

# A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion

## Third Sunday of Easter – April 18, 2021 – Earth Sunday



ANGLICAN  
DIOCESE OF  
NIAGARA

**Prelude:** Siyahamba (South African trad.)

### The Gathering of the Community

*Words of welcome and introduction.*

**Bishop:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

**All:** **And also with you.**

**Bishop:** Almighty God,  
**All:** **to you all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from you 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.**

### The Collect

**Bishop:** Let us pray.  
Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples  
with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us,  
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life  
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN:** The day of resurrection!! (Common Praise #205)

1. The day of resurrection!  
Earth, tell it out abroad;  
the passover of gladness,  
the passover of God.  
From death to life eternal,  
from earth unto the sky,  
our Christ hath brought us over,  
with hymns of victory.
2. Our hearts be pure from evil,  
that we may see aright  
the Lord in rays eternal  
of resurrection light;  
and listening to his accents,  
may hear, so calm and plain,  
his own "All hail!" and, hearing,  
may raise the victor strain.
3. Now let the heavens be joyful!  
Let earth the song begin!  
Let the round world keep triumph,  
and all that is therein!  
Let all things seen and unseen  
their notes in gladness blend,  
for Christ the Lord hath risen,  
our joy that hath no end.

## The Liturgy of the Word

### A Reading: Acts 3:12-19

Reader: When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, 'You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

'And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Before the Gospel we sing:*

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### The Gospel: Luke 24:36-48

Reader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Saint Luke.

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

Reader: While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*At the end of the Gospel we sing:*

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## The Sermon

*Words of reflection or teaching are offered.*

## The Prayers of the People

*The response in the prayers is:*

One: Lord in your mercy,

**All: hear our prayer.**

## Confession and Absolution

Bishop: Dear friends in Christ,  
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;  
God welcomes sinners and invites us to this holy table.  
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

*Silence is kept.*

Bishop: Most merciful God,  
**All: we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
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 delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Bishop: Almighty God have mercy upon 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.

**All: Amen.**

## The Peace

Bishop: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

### The Prayer over the Gifts

Bishop: Yours Lord is the greatness,  
The power, the glory the splendour and the majesty.  
For everything in heaven and on earth is yours

**All: All things come from you and of your own do we give you.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Bishop: Lift up your hearts in adoration.

**All: We lift them to our God.**

Bishop: Let us give thanks to the Living God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Bishop: Father, we give you thanks and praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,  
through whom you have created all things;  
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;  
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,  
he lived on earth and went about among us;  
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;  
he put an end to death by dying for us;  
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;  
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

But chiefly we are bound to praise you because you raised him gloriously from the dead,  
for he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the  
world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has restored to us  
everlasting life.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name, saying:

**All: 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.**

Bishop Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave 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."

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them,  
saying: "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, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Bishop: And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you  
for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

**All: Alleluia! Amen!**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Bishop: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,

**All: 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.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

Bishop: "I am the bread which has come down from heaven," says the Lord.

**All: Give us this bread for ever.**

Bishop: "I am the vine, you are the branches."

**All: May we dwell in Christ, as Christ lives in us.**

Bishop: The gifts of God for the People of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### **Invitation to Spiritual Communion**

Bishop: Dear friends, I invite you in this moment,  
wherever you may be, to receive Christ,  
in communion with the saints,  
and the gathering of God's people,  
unseen and yet present with us now.  
  
Many are made one.

Bishop: We receive you Lord Jesus Christ,  
**All: we welcome your presence in us,  
and together proclaim our love for you;  
with our hearts, minds, our souls and our strength,  
with the saints we worship you,  
with the angels we adore you,  
with your whole Church we proclaim your reign.  
Come to us, though many, and make us one in you. Amen.**

Bishop: I invite you in the silence of your own hearts  
or using one or more of the prayers in the service sheet  
to make your own act of Communion with Christ.

