

# The Holy Communion

## 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

### GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

*(Please stand)*

*Hymn* Come down, O Love divine

Come down, O Love divine,  
seek now this soul of mine,  
and visit it with your own ardour glowing;  
O Comforter, draw near,  
within my heart appear  
and kindle it, your holy flame bestowing.

There let it freely burn,  
till earthly passions turn  
to dust and ashes, in its heat consuming;  
and let your glorious light  
shine ever on my sight  
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity  
my outer garment be,  
and lowliness become my inner clothing:  
true lowliness of heart,  
which takes the humbler part  
and for its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong  
with which the soul will long  
shall far outpass the power of human telling;  
for none can guess its grace  
till we become the place  
in which the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.



Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*Sentence* Come, let us return to the Lord, that we may live before him. (*Hosea 6.1a, 2b*)

**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.**

Lord, we have sinned in thought, word and deed:

Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy**

We are truly sorry and we ask you to forgive us:

Christ have mercy

**Christ have mercy**

Help us by your Spirit to live in newness of life:

Lord have mercy

**Lord have mercy**

*The Absolution*

Almighty God,  
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith:  
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,  
strengthen you in all goodness  
and keep you in eternal life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Lord, have mercy  
Christ, have mercy  
Lord, have mercy**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's 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 Collect of the Day*

Grant, O merciful God,  
that your people may have that mind that was in Christ Jesus,  
who emptied himself, and took the form of a servant,  
and in humility became obedient even to death.  
For you have highly exalted him  
and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,  
Jesus Christ, the Lord;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, in everlasting glory. **Amen.**

*(Sit for the readings)*

# THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

*(Silence may follow each reading.)*

**First Reading** A reading from the book Exodus (17.7-7)

1 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' 3 But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' 4 So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' 5 The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. 6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

Hear the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Psalm 78** (78.1-4, 11-16, APBA p 301)

<sup>1</sup> Give heed to my teaching, O my people:

incline your ears to the words of my mouth;

<sup>2</sup> **For I will open my mouth in a parable:**

**and expound the mysteries of former times.**

<sup>3</sup> What we have heard and known:

what our forebears have told us,

- 4 We will not hide from their children,  
but declare to a generation yet to come:  
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,  
his mighty and wonderful works.**
- <sup>11</sup> For he did marvellous things  
in the sight of their ancestors:  
in the land of Egypt, in the country of Zoan.
- 12 He divided the sea and let them pass through:  
he made the waters stand up in a heap.**
- <sup>13</sup> In the daytime he led them with a cloud:  
and all night long with the light of fire.
- 14 He cleft rocks in the wilderness:  
and gave them drink in abundance  
as from springs of water.**
- <sup>15</sup> He brought streams out of the rock:  
and caused the waters to flow down like rivers.
- 16 But for all this they sinned yet more against him:  
and rebelled against the Most High in the desert.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** A reading from St Paul's letter to the Philippians  
(2.1-13)

- <sup>1</sup> If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy,  
<sup>2</sup> make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.  
<sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.  
<sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.  
<sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God,

did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
<sup>9</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
<sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
<sup>12</sup> 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;  
<sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will  
and to work for his good pleasure.

## **Gospel**

Hear the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

*(Stand for the Gospel)*

### **The Gospel Reading**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew  
(21.23-32)

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

23 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?' 24 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. 25 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?" 26 But if we say, "Of human origin", we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.' 27 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. 28 'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." 29 He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. 30 The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. 31 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. 32 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.

*After the Gospel, the reader says*

This is the Gospel of the Lord,  
**praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*The Sermon*

*Silence may follow.*

*(Stand for the Creed)*

Let us together affirm the faith of the Church:  
Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

Amen, Amen

**Amen, Amen**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
he suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified and died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,  
and seated at the right hand of the Father;

he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.

Amen, Amen

**Amen, Amen**

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

Amen, Amen

**Amen, Amen**

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(Sit or kneel for the prayers)*

*The minister says*

Let us pray for the world and for the Church.

