



## Sunday 27 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 [Name of all Majesty](#)

(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 Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity**

Lord of creation,  
whose glory is around and within us:  
open our eyes to your wonders,  
that we may serve you with reverence  
and know your peace at our lives' end,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

### **First reading**

A reading from the Book of Ezekiel

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is unfair.' O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live. *Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-end*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Second reading

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Philippians

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God

as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,

being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

he humbled himself

and became obedient to the point of death—

even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him

and gave him the name

that is above every name,

so that at the name of Jesus

every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess

that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. *Philippians 2:1-13*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 2 Give me oil in my lamp** (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.**

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, 'By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?' Jesus said to them, 'I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?' And they argued with one another, 'If we say, "From heaven", he will say to us, "Why then did you not believe him?" But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' So they answered Jesus, 'We do not know.' And he said to them, 'Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him. *Matthew 21:23-32*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All Praise to you O Christ.**

## Sermon

St Paul instructs us, 'Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.' It's an extremely tall order. God spoke through Jesus and worked powerfully through

him. He completely centred his spiritual life on his relationship with God. How?

The Christian Church has always taught that prayer is the cornerstone of the spiritual life. Indeed, the church has banged on about prayer so much that a great many people have developed neuroses about it. They begin to feel deeply guilty.

Prayer can be *taught*. For example, everyone can run but training can improve both speed and stamina; everyone can sing to some extent but training will improve the pitch, volume and so forth, to the extent that someone with an inferior voice can be taught to sing better than someone with a gift of a voice but no training.

And so it is with prayer. Jesus knew that, and so (I guess) did his disciples, for they came up to him asking him for help with their prayer lives. We can imagine them saying to Jesus, in effect, 'What's the secret, Jesus: teach us to pray!' The very first sentence he tells us in three separate ways that God wants us to pray to Him.

The **first** way by which Jesus shows that God wants us to pray is to call he teaches that God is like a Father. By using words like that, he is indicating that prayer—prayer, that is, that actually works—is at heart a *relationship*. And like a perfect parent, Jesus teaches that God loves us with a vast and unquenchably love. This insight is essential. Like all good parents, He actually *wants* us to speak with Him, he *wants* us to communicate everything to Him, not just the laudable and excellent. Like the parable that Jesus give at the end of our Gospel reading, we're allowed to say to Him, 'Lord I'm hungry!' 'Lord, I simply don't know what to do!' and so forth.

**Secondly**, Jesus indicates that God tells us *where* He is—in effect, how to find Him. When I was child, we played hide and seek fairly regularly. But when you play hide and seek with a young child, you learn that they get impatient fairly quickly and start shouting out, 'have you looked under the stairs yet?' or 'I'm near the door!' In the same way, Jesus tells us where to look for God. He is 'Our Father *who can be found in Heaven*.' That's why we cannot see Him: He is there but in a different form. The Bible says elsewhere that God is a Spirit. So by saying 'our Father *who is in Heaven*,' Jesus is merely saying that prayer is a spiritual relationship.

But Jesus' **third** insight is the most amazing It comes when he says, 'Our Father who is in Heaven; *Holy is your name*.' In fact, Jesus is using a very Jewish way of saying that God Himself is so holy that His very nature is characterised by holiness.

Holiness is a key Bible concept. Literally, it means separate, set apart, sanctified, different. Each word, on its own, is wholly unsatisfactory. But taken together they act like walls that fence in the meaning: holiness is a way of being that is wholly attractive, wholly clean and pure, wholly other. And it's devastatingly attractive.

Holiness is a key concept because holiness is the main lens through which God allows Himself to become visible. The spoke to Jesus directly, but we cannot. The early church had to learn a different way of seeing and conversing with him: in the

letter to the Hebrews (its chapter 11) we are told that ‘without holiness, no one can see the Lord.’ Or, if you’d prefer, think of [the beatitudes](#) which rephrase these words as a positive command: ‘blessed are the pure in heart, for they *will* see God.’

These two verses say the same thing: disciples who work toward a healthy sense of holiness will learn to understand God in ways that are frankly impossible otherwise. They acquire an ability to speak with God and somehow discern a response.

This insight into the character of God also allows us to understand better the Laws in the Bible. Anyone who has read the five books of the law which kick-start the Old Testament will notice the refrain God uses each time He deals with His people, ‘Be holy as I am holy.’ Suddenly we understand that God is giving us the key that unlocks the door to His presence. If we are holy as He is holy, we will see Him through a new lens. And it is this holiness that feeds a healthy life of prayer.

There is a rumour going round that it’s possible to speak with God. It’s not a formal conversation like on a phone but it *is* possible to understand God and His ways if we change our own lives, removing the barriers of accumulated selfishness and sin. Without holiness no one can see the Lord. Jesus knew this, so when his disciples asked him to teach them how to pray, it was quite natural for him to start, saying the words, ‘Our Father who is in Heaven, you are holy.’

## 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. Help us to grow spiritually that we develop the same mind as that in our Saviour, the Lord Jesus.

Lord, in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

Dear heavenly Father, we pray for Your Church. We ask that you lead us away from self and toward You. Deliver us from false images of Church; sponsor our works of charity and everything that helps usher in Your Kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

Dear Lord of life, we pray for the world, imploring You to work through its leaders, that we may be quietly and peaceably governed. We ask You to help all those who work for climate justice, work for peace, and work toward the common good.

Lord, in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

Dear Lord of love, we pray for those who are poorly, hungry, worried, or in any kind of need [ ... ]. Please give them the peace that comes from trusting You as You heal their souls at their deepest point of need.

Lord, in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer**

Dear God of eternity, we pray for those who've died recently and passed from this life to their next [ ... ]. We pray especially for those known to us. We ask your help on their friends and relatives and all those who mourn.

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 Holiness is your life in me** (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 Father God I wonder** (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 God,  
you have taught us through your Son  
that love is the fulfilling of the law:  
grant that we may love you with our whole heart  
and our neighbours as ourselves;  
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.