

7th March Lent 3 2021 Eucharist



Nails were not enough to hold God-and-Man nailed and fastened to the cross, had not love held Him there. Catherine of Sienna

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn When God Almighty Came to Earth

When God Almighty came to earth
He took the pain of Jesus' birth,
He took the flight of refugee,
And whispered, "Humbly follow me."

When God Almighty went to work,
Carpenter's sweat he didn't shirk,
Profit and loss he didn't flee,
And whispered, "Humbly follow me."

When God Almighty walked the street,
The critic's curse he had to meet,
The cynic's smile he had to see,
And whispered, "Humbly follow me."

When God Almighty met his folk,
Of peace and truth he boldly spoke
To set the slave and tyrant free,
And whispered, "Humbly follow me."

When God Almighty took his place
To save the sometimes human race,
He took it boldly on a tree,
And whispered, "Humbly follow me."

When God Almighty comes again,
He'll meet us incognito as then;
And though no words may voice his plea,
He'll whisper, "Are you following me?"

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O Lord, open our lips **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**
O God, make speed to save us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Praise the Lord. **The Lord's name be praised.** *cf Psalm 51.15; 70.1*

Prayer of Preparation

**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.**

Summary of the Law

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this:
'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the
Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your
mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your
neighbour as yourself.'

There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two
commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Invitation to confession

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise. Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon *you*, pardon and deliver *you* from all *your* sins, confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness, and keep *you* in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading 1 Corinthians 1.18-25

18The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19For it is written,

‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.’

20Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. 22For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24but to those

who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 2. 13-22

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!'

¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.' ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' ¹⁹Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' ²⁰They then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived

by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius

Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the

dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is

seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

And at the end Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace

May the God of peace sanctify you: may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before him at the coming of our Lord Jesus with his saints. *cf 1 Thessalonians 5.23;3.13*

The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

God of mercy and compassion, your Word calls us home to faith and love. Accept all we offer you this day; in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Lord of all life, you created the universe, where all living things reflect your glory. You give us this great and beautiful earth, to discover and to cherish. You give us your love, even when things go wrong. Jesus knew hurt and pain. Through him you wipe away our tears and fill us with your peace. You made us all, each wonderfully different, to join with the angels and sing your praise:

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.

We thank you, loving Father, because, when we turned away, you sent Jesus, your Son. He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live. Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us Christ's body and his blood. On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.'

So, Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life. As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit, and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms. And now with all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that 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 of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because one day we will all share together in one bread again.**

Agnus Dei

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

Words of Assurance (inspired by Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18)

Our God knows you by name. Our God knows what you fear. For you are fearfully and wonderfully made. In your name, God's works are revealed again to us. Jesus become the bread and wine of our new life, to feed us spiritually to give us courage and strength to meet the day. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Communion is received.

Prayer after Communion

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn **Meekness and Majesty by Graham Kendrick**

Meekness and majesty manhood and deity
In perfect harmony the Man who is God
Lord of eternity dwells in humanity

Kneels in humility and washes our feet
O what a mystery meekness and majesty
Bow down and worship for this is your God
This is your God

Father's pure radiance perfect in innocence
Yet learns obedience to death on a cross
Suffering to give us life
Conquering through sacrifice

And as they crucify prays Father forgive
O what a mystery meekness and majesty
Bow down and worship for this is your God
This is your God

Wisdom unsearchable God the invisible
Love indestructible in frailty appears
Lord of infinity stooping so tenderly
Lifts our humanity to the heights of His throne

O what a mystery meekness and majesty
Bow down and worship for this is your God
This is your God. This is your God

**Glory to God, whose power, at work among us,
can do infinitely more than all we can ask or conceive;
to him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen. *cf Ephesians 3.20,21***

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