

Early Communion TWO C

29 January 2023

Approach

Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all:
and also with you.

Collect for Purity

**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.**

Penitence.

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and
with all your mind.

This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like it.

You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

**Lord, have mercy on us,
and write these your laws in our hearts.**

Confession

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ, to save us from
our sins, to intercede for us in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep
God's commandments and to live in love and peace:

Silence

Let us confess our sins

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned in thought and word and deed,
and in what we have left undone.**

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us,**

**that we may walk in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Absolution

*Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy on you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Glory to God page 203

Let us stand

**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 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Let us pray
Creator God,
who in the beginning
commanded the light to shine out of darkness:
We pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief,
shine into the hearts of all your people,
and reveal the knowledge of your glory
in the face of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Epistle 1 Corinthians 1:18–31

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. **19** For it is written:

'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate.'

20 Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?
21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. **22** Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, **23** but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, **24** but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. **25** For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.
26 Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. **27** But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. **28** God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not – to nullify the things that are, **29** so that no one may boast before him. **30** It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. **31** Therefore, as it is written: 'Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.'

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Matthew 5:1–12

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to Matthew chapter 5 beginning at verse 1

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, **2** and he began to teach them.

He said:

3

'Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

5

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

6

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

7

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

8

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

9

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

10

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 'Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. **12** Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

and concludes with:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon

Nicene Creed *page 205*

Let us affirm our Faith in God

**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 by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man**

**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.**

Prayers of the People

Form 3 page 239

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church
that we all may be one.

Grant that every member of your Church may truly and humbly serve you:
that your name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests and deacons
that they may be faithful ministers of your word and sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world
that there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake
that your glory may be proclaimed through our lives.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble
that they may be delivered from their distress.

We praise you for your saints who have entered their eternal joy
may we also come to share in the fulness of your kingdom.

We pray for our own needs and for those of others:
Silence.

Gracious God, grant that the desires of your people's hearts may find favour in
your sight, through the intercession of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Humble Access

Let us pray

**We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness but in your manifold and great
mercies.**

**We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord,
whose nature is always to have mercy.**

**Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body,
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.**

The Peace

Jesus said, A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you

Taking the Bread & Wine

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us
therefore let us celebrate the feast.

Great Thanksgiving 1) page 209

The Lord is here

His Spirit is with us.

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.

Father, almighty and everliving God, at all times and in all places it is right to give you thanks and praise:

And so with all your people, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name,

for ever praising you and saying:

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!

Blessed are you, Father, the creator and sustainer of all things; you made us in your own image, male and female you created us; even when we turned away from you, you never ceased to care for us,

but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin, giving your only begotten Son to become man and suffer death on the cross to redeem us:

he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world: he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks to you, he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we do as Christ your Son commanded:

**we remember his passion and death,
we celebrate his resurrection and ascension,
and we look for the coming of his kingdom.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; and as we eat and drink these holy gifts, grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit

that we may be made one in your holy Church and partakers of the body and blood of your Son, that he may dwell in us and we in him:

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

**all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour Christ has taught us we are bold to say

**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.**

Breaking Bread

The bread which we break
is a sharing in the body of Christ.

**We being many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

Invitation

Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God,
who has taken away the sin of the world.
Happy are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
But only say the word and I shall be healed.**

Receiving Communion

Please come forward to receive the Bread and Wine.

Prayer after Communion

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 firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Send us

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the spiritual food
of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

Blessing

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

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