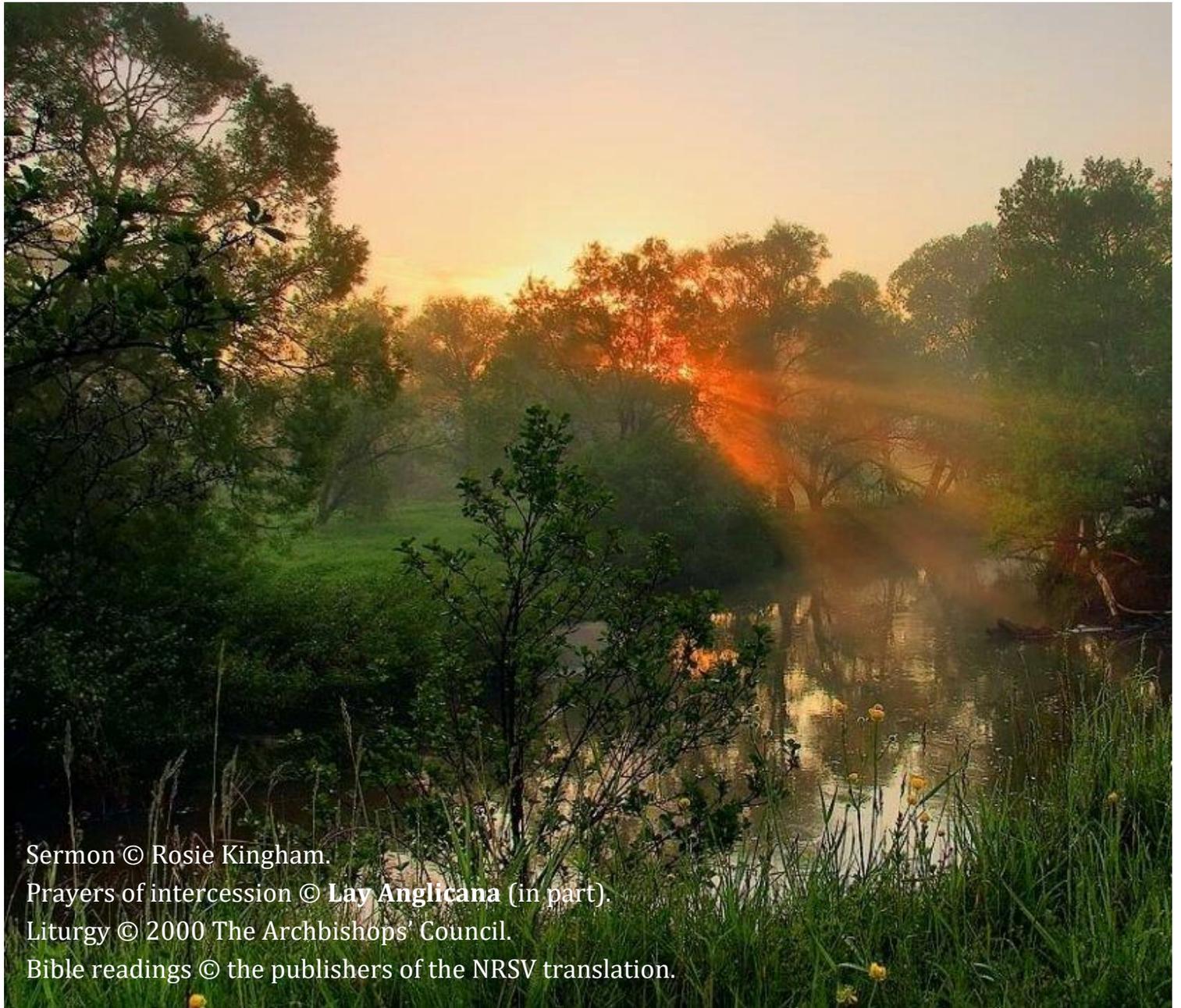


**Sunday 6 June 2021**

# The First Sunday after Trinity



Sermon © Rosie Kingham.

Prayers of intercession © Lay Anglicana (in part).

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Bible readings © the publishers of the NRSV translation.

- All the Bible readings come from the *New Revised Standard Version*.
- The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration are included at the end.
- 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 All I once held dear**

(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 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 First Sunday after Trinity**

God of truth,

help us to keep your law of love

and to walk in ways of wisdom,

that we may find true life

in Jesus Christ your Son.

**All Amen.**

### **First reading**

A reading from the First Book of Moses called Genesis

Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.' So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.

So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken.' Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.'

He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.'

The Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

To the woman he said, 'I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.'

And to the man he said, 'Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.'

The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all living.

And the Lord God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them. [Genesis 2:15—3:21](#)

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Second reading

A reading from St Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians

But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—'I believed, and so I spoke'—we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

[2 Corinthians 4:13—5:1](#)

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 2 [Freely freely \(God forgave my sin\)](#) ([click on this link to hear the hymn](#))**

## Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

**All Glory to you O Lord.**

The crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.' And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.' And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong

man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

'Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin' — for they had said, 'He has an unclean spirit.'

