



Sunday 24 January 2021

- 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.
- To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page, <http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

Introduction and welcome

HYMN 1 [What a friend we have in Jesus](#) (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.

You then, who truly and earnestly repent of your sins,
and are in love and charity with your neighbours,
and intend to lead a new life,
following the commandments of God,
and walking from this day forward in his holy ways:
draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort;
and make your humble confession to almighty God.

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 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 Third Sunday after Epiphany

God of all mercy,
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,
release to the captives,
and freedom to the oppressed:
anoint us with your Holy Spirit
and set all your people free
to praise you in Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

First reading

A reading from the Book of the Genesis

After Abram's return from his defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. He blessed him and said,

'Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
maker of heaven and earth;
and blessed be God Most High,
who has delivered your enemies into your hand!'

And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything. *Genesis 1:17-20*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from Revelation of St John the Divine

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out,

'Hallelujah!
For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready;
to her it has been granted to be clothed
with fine linen, bright and pure'—
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.'

The angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.' Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, 'You must not do that! I am a fellow-servant with you and your comrades who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.' *Revelation 19:6–10*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 2 Come down O love divine ([click on this link to hear the hymn](#))
Let all mortal flesh keep silence ([different hymn](#))

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All Glory to you O Lord.

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Every one serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.'

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. *John 2:1-11*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

It's said that a previous President of the United States had a small sign on his desk that said, 'It's the economy, stupid!' Its message was so obvious that it became almost invisible and therefore needed repeating. Whatever the role of a President, it's the economy that pays for it. Perhaps we need a similar sign on their fridge, desk, car dashboard, etc.—a line from today's Gospel passage, 'Do whatever he tells you.'

Mary used these words to a steward half-way through a wedding feast and God says the same words to all Christians everywhere: we must do what Jesus says.

Jesus says a great many things. Some of them command a sort of 'doing' that requires belief. For example, he said, 'I and the Father are one' (John 10:30): he wants us to believe in our heads then translate it into action by our hands and feet.

Most of Jesus' commands demand a straightforward action-based response. But he didn't issue direct commands very often:

- 'Follow me' (spoken on a great number of occasions).
- 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind and with all your strength' *Matthew 22:37*.
- 'Love your neighbour as yourself' *Matthew 22:39*.
- 'Be perfect as your father is perfect' *Matthew 5:48*.
- 'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another' *John 13:34*.
- (About sharing Holy Communion): 'Do this in remembrance of me' *Luke 22:19*.
- 'I say love your enemy and pray for those who despise you' *Matthew 5:44*.

As we descend this list, we move from the almost mainstream. They are typical insofar as everyone knows them or at least has heard of them. The list concludes with verses we may prefer to ignore. They can sound scary.

These verses are connected. The sayings that top this list represent the Christian blueprint. We will be judged on whether or not we live them. They summarise what Jesus came to achieve in and through us.

The command in the middle of the list, 'to love neighbour as ourselves' acts as the pivot, a fulcrum on which we can assess our level of commitment. Do we love; how much do we love; to whom do we direct our love? We will not even start on the commands lower down the list if we don't attempt to love our neighbours.

The command about Holy Communion is usually misunderstood. Jesus was not telling us to share consecrated bread and wine in a solemn, liturgical service. He was telling us to enter into His passion as a means of living His life. We ‘commune’ with God the Son in order to commune with our fellow human beings. In this way, the elements of bread and wine take their intended role as symbols of our commitment and what we’re called to do: the purpose of the wine is to point toward forgiveness—our forgiving others, which depends on our first being forgiven by God. And the bread points to the goodness of God sustaining us as we embark on our journey of discipleship and healing. Love is its purpose. Love empowers all of it.

Jesus’ command to ‘follow me’ was the one he repeated most often. It’s often a lonely journey. We therefore need a slogan, a simple mantra that reminds us what we’re doing when the going gets tough. Today we’re in the season of Epiphany, so we’re *en route* from Christmas (when Jesus was born into our lives) and moving closer toward Easter (when we receive one-and-for-all forgiveness). One of the simplest slogans comes from today’s Gospel passage, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’

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

We pray to the Lord.

Lord, listen to the prayers of your people,
gathered at your table.

In faith we pray:

All we pray to you our God.

Here, where we celebrate how Christ gave us his body
to be our spiritual food,
listen as we pray for his body the Church,
spread throughout the world ...

In faith we pray:

All we pray to you our God.

Here, where we recognize the presence of Christ,
who takes away the sin of the world,
listen as we pray for that world
and for its peoples for whom his blood was shed ...

In faith we pray:

All we pray to you our God.

Here, where we come together as Christ gathered with his friends
to give us this meal of holy fellowship,
listen as we pray for all whom you have given us,
our friends and all whose lives are joined with ours ...

In faith we pray:

All we pray to you our God.

Here, where we remember the night of Christ's agony and trial,
listen as we pray for all who share his sufferings
through fear or pain or distress of many kinds ...

In faith we pray:

All we pray to you our God.

Here, where we join our praises with the whole company of heaven,
listen as we pray for all who have trusted Christ's promise
to raise up on the last day those who eat his flesh and drink his blood ...

In faith we pray:

All we pray to you our God.

Lord, satisfy our hunger with the food that lasts,
the bread of God which comes down from heaven
and gives life to the world,
Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

All Amen.

Merciful Father,

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

The peace

Our Lord Jesus Christ says:

If, when you are bringing your gift to the altar,
you remember your brother or sister has a grievance against you,
leave your gift where it lies before the altar.

Go, make peace;
and only then come and offer your gift.

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

All And also with you.

HYMN 3 I am the bread of life (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below.

The Dismissal

Christ, who has nourished us with himself the living bread,
make you one in praise and love,
and raise you up at the last day;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

HYMN 4 Bread of Heaven (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

Almighty Father,
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world:
may your people,
illumined by your word and sacraments,
shine with the radiance of his glory,
that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed
to the ends of the earth;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

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.**