

# The Holy Communion

## Season of Creation



**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**19<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

*Music Before we start: For the Beauty of the Earth, by John Rutter,  
Gondwana Voices & Mark O'Leary*

### GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

*(Please stand)*

*Hymn* And now, O Father, mindful of the love

1 And now, O Father, mindful of the love  
That bought us, once for all, on Calvary's tree,  
And having with us him that pleads above,  
We here present, we here spread forth to thee  
That only offering perfect in thine eyes,  
The one true, pure, immortal sacrifice.

2 Look, Father, look on his anointed face,  
And only look on us as found in him;  
Look not on our misusings of thy grace,  
Our prayer so languid, and our faith so dim;  
For lo, between our sins and their reward  
We set the passion of thy Son our Lord.

3 And then for those, our dearest and our best,  
By this prevailing presence we appeal;  
O fold them closer to thy mercy's breast,

O do thine utmost for their souls' true weal;  
From tainting mischief keep them white and clear  
And crown thy gifts with grace to persevere.

4 And so we come: O draw us to thy feet  
Most patient Saviour, who canst love us still;  
And by this food, so awful and so sweet,  
Deliver us from every touch of ill:  
In thine own service make us glad and free,  
And grant us never more to part with thee.

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* Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all. *Mark 9.35*

**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.**

*Lament*

Drought turns farmland to dustbowl, drains rivers, lays bare the soil. Gardens wither, livestock die, people lose heart, communities crumble.

**How long, O Lord, how long? Refresh the parched and thirsty earth. Revive our flagging spirits. When will you give us the water of life?**

Deforestation shreds the landscape, leaches soil, poisons rivers.

Smoke hangs in the air, rainfall patterns change, birds and animals lose their habitat, cultures and people die.

**How long, O Lord, how long? Rebuke the greed for land.  
Regenerate the stricken forests.**

**When will the trees clap their hands at your salvation?**

*Confession*

**Merciful God, our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do:**

**we have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;  
we repent, and are sorry for all our sins.**

**Father, forgive us. Strengthen us to love and obey you in  
newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Absolution*

**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*

God and Father of all,

you have taught us through your Son that the last shall be first,  
and have made a little child the measure of your kingdom:

give us the wisdom from above,

so that we may understand that in your sight

the one who serves is the greatest of all.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD**

*(Silence may follow each reading.)*

**First Reading** Proverbs (31.10-31)

A capable wife who can find?

She is far more precious than jewels.

The heart of her husband trusts in her,

and he will have no lack of gain.

She does him good, and not harm,

all the days of her life.

She seeks wool and flax,

and works with willing hands.

She is like the ships of the merchant,

she brings her food from far away.

She rises while it is still night

and provides food for her household

and tasks for her servant-girls.

She considers a field and buys it;

with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.

She girds herself with strength,

and makes her arms strong.

She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.

Her lamp does not go out at night.  
She puts her hands to the distaff,  
and her hands hold the spindle.  
She opens her hand to the poor,  
and reaches out her hands to the needy.  
She is not afraid for her household when it snows,  
for all her household are clothed in crimson.  
She makes herself coverings;  
her clothing is fine linen and purple.  
Her husband is known in the city gates,  
taking his seat among the elders of the land.  
She makes linen garments and sells them;  
she supplies the merchant with sashes.  
Strength and dignity are her clothing,  
and she laughs at the time to come.  
She opens her mouth with wisdom,  
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.  
She looks well to the ways of her household,  
and does not eat the bread of idleness.  
Her children rise up and call her happy;  
her husband too, and he praises her:  
'Many women have done excellently,  
but you surpass them all.'  
Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,  
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.  
Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,  
and let her works praise her in the city gates.

Hear the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Responsorial Psalm** Psalm 1 (*APBA p 224.*)

<sup>1</sup> Blessed are they  
who have not walked in the counsel of the ungodly:  
nor followed the way of sinners,  
nor taken their seat amongst the scornful.

<sup>2</sup> **But their delight is in the law of the Lord:  
and on that law will they ponder day and night.**

<sup>3</sup> They are like trees planted beside streams of water: that yield their fruit in due season.

<sup>4</sup> **Their leaves also shall not wither: and look, whatever they do, it shall prosper.**

<sup>5</sup> As for the ungodly, it is not so with them: they are like the chaff which the wind scatters.

<sup>6</sup> **Therefore the ungodly shall not stand up at the judgement: nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.**

<sup>7</sup> For the Lord cares for the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

### **Second Reading** James (3.1-12)

1 Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. 2 For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. 3 If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. 4 Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. 5 So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! 6 And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. 7 For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, 8 but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. 10 From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. 11 Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both

fresh and brackish water? 12 Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

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 Mark *(9.30-37)*

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

30 They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; 31 for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' 32 But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. 33 Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' 34 But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. 35 He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' 36 Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 37 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

*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

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,  
which earth has given and human hands have made.  
It will become for us the bread of life.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.  
It will become for us the cup of salvation.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

Lord, let our prayers and offerings rise before you,  
that we whom you have cleansed in baptism  
may respond worthily to the mystery of your great love. **Amen**

# 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.**

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.**

Holy God, we thank you

for these gifts of your creation, this bread and wine,  
and we pray that we who eat and drink them  
in obedience to our Saviour Christ,  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
may be partakers of his body and blood,  
and be made one with him and with each other  
in peace and love.

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.'

*Let us proclaim the mystery of faith*

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free.**

**You are the Saviour of the world.**

Therefore we do as our Saviour has commanded:  
proclaiming his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross,  
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming again,  
we celebrate, with this bread and this cup,  
his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice  
for the sins of the whole world.

As we eat and drink this holy sacrament,  
renew us by your Spirit

that we may be united in the body of your Son  
and serve you as a royal priesthood  
in the joy of your eternal kingdom.  
Receive our praises, Father,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
with whom and in whom,  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
we worship you in songs of never-ending praise:  
**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

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
We who are many are one body,  
**for we all share in the one bread.**

**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 your peace.**

*Invitation*

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life.

**Amen.**

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

**BEETHOVEN'S 'CREATION'S HYMN'**

*To God eternal the heavens utter glory*

*From them afar his name is heard*

*By earth and sea is repeated the story*

*Let all mankind receive his word.*

*Who holds the numberless stars in their places?*

*Who bids the sun his light diffuse?*

*He comes with brightness and smiles in our faces*

*And hero-like his way pursues*

*And hero-like his way pursues.*

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God our creator, you feed your children with the true manna,  
the living bread from heaven: let this holy food sustain us  
through our earthly pilgrimage until we come to that place  
where hunger and thirst are no more;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*Stand for the Blessing*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

**In the name of Christ. Amen**

*Hymn* For the beauty of the earth

*Lucerna Laudoniae: Wells Cathedral Choir*

For the beauty of the earth,  
for the beauty of the skies,

for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies,  
*Christ, our God, to you we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.*

2. For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon and stars of light,

3. For the joy of human love,  
for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight,

4. For the church that evermore,  
lifting holy hands above,  
offers up on every shore  
the pure sacrifice of love,

### *Voluntary*

*Sonata No. 30 in E Major, Op. 109: Prestissimo Ronald Farren-Price. With  
Permission*