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.' And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.' *Mark 3:20–35*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All Praise to you O Christ.**

## Sermon

Today's readings are all about the 3 S's. No, not Sun, Sea and Sand, but Sin, Satan and Service. In the reading from Genesis, we see how sin comes about when we go against the will of God. The Epistle shows us how we serve God by looking for the eternal truths of God's Kingdom—and the Gospel has Sin, Satan and Service in glorious technicolour.

At the start of the passage, Jesus's family have come to collect Him, because unspecified people (possibly the scribes mentioned later in the passage) are saying He is out of His mind. The passage doesn't say whether they are embarrassed by Him or worried for Him, but it's clear they are responding to serious accusations. As the phrase, 'out of his mind' can be interpreted as meaning possessed by a devil, like so many illnesses and disabilities were at the time, people were essentially accusing Jesus of black magic. Indeed, they go on to say that Jesus is casting out demons in the name of Satan. They are not denying His ability to cast out demons, but they are casting doubt on the source of his power. They don't believe Jesus is from God, so they accuse him of driving out demons by the prince of demons, Satan himself.

Jesus ridicules this idea. He asks, 'How can Satan drive out Satan?' He further declares, 'If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand'. This seems an odd thing to say, as Jesus clearly wouldn't want the 'house of Satan' to remain standing. But equally clearly, the serpent/'strong man' Satan is strongly at work in the world, The image of the strong man tied up and his house plundered is Jesus saying that He will overcome Satan in the name of God, because God will defeat evil.

Jesus then goes on to speak of a 'strong man's house' (verses 27–28). Once a 'strong man' is tied up, his house can be plundered. Jesus is the one who is stronger

than Satan. He has come to tie up the strong man through his ministry, so that the house of Satan can then be plundered.

And now we come on to Sin. It is through sin that Satan is at work in the world, through the temptation to do our will not God's will. And it is through Christ's redemption that the power of sin is broken and Satan's heavy burden can be thrown off. That's something to give thanks for every day, because we all have more or less of the serpent within us. And because of this redemption, there is no sin, or blasphemy, that cannot be forgiven—except blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.

It is hard to understand what this might be. We know that denying Jesus can be forgiven (Peter denies Jesus after His arrest), so it's not that. The warning about blasphemy against the Holy Spirit seems to be a direct result of the accusation that Jesus is casting out demons in the name of Satan. So it would appear that the blasphemy of the Holy Spirit is attributing the work of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' life to Satan.

Now we come to Jesus's family. When He is told that His family is outside looking for Him, he says 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' he asked. Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'

Jesus is not denigrating the family or diminishing the value and significance of family. Rather, he is teaching us that family loyalty is secondary to loyalty and obedience to the word of God. He is also radically widening the concept of 'family' for Christian believers. The loyalty, love and service that is properly given to one another in family life is also due to one another in the wider 'family' of believers. In Christian community our relationships are reconfigured in and through Christ. In and through him we are brothers, sisters, mothers and children to and for one another. He is giving us a vision of a spiritual life in which people of all ages and family backgrounds care for one another physically and spiritually.

So, now we've examined the Gospel in detail, what can we take away from our readings today?

Firstly, we know that sin happens when we give in to temptation to do our will, not God's will.

Secondly, we know that Satan's power is broken through the love and grace of God and that all our sins can be forgiven.

Thirdly, we know that we are God's family in His service, and that His family extends to the whole world.

Armed with this knowledge, we can fix our hearts firmly on God's eternal kingdom, and live in His house for ever.

## 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 take inspiration from one of the readings set for today: St Paul's second letter to the Corinthians.) Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith.

### The Church of Christ

To ask that your Holy Spirit will guide your Church as we come out of Covid lockdowns: help us to incorporate new insights without losing sight of eternal truths. Inspire us to work together in unity as the Body of Christ for the coming of your Kingdom.

*We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen, for the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.*

Lord, in your mercy

**All hear our prayer.**

### Creation, human society, the Sovereign and those in authority

As the pace of these changes seems to increase with every passing day, help us to draw strength from your eternal changelessness.

Give wisdom to all in authority; and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and of peace; that we may honour one another, and seek the common good. We pray once again for the troubled area of the Middle East. As our hopes for constructive change look threatened yet again, we ask you now to be with the people in the midst of their present sufferings, and to give them hope for their future.

*We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen.*

Lord, in your mercy

**All** hear our prayer.

### **Those who suffer**

Comfort and heal those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. In particular for ... Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray with St Paul that they: *do not lose heart. Though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed every day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison. We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen.*

Lord, in your mercy

**All** hear our prayer.

### **The communion of saints**

We thank you, Lord, that what looks like death to the caterpillar looks like new birth to the butterfly. As St Paul says, *if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.* We commend into your hands all those who have been through this change ... *We look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen.*

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**

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.  
Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace.  
Peace from the Holy Spirit, the Life-giver

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

**All** And also with you.

**HYMN 3 To be a pilgrim**

(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 minds in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
and the blessing  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
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 Lord of all hopefulness**

(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**

Holy \*\* 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.