*Silence is kept during which time the congregation prays one or more of the following prayers of reception.*

## **Prayers of Reception**

**One: I worship and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
present in bread and wine, and present in your people,  
who are gathered in spirit.  
In this moment I join with them to receive you in my heart, and in our community.  
May you, enthroned on the altar, be now enthroned in my heart,  
may you, present in bread and wine, feed and renew my soul,  
may you, who gives yourself to us again,  
fill us with grace, and heavenly blessing.  
Even as I am fed, may my hunger for you  
and for your reign of justice and peace increase,  
that I may, with your Spirit, work for that day  
when your kingdom shall come on earth as it is heaven. Amen.**

*Or*

**One: Come Lord Jesus and make in my heart your dwelling place and home.  
I seek to love you with all my heart, mind, soul and strength,  
and so, through your presence in bread and wine  
I receive you afresh and praise you for you are my God.  
As you fill me, so may my love for you and for all your people,  
rise and overflow, that with joy and thanksgiving,  
I may serve you in the world you love. Amen.**

*Or*

**One: Jesus, I believe that you are present with us in the sacrament of bread and wine.  
I love you and I desire your presence afresh in my life.  
Since I cannot now receive the bread and wine of the altar,  
come spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace you and unite myself to you;  
never let me be separated from you.<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> Based on a prayer by St. Alphonsus Maria de' Liguori

Or

**One:** Holy Jesus we receive you in this moment,  
giving you thanks and praise that you make yourself present  
to all your people in the bread and wine of the Eucharist.  
Transform our hearts that we may shine as your light in dark places;  
*Where there is hatred, let us sow love;*  
*Where there is injury, pardon;*  
*Where there is doubt, faith;*  
*Where there is despair, hope;*  
*Where there is darkness, light;*  
*Where there is sadness, joy.*  
And this all, in love for you. Amen.

Or

**One:** O Loving God, in union with Christian people throughout the world  
and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist,  
hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of your dear Son,  
I offer you praise and thanksgiving.

Even while separated from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life,  
I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised  
and with your Son who gave his life for us.  
Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit  
that I may be filled with your presence.

Jesus, as the hem of your garment, touched in faith,  
healed the woman who could not touch your body,  
so may the soul of your servant be healed,  
for though I cannot receive you in the sacrament I can,  
through this offering of my prayer, receive you in my heart;  
grant this for Christ's sake. Amen. <sup>2</sup>

*Prayers recommended for use by children:*

**One:** Holy Jesus, thank you for loving us, and thank you  
for the holy bread and wine that reminds us that you are always with us.  
Come and live in our hearts, so we may know your love, and love others too. Amen.

Or

**One:** Jesus, you remind us in bread and wine that you are near to us.  
Bring me nearer to you every day, and let me carry you in my heart,  
to share your love with the world you made. Amen.

Or

**One:** Lord Jesus, thank you that you are always with me, I pray that you would remind me to  
welcome you to share every day with me.  
Thank you for loving me. I want to say that I love you too. Amen.

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<sup>2</sup> Adapted from a service of Spiritual Communion, Diocese of Chelmsford, Church of England

Or

**One:**       **Jesus, I want to follow you: to see you more clearly;  
love you more dearly; and follow you more nearly.  
So come into my heart, so that we may share life together. Amen.**

*After a time of prayer, we sing together....*

**COMMUNION HYMN:** Oh Lord My God, When I In Awesome Wonder (Common Praise #423)

1. Oh Lord My God, when I in awesome wonder,  
consider all the worlds thy hands have made;  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

*refrain: Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
how great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,  
how great thou art! how great thou art!*

2. When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,  
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.  
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur  
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

*refrain*

3. And when I think, that God, his Son not sparing;  
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;  
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin.

*refrain*

4. When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.  
then I shall bow, in humble adoration,  
and then proclaim, "my God, how great thou art!"

*refrain*

### **Prayer After Communion**

Bishop:       Let us pray.

Father of all,

**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 you love, gave us grace and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who receive Christ's presence, live his risen life and bring life to others,  
and may 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.<sup>3</sup>**

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<sup>3</sup> Adapted from Common Worship, Church of England, Holy Communion Order One.



*Closing remarks and announcements.*

**The Blessing**

**CLOSING HYMN: Jesus Lives! (Common Praise #239)**

1. Jesus lives! thy terrors now  
can, O Death, no more appall us;  
Jesus lives! by this we know  
thou, O Grave, canst not enthrall us.  
Hallelujah!
2. Jesus lives! henceforth is death  
but the gate of Life immortal;  
this shall calm our trembling breath,  
when we pass its gloomy portal.  
Hallelujah!
3. Jesus lives! for us He died;  
then alone to Jesus living,  
pure in heart may we abide,  
glory to our Savior giving.  
Hallelujah!
4. Jesus lives! our hearts know well  
naught from us His love shall sever;  
life, nor death, nor powers of hell  
tear us from His keeping ever.  
Hallelujah!

**Dismissal**

**One:** Having received Christ by faith, let us go to live in that faith,  
transformed by hope and proclaiming God's love.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** Just A Closer Walk With Thee (trad.)