces a harvest. It always bears fruit. Amen

## The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
the source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**All We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

## Prayers of intercession

Everlasting God, we bring our prayers to you, Lord of all nations, asking that your blessing of love and peace may be known to all people everywhere. Help us to bear abundant fruit from the seeds of potential that you have planted within us.

*(Short Silence)*

Lord, in your Mercy

**All Hear our Prayer**

Holy God, we pray for your church, especially for the people you have called to be prophets and teachers in our generation. We pray that they will be strengthened and protected by the Holy Spirit and that through them your Church will reveal the good news of salvation and draw all people together under your rule of justice and mercy.

*(Short Silence)*

Lord, in your Mercy

**All Hear our Prayer**

Creator God, we are your chosen stewards of this beautiful world; you provide us with seed and soil to sow them in but sometimes we abuse this privilege and so we look to you for forgiveness for the damage we have done to this earth and pray that you would show us ways of healing the wounds that we have inflicted on the land, ourselves and on each other.

*(Short Silence)*

Lord, in your Mercy

**All Hear our Prayer**

Father God, we pray that in our communities all will be welcome and accepted regardless of nationality, colour, gender or status and that we will seek always to serve you and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, in one another.

*(Short Silence)*

Lord, in your Mercy

**All Hear our Prayer**

Gracious God, we raise before you all those who seek healing of body, mind or spirit asking that they will sense the touch of your loving hands and feel your peace and presence alongside them, each and every step of their journey towards healing and wholeness. *(add names of those requesting prayer)*

*(Short Silence)*

Lord, in your Mercy

**All Hear our Prayer**

Loving God, we remember before you all those who have died. May they see your salvation and find their peace and final rest in you and we especially pray for those who were a formative part of our lives, who made us who we are and who we still miss.

*(Short Silence)*

Lord, in your Mercy

**All Hear our Prayer**

Faithful God, we offer you these prayers for ourselves and for others. We ask you to accept them and to use them, and us so that your will may be done on earth and more of your kingdom revealed to those who seek you.

**Merciful Father,**

**All accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

## The peace

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy and peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

**All And also with you. Alleluia!**

**HYMN Tell out my soul**

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

# The Dismissal

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and  
be gracious to you.  
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you  
and give you his peace;  
and the blessing of God the Almighty:  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be with you now and remain with you always.

All     **Amen.**

HYMN 4 **To God be the Glory**

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All     **In the name of Christ.**  
**Amen.**

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All 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,

**All 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.

## The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All     **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.**

## Breaking of the Bread

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

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

All     **Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin 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.

All    **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.**

Communion is distributed.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,  
that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered  
by your governance,  
that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All    **Amen**

All    **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.**