

A Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with Spiritual Communion

September 19, 2021



ANGLICAN
DIOCESE OF
NIAGARA

Prelude Reverie Fragments, T. Price

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.
Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us:
open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence
and know your peace at our lives' end,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All: **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: The Church of Christ, in Every Age (#584 Common Praise)

1. The church of Christ, in every age,
beset by change but Spirit led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.
2. Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live until they die.
3. Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.
4. For he alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.
5. We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord,
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread his liberating Word.

The Liturgy of the Word

A Reading: Proverbs 31:10-31

Reader: A capable wife who can find?
She is far more precious than jewels.
The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and he will have no lack of gain.
She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.
She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands.
She is like the ships of the merchant, she brings her food from far away.
She rises while it is still night and provides food for her household
and tasks for her servant-girls.
She considers a field and buys it;
with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
She girds herself with strength, and makes her arms strong.
She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.
Her lamp does not go out at night.
She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle.
She opens her hand to the poor,
and reaches out her hands to the needy.
She is not afraid for her household when it snows,
for all her household are clothed in crimson.
She makes herself coverings;
her clothing is fine linen and purple.
Her husband is known in the city gates,
taking his seat among the elders of the land.
She makes linen garments and sells them;
she supplies the merchant with sashes.
Strength and dignity are her clothing,
and she laughs at the time to come.
She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.
She looks well to the ways of her household,
and does not eat the bread of idleness.
Her children rise up and call her happy;
her husband too, and he praises her:
'Many women have done excellently,
but you surpass them all.'
Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,
and let her works praise her in the city gates.

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

We sing together: (#715CP)

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader: They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

We sing together: (#715CP)

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.**

Bishop: **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: Creator, you bless us with many good gifts
returned to you from your creation.
Feed us with the Bread of Life,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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: It is indeed right to thank you and praise you, holy and gracious God, creator of all things,
ruler of heaven and earth, sustainer of life, for you are the source of all goodness,
rich in mercy and abounding in love; you are faithful to your people in every generation,
and your word endures for ever.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
with the fellowship of saints and the company of heaven,
we glorify your holy name, evermore praising you and 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: We praise you, merciful Father,
not as we ought, but as we are able,
because in your tender love you gave the world your only Son,
in order that the world might be saved through him.
He made you known by taking the form of a servant,
healing the sick, liberating the oppressed, reaching out to the lost.

Betrayed, reviled, and nailed to the cross,
he confronted the power of sin and disarmed it for ever.
In his offering of himself,
he became the perfect and sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world.

Redeemed by Christ, we have been adopted as your children;
by your pardon you have made us worthy to praise you.

On the night he was betrayed, Jesus, at supper with his friends,
took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread,
gave it to them, and said,
"Take and eat: this is my body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine,
and when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them, 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.
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

In obedience to him and with grateful hearts
we approach your holy table,
remembering our Saviour's sacrifice,
and rejoicing in his victory.

Confident in his sovereign purpose, we declare our faith.

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

Bishop: Send your Holy Spirit on us
that as we receive this bread and this cup
we may partake of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and feed on him in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving.
May we be renewed in his risen life, filled with love,
and strengthened in our will to serve others;
and make of our lives, we pray,
a pure and holy sacrifice, acceptable to you,
knitting us together as one in your Son Jesus Christ,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honour and glory, now and forever.

All: **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.¹

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

¹ Based on a prayer by St. Alphonsus Maria de' Liguori

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.²

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.

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 I Come with Joy, a Child of God (Common Praise #60)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall,
in love laid down for me. | 2. I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread. |
|---|---|

² Adapted from a service of Spiritual Communion, Diocese of Chelmsford, Church of England

3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.
4. The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here.
5. Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one.

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.³**

An Act of Praise and Thanksgiving

Bishop: Glory to God,

**All: whose power working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Closing remarks and announcements.

The Blessing

Bishop: The peace of God which passes all our 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, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you, this day and always.

All: Amen.

³ Adapted from Common Worship, Church of England, Holy Communion Order One.

CLOSING HYMN: Alleluia! Sing to Jesus! (#344 Common Praise)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. From all that dwell below the skies,
Let the Creator's praise arise;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
Through ev'ry land by ev'ry tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! | 2. Eternal are Thy mercies Lord;
Eternal truth attends Thy Word;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore
Till suns shall rise and set no more.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! |
|--|--|

Dismissal

Bishop: 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 Postlude in C Major, T. Price