

The Holy Communion

Season of Creation

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

26 September 2021



GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn T 647 Comfort, Comfort All My People Comfort.....

By Robin Mann sung by Wendy McLean

Refrain

*Comfort, comfort all my people
with the comfort of my word.*

Speak it tender to my people:

All your sins are taken away.

1. Though your tears be rivers running,
though your tears be an ocean full,
though you cry with the hurt of living,
comfort, comfort.

Every valley shall be lifted,
every mountain shall be low,
every rough place will be smoother:
comfort, comfort.

Refrain

2. Though your eyes see only darkness,
though your eyes can see no light,
though your eyes see pain and sorrow:
comfort, comfort.

Every night will have its morning,
every pain will have an end,
every burden will be lightened:
comfort, comfort.

Refrain

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 Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can it be seasoned? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another. *Mark 9.50*

**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?

Floods wash away soil, flatten crops, ruin homes. Drinking
water fails, disease spreads, fear clings, livelihoods lie buried in
mud,animals and people drown.

**How long, O Lord, how long? Restore the soaked and tattered
land.Relieve the suffering people.**

Are you not our strong rock and refuge?

Silence may be kept.

Let us bring our darkness to his light, confessing our sins in
penitence and faith.

**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

Absolution: Restoration of creation

Our Saviour died and rose again so that for all who live in him
there is a new creation.

Therefore I declare to you:

your sins are forgiven, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen. Send out your Spirit, O Lord.

Renew the hearts of your people.

Renew the face of the earth.

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

O God,
your Son has taught us that those who give a cup of water in his
name
will not lose their reward:
open our eyes to see those who are in need,
and teach us to set no store by riches and earthly rewards,
so that, in surrendering ourselves to serve you in your children,
we may labour for the treasure that endures;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

(Silence may follow each reading.)

First Reading Esther (7.1-6, 7.9-10; 9.20-22)

7 So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, 'What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.' Then Queen Esther answered, 'If I have won your favour, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.' Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, 'Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?' Esther said, 'A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!' Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen. Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, 'Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman's house, fifty cubits high.' And the king said, 'Hang him on that.' So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated. **9** Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

(ref)

Hear the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 124(*ref APBA p.361*)

¹ If the Lord had not been on our side,

now may Israel say:

if the Lord had not been on our side,

when our enemies rose against us,

² **Then they would have swallowed us alive:**

when their anger was kindled against us.

³ Then the waters would have overwhelmed us,

and the torrent gone over us:

the raging waters would have gone clean over us.

⁴ **But praised be the Lord:**

who has not given us as a prey to their teeth.

⁵ We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowler:

the snare is broken, and we have gone free.

⁶ **Our help is in the name of the Lord:**

who has made heaven and earth.

Second Reading James (5.12-20)

Above all, my beloved, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your 'Yes' be yes and your 'No' be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation. Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six

months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest. My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

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 *(9.38-50)*

John said to him, 'Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.' But Jesus said, 'Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. 'If any of you put a stumbling-block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. ' And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. 'For

everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.'

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

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:

**We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the
forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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.

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.

Be present, be present,
Lord Jesus Christ,
our risen high priest;
make yourself known in the breaking of bread. **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 to Communion

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)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Please Stand

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Go in strong and growing faith.
Trust in the tenderness of Christ

to heal a bruised and broken world.

Thanks be to God.

Go in eager and refreshing hope. Work with Christ risen from the dead, to fulfil the promise of a new creation.

Thanks be to God.

Go in costly and courageous love.
Proclaim the power of Christ
to cleanse a defiled and disfigured world.

Thanks be to God.

Go in peace,
to treasure and to tend
the world God made and loves.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Stand for the Blessing

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:

In the name of Christ. Amen

Hymn T 672 Lord Of Earth And All Creation

Arr. Michael Leighton Jones and Christopher Gower. Choir of Trinity College Melbourne.

Lord of earth and all creation,
let your love possess our land:
wealth, and freedom, far horizons,
mountain, forest, shining sand:
may we share, on faith and friendship,
gifts unmeasured from your hand.

People from the ancient Dreamtime,
they who found this country first,
ask with those, the later comers,
will our dream be blessed or cursed?
Grant us, Lord, new birth, new living,

hope for which our children thirst.

Lord, life-giving healing Spirit,
on our hurts your mercy shower:
lead us by your inward dwelling,
guiding, guarding, every hour.
Bless and keep our land Australia:
in your will her peace and power.

*Beethoven - Adagio from Sonata In C Minor Op 13 'Pathetique'. Ronald
Farren-Price*