



Tuesday 2 March 2021

Chad was born in Northumbria, the youngest of four sons, all of whom became both priests and monks. They entered the monastery on the isle of Lindisfarne and were taught by St Aidan.

Chad's twin brother Cedd had founded the abbey at Lastingham and, on his brother's death, Chad was elected abbot. During the confusion in ecclesiastical discipline between the Celtic-oriented, Anglo-Saxon hierarchy and the pressure from Rome for conformity, Chad became for a time Bishop of York.

Chad graciously stepped back with the arrival in Britain

of Theodore, who doubted the validity of indigenous consecrations. This situation was eventually rectified and Chad became Bishop of Mercia, a huge diocese the centre of which he moved from Repton to Lichfield.

Chad travelled extensively and became much loved for his wisdom and gentleness in otherwise difficult situations. The plague was prevalent at this time and Chad died on this day in the year 672.

- 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 O Jesus I have promised (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.

Christ calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love with all the saints in earth and heaven. Therefore, knowing our unworthiness and sin, 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

It's usual to omit the Gloria during Lent.

The Collect for St Chad

Almighty God,
from the first fruits of the English nation
 who turned to Christ,
you called your servant Chad
to be an evangelist and bishop of his own people:
give us grace so to follow his peaceable nature,
 humble spirit and prayerful life,
that we may truly commend to others
the faith which we ourselves profess;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

First reading

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus

My child, perform your tasks with humility; then you will be loved by those whom God accepts. The greater you are, the more you must humble yourself; so you will find favour in the sight of the Lord. For great is the might of the Lord; but by the humble he is glorified. Neither seek what is too difficult for you, nor investigate what is beyond your power. Reflect upon what you have been commanded, for what is hidden is not your concern. Do not meddle in matters that are beyond you, for more than you can understand has been shown you. For their conceit has led many astray, and wrong opinion has impaired their judgement.

Ecclesiasticus 3:17–24

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to Timothy

Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness; fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen. *1 Timothy 6:11b–16*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 2 [Take my life and let it be](#) (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

All **Glory to you O Lord.**

When Jesus noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. ‘When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, “Give this person your place,” and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, “Friend, move up higher”; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.’

Luke 14:7-11

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All **Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon

I don't suppose that there are many of us who haven't attended a wedding reception? The usual form is to have a 'top table' for the bride, groom, their parents, the best man and chief bridesmaid. The rest of the guests will be invited to sit in rank order...close family and friends to the fore with others seated further back. There is usually a seating plan and place cards to ensure that everyone knows their place ... We can suppose, from today's reading, that these sorts of arrangements were not customary in Jesus's time.

Jesus has been invited to a sabbath meal at the home of a leader of the Pharisees. It may be that Jesus is the 'guest of honour' on this occasion and, as such, invited to sit at the centre of the 'top table'. What he must have witnessed, in that case, was an unseemly scramble for a seat close to him (in those days, the seat to the right of the guest of honour was considered the 'best', followed by the place to the left and so on).

Jesus knows that he is in the midst of influential religious teachers and has already experienced occasions when they have sought to discredit him. He nevertheless takes this occasion as an opportunity to teach these interpreters of Jewish law about the way of humility. He encourages them to avoid humiliation by taking a lower place—avoiding the shame of being bumped down the pecking-order. It may be, having taken a modest place, the host might even move them up into a

more favourable place.

This is not a signal that we must always deliberately take the lowest place ... at table or in life ... and either stay there or live in expectation of being raised up. We are not to advertise our humility like Uriah Heep in Dickens' *Great Expectations* ... all the while plotting a way to climb over others by any means to reach the top. Neither are we to display an arrogant disregard for others, thinking ourselves better and more important than anyone else. Jesus, of course, stands for revolution, where things are turned upside down. Rules and social norms are good, but they can also be bad ... they separate and divide. In God's economy, all are welcome ... all are equal ... all are valuable in wherever circumstances they find themselves. In the Kingdom there is simply no need to fight for the 'best place' and scramble over others to reach it.

If we were to read a little further on (the next three verses) we would hear Jesus counselling his fellow diners to practise humility by caring for those less fortunate than themselves ... 'the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind' (v.13) without expectation of return. Sadly we have heard recent reports, during the Covid crisis, about those who have given, expecting some sort of return and, indeed, being rewarded handsomely. If we react with outrage that this sort of thing is happening, it is surely because we know that this is not the way of Christ. We are not to exploit any power or influence we may have ... or feelings of entitlement ... for our own selfish gain.

It is thought that St Chad, who we remember today, was a member (with his three brothers) of the Northumbrian nobility. We know only scant details of his life as detailed by St Bede, but it is clear he turned his back on wealth and privilege in order to follow a strict monastic life of prayer, continence, poverty and meditation on the Holy Scripture. We are told he did not seek power, being only reluctantly consecrated as a bishop ... a leader in the church. He preferred the way of humility, once explaining that storms are sent by God to remind humankind of the day of judgement and to humble their pride.

May we, like Chad, always remember the lessons of our gospel reading today ... that in God's eyes we are all sisters and brothers and that at His heavenly banquet there will be no need of a seating plan for those on His extraordinary guest list. 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.

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Bible readings © the publishers of the NRSV translation.

Sermon and prayers of intercession © Revd Jane Hyde.

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

Heavenly Father, we humble ourselves before your throne.
May your church be faithful in ministry to all your children,
speaking out against injustice, and being a voice for those on the margins.
Lord in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we humble ourselves before your throne.
Guide our leaders to be open and honest in all their dealings.
May they always act with integrity and protect the vulnerable.
Lord in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we humble ourselves before your throne.
Help us to look for ways we can serve in our communities
as your living and loving hands.
Give strength to all who are working for others in difficult circumstances.
Lord in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we humble ourselves before your throne.
May all who are ill ... at home, in hospital or hospice ... feel your near presence.
Comfort all who wait for news of loved ones they cannot see.
Lord in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we humble ourselves before your throne,
Let compassion and mercy accompany the dying,
and welcome them into eternity.

Lord in your mercy

All **hear our prayer.**

With humility and love
may we chose to walk in the way of Christ
this day and always.

Merciful Father,

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

The peace

May the God of peace sanctify you:
may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness
that you may be blameless before him
at the coming of our Lord Jesus with his saints.

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

All **And also with you.**

HYMN 3 Kyrie Eleison

[\(please click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

The liturgy of the **Communion Service** appears below

The Dismissal

The peace of God which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and mind in the knowledge and love of God;
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 Brother, sister, let me serve you [\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
And now we give thanks, most gracious God,
surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses
and glorified in the assembly of your saints.
The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.
We, your holy Church, acclaim you.
In communion with angels and archangels,
and with all who served you on earth and worship you now in heaven,
we raise our voice to proclaim your glory,
for ever 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 Chad and 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

Holy Father,
who gathered us here around the table of your Son
to share this meal with the whole household of God:
in that new world where you reveal
the fullness of your peace,
gather people of every race and language
to share with your servant Chad and all your saints
in the eternal banquet of 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.