**Early Communion TWO B**

9 July 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.**

**Confession**

*Silence*  
Let us confess our sins

**Ordinary**

Father, we have wandered from your way to serve our own purposes  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord have mercy**  
Lord Jesus, your showed us the way of salvation by which alone we may return to God  
Christ have mercy  
**Christ have mercy**  
Holy Spirit, you counsel us us to seek the Saviour.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord have mercy**

**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.**

**Collect of Trinity 5**

Let us pray  
The Fifth Sunday after Trinity  
Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church  
is governed and sanctified:  
Hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,  
that in their vocation and ministry  
they may serve you in holiness and truth  
to the glory of your name;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Epistle Romans 7:15–25a**

**Romans 7:15–25 (NIV 11)**  
**15** I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. **16** And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. **17** As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. **18** For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. **19** For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. **20** Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.  
**21** So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. **22** For in my inner being I delight in God’s law; **23** but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. **24** What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? **25** Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

**Gospel Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30**

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to Matthew chapter 11 beginning at verse 16  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**  
**16** “To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others:  
**17** “ ‘We played the pipe for you,  
and you did not dance;  
we sang a dirge,  
and you did not mourn.’  
**18** For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ **19** The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.”  
**25** At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. **26** Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.  
**27** “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.  
**28** “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

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**

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

**Suggested text**

Prayers for those who are weary  
in the church, in the nation, and in the world

Heavenly Father  
We bring to you today in prayer all who are weary from carrying the heavy burdens they face in life.

We pray for those in leadership in local and national churches, that they will learn to rest in you, rely on the finished work of the cross, and delight in you’re presence with them day by day.

As you renew them, give them a vision of where you want the church to be active, and what you want your church to say in our troubled world of today.

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer**

We bring to you our national leaders in government and society, and we pray for the international bodies that seek to guide the nations of the world towards peace and fairness.

We pray especially for those for whom their responsibilities weigh heavily upon them - that they will look to you for help, and find your grace to help in time of need.

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer**

We thank you, Lord, for your many answers to our prayers in days gone by, and once more, we ask for your help today for all in need: through sickness, adversity, hunger or despair.

Strengthen all who have been devastated by grief, or whose days are filled with worry. We remember by name those whose pains we share.  
[pause]

Grant your healing and grace to all who suffer, and to all who are wearied by life.

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer**

Merciful Father,  
**accept these our prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*And finally*  
Merciful Father  
**accept these our prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. 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**

**If you forgive others their sins, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your sins.**

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 (3) page 216**

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, Lord of all creation, we praise you for your goodness and your love. When we turned away you did not reject us. You came to meet us in your Son, welcomed us as your children and prepared a table where we might feast with you.

In Christ you shared our life  
that we might live in him and he in us.  
**He opened wide his arms upon the cross  
and, with love stronger than death,  
he made the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

Lord Jesus Christ, our redeemer, on the night before you died you came to table with your friends. Taking bread, you gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them saying,

Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.  
**Lord Jesus, we bless you:  
you are the bread of life.**

At the end of supper you took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.  
**Lord Jesus, we bless you:  
you are the true vine.**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ:  
**dying, you destroyed our death,  
rising, you restored our life;  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Holy Spirit, giver of life, come upon us now; may this bread and wine be to us the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts**  
**make us, who know our need of grace,  
one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Blessed Trinity: with your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of thanks and praise and lift our voice to join the song of heaven,

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.**

Thanks be to you, our God, for your gift beyond words.  
**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we 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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for 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**

Holy and blessed God,  
as you give us the body and blood of your Son,  
guide us with your Holy Spirit,  
that we may honour you not only with our lips but also with our lives;  
through Jesus 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.**