# Early Communion TWO B

21 July 2024 830 am Trinity 8

## Approach

St Paul reminds the disciples at Ephesus that they, like us today, are Gentiles. Discovering how much change God has made to their status is the theme of our epistle: Outsiders, aliens, have become insiders, citizens of God's family.

## 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.

*The Beatitudes: page 223*  
Let us hear our Lord's blessing on those who follow him:  
Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
**Jesus, remember me**  
**when you come into your kingdom.**  
Blessed are the meek,  
for they shall inherit the earth.  
**Jesus, remember me**  
**when you come into your kingdom.**  
Blessed are those who weep  
for they shall be consoled.  
**Jesus, remember me**  
**when you come into your kingdom.**  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after justice,  
for they shall be satisfied.  
**Jesus, remember me**  
**when you come into your kingdom.**  
Blessed are the merciful,  
for they shall obtain mercy.  
**Jesus, remember me**  
**when you come into your kingdom.**  
Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see God.  
**Jesus, remember me**  
**when you come into your kingdom.**  
Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called the children of God.  
**Jesus, remember me**  
**when you come into your kingdom.**  
Blessed are those who suffer persecution for the sake of justice,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
**Jesus, remember me**  
**when you come into your kingdom.**

## Penitential Sentences

Lord God, you sent your Son to reconcile us to yourself and to one another.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**  
Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**  
Holy Spirit, through you we put to death the sins of the body – and live.  
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 the Day

Let us pray  
The Eighth Sunday after Trinity  
Blessed are you, O Lord,  
and blessed are those who observe and keep your law:  
Help us to seek you with our whole heart,  
to delight in your commandments  
and to walk in the glorious liberty  
given us by your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## Epistle

Ephesians 2:11-22  
A Reading from Ephesians chapter 2 beginning at verse 11  
11 Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called ‘uncircumcised’ by those who call themselves ‘the circumcision’ (which is done in the body by human hands)—12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.  
14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, 16 and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. 17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.  
19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.  
This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

## Gospel

John 7:26-36  
Hear the Gospel of our saviour Christ, according to John chapter 7 beginning at verse 25.  
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**  
25 At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, ‘Isn’t this the man they are trying to kill? 26 Here he is, speaking publicly, and they are not saying a word to him. Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Messiah? 27 But we know where this man is from; when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from.’  
28 Then Jesus, still teaching in the temple courts, cried out, ‘Yes, you know me, and you know where I am from. I am not here on my own authority, but he who sent me is true. You do not know him, 29 but I know him because I am from him and he sent me.’  
30 At this they tried to seize him, but no one laid a hand on him, because his hour had not yet come. 31 Still, many in the crowd believed in him. They said, ‘When the Messiah comes, will he perform more signs than this man?’  
32 The Pharisees heard the crowd whispering such things about him. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees sent temple guards to arrest him.  
33 Jesus said, ‘I am with you for only a short time, and then I am going to the one who sent me.34 You will look for me, but you will not find me; and where I am, you cannot come.’  
35 The Jews said to one another, ‘Where does this man intend to go that we cannot find him? Will he go where our people live scattered among the Greeks, and teach the Greeks? 36 What did he mean when he said, “You will look for me, but you will not find me,” and “Where I am, you cannot come”?’  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Sermon

2024-07-21 830 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.**

## CHECK: 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

Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross. We meet in his name and share his peace.  
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

Strengthen for service, Lord,  
the hands that holy things have taken;  
may the ears which have heard your word  
be deaf to clamour and dispute;  
may the tongues which have sung your praise  
be free from deceit;  
may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love  
shine with the light of hope;  
and may the bodies which have been fed with your body  
be refreshed with the fulness of your life;  
glory to you 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

Christ draw you to himself  
and grant that you find in his cross  
a sure ground for faith,  
a firm support for hope,  
and the assurance of sins forgiven:  
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.**