**Early Communion ONE | Trinity 13 | 3 September 2023 8:30 am**

**Introduction**

*The priest stands at the Communion Table*
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. **Amen**.

**The Collect for Purity**

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts be open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid;
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love thee,
and worthily magnify thy holy name;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

**The Commandments**

*Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:*
Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great Commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two Commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.
**Lord, have mercy upon us, and write these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.**

**The Collect of the Day**

The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity
Almighty God,
who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: Help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross, and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Epistle Romans 13:8–14**

The Epistle is written in the 13th chapter of the Letter of Paul to the Romans beginning at the 8th verse.
**8** Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. **9** The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” **10** Love does no harm to a neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.
**11** And do this, understanding the present time: The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. **12** The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. **13** Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. **14** Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

Here endeth the Epistle.

**The Gospel Matthew 18:15–20**

The Holy Gospel is written in the 15th chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew beginning at the 15th verse.
**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**
**15** “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. **16** But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ **17** If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.
**18** “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.
**19** “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. **20** For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

**Thanks be to thee, O Lord.**

**The Nicene Creed**

**I believe in one God the Father Almighty,**
**Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible:**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,**
**the only-begotten Son of God,
Begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
Very God of very God,**

**Begotten, not made,**
**Being of one substance with the Father;
By whom all things were made**:

**Who for us men, and for our salvation,**
**came down from heaven,
And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,
And was made man,
And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered and was buried,**
**And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
And ascended into heaven,
And sitteth on the right hand of the Father.
And he shall come again with glory
to judge both the quick and the dead:
Whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,**
**The Lord, and Giver of life,
Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son together
is worshipped and glorified,
Who spake by the Prophets.**

**And I believe one Catholic and Apostolic Church.**
**I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins.
And I look for the Resurrection of the dead,
And the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Sermon**

Quote:
Men will never worship God with a sincere heart, or be roused to fear and
obey Him with sufficient zeal, until they properly understand how much they
are indebted to His mercy.
**John Calvin**

I was listening to some words of John Calvin recently, and he summarised our faith by suggesting that we will obey God because we love him, not because we fear punishment by him.

In the 1520’s, the days of Calvin in Geneva a fear of being martyred - for defending the protestant faith he had come to believe - was an ever present fear. To become or stay as a French Protestant meant that you needed to overcome your fear of disappointing the God the church of the time proclaimed, and your fear of punishment by the same unreformed church, and instead had begun to **love God** *more than life itself.*

This love did not mean that you stopped caring about God’s laws for living - no. Rather you were to love God so much that you cared even more than ever about how you lived.

Paul wrote about love in Romans 13. Love directed *not* to God but *to people*!

When Paul speaks about “the outstanding debt to olive one another” he is laying out for us the pattern of the Christian life: a continual duty to love people.

Part of that is to avoid going into debt, especially I suspect, the debt which leaves other people around you struggling to get by.

The reason we do not commit adultery is to prevent harming our neighbour’s family life.
That is love in action

The same logic applies to murder theft and envy: love means we do not even allow such actions to gain traction in our thoughts.

What makes this act of worship in St. Ignatius’, Carryduff this morning meaningful and significant is not the precision with which we perform the ceremony but the love with which we live in this community.

May God give us grace to love him so much that holiness becomes a joy, duty becomes our goal, and experiencing his presence our highest desire.

**The offertory Sentences**

**…**

Lay not up for yourselves treasure upon the earth; where the rust and moth doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven; where neither rust nor moth doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal.

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the vic- tory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all. Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious Name: for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee. **Amen.**

**Church Militant**

*Let us pray for the whole state of Christ’s Church militant here in earth.*

Almighty and everliving God, who by thy holy Apostle hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks, for all men; We humbly beseech thee most mercifully to accept our alms and oblations, and to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy Divine Majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity and concord: And grant, that all they that do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

We beseech thee also to save and defend all Christian Kings, Princes, and Governors; and especially thy servant CHARLES our King; that under him we may be godly and quietly governed: And grant unto his whole Council, and to all that are put in authority under him, that they may truly and impartially minister justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion, and virtue.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all Bishops and Curates, that they may both by their life and doctrine set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments: And to all thy People give thy heavenly grace; and especially to this Congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word; truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

And we most humbly beseech thee of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all them, who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear; beseeching thee to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom: Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ’s sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

**Introduction to Penitence**

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways; Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

**Confession**

**Almighty God,**
**Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Maker of all things,
Judge of all men;
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness,
Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed,
By thought, word, and deed,
Against thy Divine Majesty,
Provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.
We do earnestly repent,
And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
The remembrance of them is grievous unto us;
The burden of them is intolerable.
Have mercy upon us,
Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ’s sake,
Forgive us all that is past;
And grant that we may ever hereafter
Serve and please thee
In newness of life,
To the honour and glory of thy Name;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**.

**Absolution**

*Almighty God, our heavenly Father,*
*who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins
to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him;
Have mercy upon you;
pardon and deliver you from all your sins;
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness;
and bring you to everlasting life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*.

**Comfortable Words**

*Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn to him.*

Come unto me all that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

So God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

*Hear also what Saint Paul saith.*

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

*Hear also what Saint John saith.*

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for our sins.

**Sanctus**

Lift up your hearts.
**We lift them up unto the Lord.**
Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
**It is meet and right so to do.**
It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty Everlasting God:

Therefore with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,
**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory:
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Amen.**

**Prayer of Humble Access**

**We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord,**
**trusting in our own righteousness,
but in thy manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table.
But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy:
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of thy 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**.

**Great Thanksgiving**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death, until his coming again:

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ’s holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood: Who, in the same night that he was betrayed, **took Bread**; and, when he had given thanks, **he brake 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.

Likewise after supper **he took the Cup**; and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this: for **this is my Blood** of the New Testament which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me. **Amen.**

**Receiving Communion**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**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**.

**Prayer 1**

O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy humble servants entirely desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee, that all we, who are partakers of this Holy Communion, may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction.

And although we be unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord;
By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.

**Gloria in Excelsis *standing***

**Glory be to God on high,**
**and in earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son Jesu Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Blessing**

The peace of God,
which passeth 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 amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**