



Sunday 6 September 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 Father, we adore you

(please 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 Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God,
you search us and know us:
may we rely on you in strength and rest on you in weakness,
now and in all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

First reading

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

God said to Ezekiel, ‘Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to the wicked, “You wicked person, you will surely die,” and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved.

‘Son of man, say to the Israelites, “This is what you are saying: ‘Our offences and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?’ ” Say to them, “As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?” ’ *Ezekiel 33:7-11*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. *Romans 13:8-14*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 2 We will glorify

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

All Glory to you O Lord.

Jesus said, 'If another member of the Church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that person. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the Church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'

'Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.' *Matthew 18:15-20*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

I talk with people quite often. I talk to doctors. I talk to counsellors, psychologists and teachers. That's why I know it's true: our country is overcome by an epidemic of fear. That fear is causing physical illnesses. It triggers all sorts of psychological disorders, so we are seeing the use of drugs and anti-depressants and tranquillisers in ever greater numbers. When distilled down, though, there are three fears that eat away at us.

The **first** and greatest of all fears is that of not being loved. Love is a basic requirement for a stable childhood and for a fulfilling life as an adult. Jesus in today's Gospel says we can loose the powers of heaven wherever we go, which means that members of a Church can choose to love one another with the love that comes from God. There is nothing in God's nature that is not loving. And if love reflects the nature of God then His love is eternal and infinite: life lived in God's love becomes so different from life before we knew Him that it can genuinely be described as 'new life'. And St Paul in his letter to a Church in Rome is merely rephrasing Jesus's New Commandment to love one another. Giving our lives to Jesus drives out the first fear because a Christian no longer needs to fear not being loved.

The **second** major fear is the fear of death. Because death is now a taboo, they are also afraid to share their fears. At heart, we not only fear the fact of dying but fear the unknown: what happens when I die? Will my soul live even if my body dies? The Christian who truly gives their life to Jesus knows what to expect: they have already encountered the God who waits for them when they pass from this world to the next. They met Him in the love that runs a true Church. Giving our lives to Jesus quells the second fear because a Christian knows what happens when we die.

The **third** fear concerns shame and punishment as a result of sin. Those fears may relate to past actions that were indeed awful but many actions will have been trivial. Jesus talks often about God's willingness to forgive us if we repent and forgive each other (the two are interrelated: think of the Lord's Prayer). If in doubt, remember the Parable of Prodigal Son in which Jesus paints a picture of God being like a parent who forgives unconditionally. It's true that God will one day judge our wrongs, but the central message of Christianity is forgiveness of sins. If we repent, there will be no sins to judge. That's why today's Gospel reading shows Jesus trying to bring about repentance and forgiveness. He goes further and suggests that forgiveness is an true property of a genuine Church. Giving our lives to Jesus drives away the third fear: we no longer need to fear shame because we no longer need to fear judgement.

We grow into the love of God as we grow into discipleship. We also grow into a

knowledge that we are loved. In fact, all these fears diminish as we grow into a relationship with God. As the old hymn says, ‘Turn your eyes upon Jesus, and look at his wonderful face. And the things of this world will grow strangely dim in the wonder of his grace.’ Christians over two millennia have tried it and found it is true.

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

Loving heavenly Father, thank you for loving us. Teach us how to love and how to live in your love. Help us to grow into a phrase from your scriptures, that ‘Perfect love drives out all fear.’

Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer**

Loving Lord, we pray for your Church. We ask that you will help us to forgive and be merciful; that you will help us to grow in humility and accept the forgiveness of others, and thereby generate a Church of power and great holiness.

Lord, in your mercy

All **Hear our prayer**

Loving God, Lord of life, we pray for the world. We ask that you will help the down-trodden and inspire those with power to use their influence for good.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

Loving Saviour, we pray for our friends, families, neighbours and colleagues. As we picture them in our mind's eye, we ask that you will touch their lives at their point of greatest need.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

Dearest God, we pray for those who have died; especially, for those who've died today, died alone, or died unprepared. We ask for your comfort on those who grieve and mourn, that you will give them the comfort that comes from knowing you.

Lord, in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

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.

HYMN 3 Cast your eyes upon Jesus ([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 **Shine Jesus shine**

(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.

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:

**All Christ has died.
 Christ is 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.

All Amen.

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

God our creator,
you feed your children with the true manna,
the living bread from heaven:
let this holy food sustain us through our earthly pilgrimage
until we come to that place
where hunger and thirst are no more;
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.**