

# Our Service Together

## January 18<sup>th</sup> 2026

### 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

*The sun of righteousness has dawned with healing in his wings. Let us come to the light of Christ,  
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.*

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 Psalm 40.1-11

I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry.

He brought me out of the roaring pit, out of the mire and clay;

he set my feet upon a rock and made my footing sure.

He has put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many shall see and fear and put their trust in the Lord.

Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,  
who does not turn to the proud that follow a lie.

Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God.

How great your designs for us!

There is none that can be compared with you.

If I were to proclaim them and tell of them they would be more than I am able to express.

Sacrifice and offering you do not desire but my ears you have opened;

Burnt offering and sacrifice for sin you have not required; then said I: 'Lo, I come.

'In the scroll of the book it is written of me that I should do your will, O my God;

I delight to do it: your law is within my heart.'

I have declared your righteousness in the great congregation; behold, I did not restrain my lips,  
and that, O Lord, you know.

Your righteousness I have not hidden in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;

I have not concealed your loving-kindness and truth from the great congregation.

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 1 Corinthians 1.1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

<sup>2</sup>To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints,  
together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ  
Jesus, <sup>5</sup>for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— <sup>6</sup>just as the  
testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— <sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you  
wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be  
blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of  
his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*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.

## The Gospel John 1.29-42

The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the  
sin of the world! <sup>30</sup>This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was  
before me." <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be  
revealed to Israel.' <sup>32</sup>And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained

on him. <sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, “He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.” <sup>34</sup> And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.’

<sup>35</sup> The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, ‘Look, here is the Lamb of God!’ <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, ‘What are you looking for?’ They said to him, ‘Rabbi’ (which translated means Teacher), ‘where are you staying?’ <sup>39</sup> He said to them, ‘Come and see.’ They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his brother Simon and said to him, ‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated Anointed). <sup>42</sup> He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, ‘You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas’ (which is translated Peter).

*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

In our baptism liturgy we talk of the Spirit ‘given’ as a sign and a seal of our faith, echoing 2 Corinthians 1.22. The Prayer Book joins with the Old Testament Psalmist and pleads ‘take not thy Spirit from me’. Many shy away from mention of things ‘Holy Spirit’, possibly thanks to excesses of the charismatic revivals and things which seem less in control (but the wind does blow where it wills).

Both readings today talk of the Spirit’s inescapable presence, testimony and work amongst the people of God in Christ.

Our passage from John’s gospel sees John the Baptist give testimony about Jesus; one who was to come after John the Baptist. There are allusions here to Jesus baptism at the Jordan, but unlike the other gospels there is nothing said about John’s background, his family relationship to Jesus, his attire, or to Jesus going in and coming out of the water. But John instead gives testimony to one thing – the Spirit of God alighted on Jesus as if a dove, and it remained on him – no quick and fleeting event. And John makes a declaration, ‘behold the Lamb of God’ as he sees Jesus.

In the declaration John points to Jesus as God’s messiah, as the one who would atone for all sin. The Spirit remaining with Jesus is a sign and seal of His identity as the Son of God, of His equipping to fulfil the calling of the Messiah, and more this enables Jesus himself to then baptize himself; not in a wash the dirt of your face water baptism style, but in a sanctifying, cleansing, redeeming manner.

Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians testifies to such a work of Christ amongst those who have come to faith. Paul begins by giving thanks for the faith of the people and talks of the church as ‘those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints’. It is most likely these people have been baptised in water at a point of faith, if not they will, as all who come to faith in Jesus are, have been baptised with the Spirit, sanctified by Jesus, and made the saints.

But there is much more to this for the Spirit brings us to relationship with God in Christ and enables our living the faith we have come to. The Spirit provides – every spiritual gift required to serve our calling to witness to God’s work in Jesus. The Spirit brings resilience and strength to persevere in the faith, despite all opposition. The Spirit is the wisdom of God giving direction in living as saints in gracious and holy living; ensuring the *faith filled* remain the *faithful* to the end, being declared blameless in Christ.

Sadly, as we read both 1 and 2 Corinthians, we see a church community divided, some are concerned with prestige and receiving the Spirit’s gifts for their personal glory. It is not so much the Spirit has been taken from them as it is they have ignored the Spirit’s presence and purpose.

We often pray at the end of service ‘we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice, send us in the power of your Spirit, to live and work to your praise and glory’. These words remind us of what a faith filled life

is about. We are called from our baptism to grow into the fullness of faith in Christ which comes as we offer up our lives to service and to sanctification, both in the Spirit of God and as a testimony to His glory.

## 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*

We pray for the church and all God's people. We pray especially for all whose faith is being tested and all who may be approaching Jesus for the first time.

*Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for the King, for our politicians and all in public office that, through God's grace they may lead us with compassion, remain sensitive to the needs of others and be free from false judgement and condemnation.

*Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray that God will remind us about what is important and what is not, and will help us to overcome our own temptation. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for all who suffer through the sin of others: all victims of abuse, oppression or neglect; we pray for all who need God's help. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy name thou wilt grant their requests: fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen

## The Collect

All: Eternal Lord, our beginning and our end: bring us with the whole creation to your glory, hidden through pass ages and made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.