

Our Sunday Service Together

Sunday November 7th 2021



An Acclamation for the Season

All: Alleluia, alleluia! To you we come, Father of lights, with angels and saints, where heaven and earth unite. May Jesus meet us in the breaking of the bread. Alleluia!

Preparation

All: This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Through the brokenness of Christ, we become one body
as one body we now gather in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to receive God's holy word, to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Our Confession

God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit. Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice, and confess our sins to God our redeemer.

All: Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

Be still for a moment in confession and in receiving God's Grace in Christ

All: May Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. **Amen.**

The opening prayer

All: The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

All: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. Amen.

The Psalms Psalm 24

The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it, the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.

For he has founded it upon the seas and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.

'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord, or who can rise up in his holy place?'

'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, who have not lifted up their soul to an idol, nor sworn an oath to a lie;

'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord, a just reward from the God of their salvation.'

Such is the company of those who seek him, of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

'Who is the King of glory?' 'The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord who is mighty in battle.'

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

'Who is this King of glory?' 'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.'

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Scripture Reading Revelation 21.1-6a

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

'See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; ⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'

⁵ And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' ⁶ Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end

At the end of the reading we say:

All: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gloria

All: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' ³⁷But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

At the end of the reading we say:

All: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

A Reflection for the day

I am a practical person. I love concept, and wondering how and why, but ultimately I love it when concept and wonder meet in reality, well when something works.

Soon we will be in Advent and begin to hear one of my favourite words – Emmanuel. Here is wonder, here is amazing theory made real, practical; God with us, one with us.

Emmanuel is not abstract thought, wishful thinking, concept, it is praxis, action, reality in human life from beginning to end – from conception to death, and beyond into life after life after death; into resurrection. Our passage from John today shows us just how real and 'one with us' God is in Jesus Christ.

We begin our passage with Mary and Martha, two ladies the likes of whom I am sure we have encountered in life ourselves, we may even be like one of them. Martha is straight talking, action taking, and marches out to meet Jesus and tell him plainly if he had been there then her brother, his friend, would still be alive. Mary, follows almost reluctantly, if equally questioning the death of her brother and God in it, she comes weeping and kneels at Jesus feet.

Here is grief, grief we have all known, or seen in others at one time or other – the questions and anger and frustration, and helplessness and acceptance of the new reality before us. And into this reality of life on earth, this grief, steps Jesus, one with us.

Our modern English translations let us down at this moment in the passage for they say in response to Martha and Mary Jesus wept. The King James translation works better when it says 'he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled'; but even this translation lets us down. In reality we are told on encountering the women and the news of Lazarus' death Jesus 'shuddered with anguish', it is as if he snorted with fury, flaring his nostrils, angered in his sadness. Perhaps this anger was at the power of sickness, of death and human pain in grief – we have all been there, and so too John shows us has God with us; Emmanuel.

Why is it that Jesus did not get there sooner and save the day? We do not know. Why is it that Martha and Mary are filled with pain, anger, questions, with grief? Because this is the reality of being human. Why is it the Jesus too is filled with anger, with anguish? Because he is Emmanuel; one with us! Jesus enters into the

reality of human grief, sorrow, anguish and shares our pain, anger, our questions – this is not concept, this is not God high in the heavens above and immune from the reality of life on earth. This is God with us!

But there is more, there is hope in grief, for in raising Lazarus Jesus shows us that death will not have the final word; as St Paul says 'where O death is thy sting?'. Through his own death and resurrection comes life beyond life after death. And on the feast of 'All Saints' that is hope to hold to and celebration to be had indeed.

The Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Prayers *We make our intercessions*

Jesus our exalted Lord has been given all authority.
Let us seek his intercession, that our prayers may be perfected by his prayer.
Jesus Christ, great high priest, living for ever to intercede for us:
pray for your Church, your broken body in the world ...
Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, King of righteousness, enthroned at the right hand of the majesty on high:
pray for the world, and make it subject to your gentle rule ...
Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, Son of man, drawing humanity into the life of God:
pray for your brothers and sisters in need, distress or sorrow ...
Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, pioneer of our salvation, bringing us to your glory through your death and resurrection:
pray for all who are dying, that they may trust in your promises ...
Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, Lord of all things, ascended far above from the heavens and filling the universe:
pray for us who receive the gifts you give us for work in your service ...
Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, first-fruits of the new creation, keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, until you bring the whole created order to worship at your feet;
for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect

All: Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; 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.
Amen.

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Conclusion

All: Christ, as a light illumine and guide me this day.
Christ, as a shield overshadow me.
Christ under me, Christ over me;
Christ beside me on my left and my right.
This day be within and without me.
Amen.