

# Early Communion TWO D

29 October 2023

## 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**

### **Glory to God *page 203***

**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 the Fifth Sunday before Advent**

Let us pray

The Fifth Sunday before Advent

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Help us to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **Epistle 1 Thessalonians 2:1–8**

A reading from 1st Thessalonians 2 beginning at verse 1

### **1 Thessalonians 2:1–8 (NIV (UK 2011))**

**1** You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. **2** We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. **3** For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. **4** On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. **5** You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. **6** We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. **7** Instead, we were like young children among you.

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, **8** so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## **Gospel Matthew 22:34–46**

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to Matthew chapter 22 beginning at verse 34

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Matthew 22:34–46 (NIV (UK 2011))**

**34** Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. **35** One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: **36** ‘Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’

**37** Jesus replied: ‘“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” **38** This is the first and greatest commandment. **39** And the second is like it: “Love your neighbour as yourself.” **40** All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.’

**41** While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, **42** ‘What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?’

‘The son of David,’ they replied.

**43** He said to them, ‘How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him “Lord”? For he says,

**44** ‘ “The Lord said to my Lord:

‘Sit at my right hand

until I put your enemies

under your feet.’ ”

**45** If then David calls him “Lord”, how can he be his son?’ **46** No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

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.**

*And finally*

Merciful Father

**accept these our prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **Prayer of Humble Access**

**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 2) page 212**

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.**

All glory and honour, thanks and praise be given to you at all times and in all places, Lord, holy Father, true and living God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For he is your eternal Word through whom you have created all things from the beginning and formed us in your own image.

In your great love you gave him to be made man for us and to share our common life.

In obedience to your will your Son our Saviour offered himself as a perfect sacrifice, and died on the cross for our redemption. Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin and reconciled us to yourself, our God and Father.

He is our great high priest whom you raised from death and exalted to your right hand on high where he ever lives to intercede for us.

Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit and made us a royal priesthood called to serve you for ever.

Therefore 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.**

Merciful Father, we thank you for these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, and we pray that we who eat and drink them in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit in obedience to our Saviour Christ in remembrance of his death and passion may be partakers of his body and his blood,

who on the night he was betrayed 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 which is 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 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.

Father, with this bread and this cup, we do as our Saviour has commanded: we celebrate the redemption he has won for us; we proclaim his perfect sacrifice, made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and we look for his coming to fulfil all things according to your will.

**Christ has died;**

**Christ is risen;**

**Christ will come again.**

Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son, and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom and in whom, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
are yours 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**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood

which he shed for you.

Remember that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

## **Receiving Communion**

Please come forward to receive the Bread and Wine.

## **Prayer after Communion**

God of all grace, your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life and the word of his kingdom. Renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your true and living bread, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **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.**