*After each prayer*

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude with this prayer.*

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith  
we may by your grace receive,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE GREETING OF PEACE

We are the body of Christ.

**His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## THE OFFERTORY

*Hymn* Your hand, O God, has guided

1. Your hand, O God, has guided  
your flock from age to age;  
the wondrous tale is written  
full clear, on every page.  
your people owed your goodness,  
and we their deeds accord;  
and both of this bear witness:  
one church, one faith, one Lord.

2 Your heralds brought glad tidings  
to greatest, as to least;  
they bade them rise, and hasten  
to share the great king's feast;  
and this was all their teaching,  
in every deed and word,  
to all alike proclaiming  
one church, one faith, one Lord.

3 Through many a day of darkness,  
through many a scene of strife,  
the faithful few fought bravely  
to guard the nation's life.  
Their gospel of redemption,  
sin pardoned, earth restored,  
was all in this enfolded:  
one church, one faith, one Lord.

4 Your mercy will not fail us,  
nor leave your work undone;  
with your right hand to help us  
the victory shall be won;  
and then by all creation  
your name shall be adored,  
and this shall be our anthem:  
one church, one faith, one Lord.

*(remain standing for the Great Thanksgiving)*

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.  
Accept and use our offerings for your glory  
and for the service of your kingdom.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Preface All thanks and praise, glory and honour,  
be yours at all times, in every place,  
holy and loving Father, true and living God.

We praise you that through your eternal Word  
you brought the universe into being  
and made us in your own image.

You have given us this earth to care for and delight in,  
and with its bounty you preserve our life.

We thank you that you bound yourself to the human race  
with the promises of a gracious covenant  
and called us to serve you in love and peace.

Above all, we give you thanks for your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ:  
born as one of us, he lived our common life  
and offered his life to you in perfect obedience and trust.

By his death he delivered us from sin, brought us new life,  
and reconciled us to you and to one another.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
with apostles, and prophets,  
with holy men and women of every age,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name:



**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.**

*(Kneel for the Prayer of Consecration)*

Merciful God, we thank you  
for these gifts of your creation,  
this bread and wine,  
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,  
we who eat and drink them  
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;  
and when he had given you thanks  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,

'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.' 

After supper, he took the cup,  
and again giving you thanks  
he gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Drink from this, all of you.  
This is my blood of the new covenant  
shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' 

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and this cup,  
we remember the saving death of your Son,  
his resurrection and ascension,  
and his promise to be with us for ever.

In the power of the Holy Spirit,  
bring us to eternal life with Christ,  
as we look for his coming in glory,  
and for the heavenly banquet  
prepared for all your people.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.** 

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

**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.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

As this broken bread was once many grains,  
which have been gathered together and made one bread:  
**so may your Church be gathered  
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and  
blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed  
on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*During COVID-19 restrictions we will administer Holy  
Communion under one kind; the bread.*

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life.

**Amen.**

*(Kneel or sit for a time for quiet reflection following Holy  
Communion)*

## THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Father of all

We give you thanks and praise  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.

May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who  
drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

**Keep us in this hope that we have grasped;  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name.**

*Stand for the Blessing*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:  
**In the name of Christ. Amen**

*Hymn Gift of finest wheat  
Refrain: You satisfy the hungry heart  
With gift of finest wheat  
Come give to us, O Saving Lord  
The Bread of Life to eat*

As when the shepherd calls his sheep  
They know and heed his voice  
So when you call your family Lord  
They follow and rejoice

*Refrain:*  
With joyful lips, we sing to you  
Our praise and gratitude  
That you should count us worthy Lord  
To share this Heavenly food

*Refrain:*  
Is not the cup we bless and share  
The blood of Christ outpoured?  
Does not one cup, one loaf declare  
Our Oneness in the Lord?

*Refrain:*  
The myst'ry of your presence, Lord,  
No mortal tongue can tell:  
Whom all the world cannot contain  
Comes in our hearts to dwell.

*Refrain:*