

Sunday 12 May 2024

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

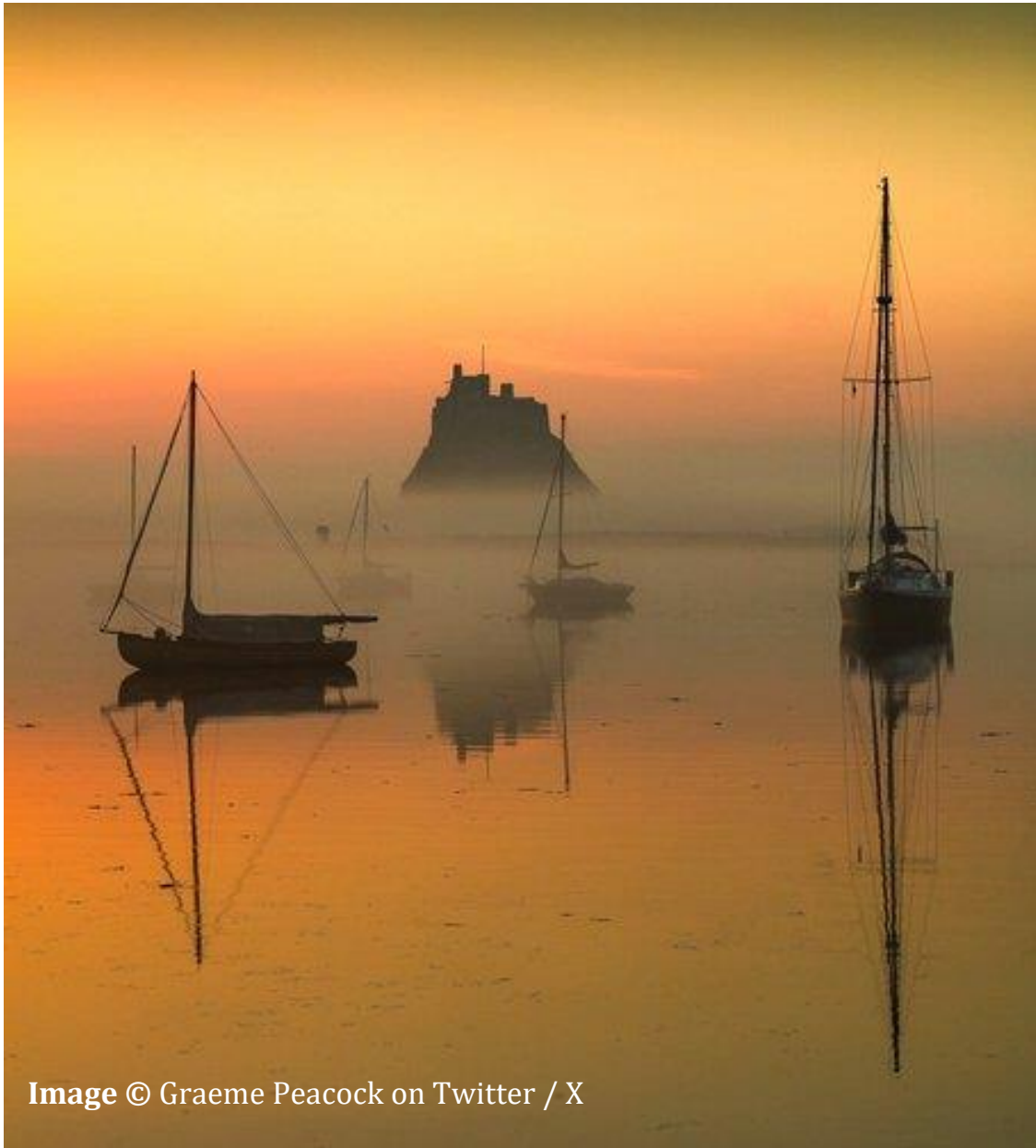


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The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration appear at the end.

The hymn can be accessed via a YouTube link. Please click on the links.

To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page,

<http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

The Welcome

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

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

All He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN 1 Firmly, I believe and truly

[\(please click on this link\)](#)

The Preparation

**All 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.**

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.’

And 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.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.

Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil

and confess our sins in penitence and faith,

firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments

and to live in love and peace with all.

All 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.

All Amen.

The Gloria

All Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his 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.**

The Collect for the Seventh Sunday of Easter

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

First reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers and sisters (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, 'Brothers and sisters, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus, for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.'

'So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.' So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, 'Lord, you know everyone's

heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.' And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was added to the eleven apostles. *Acts 1:15-17, 21-end*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from the First Letter of John

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. *1 John 5:9-13*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

**HYMN 2 Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you**

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[\(different version\)](#)

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All Glory to you O Lord.

[Jesus said], 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them.'

‘And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

John 17:6-19

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

At the end of an interview, a person from human resources asked an engineering graduate, ‘What starting salary were you looking for?’ The engineer excitedly said, ‘In the neighbourhood of £125,000 a year, plus a benefit package.’ The interviewer added, ‘Well, what would you say to a package of 5 weeks’ leave allocation, 14 extra days paid holidays, fully paid medical and dental plan, a company matching retirement fund to 25% of salary, and a new company car every year?’ The Engineer’s eyes were wide open as he shouted, ‘Wow! Are you kidding?’ And the interviewer matter of fact said, ‘Yeah, but you started it.’

Have you ever heard someone make a statement that just seemed absolutely ridiculous? Maybe it was a prediction or a guarantee about something. Remember the world was going to end on 12 December 2012. Or the threat of Y2K (the ‘millennium bug’), remember that scare? What about the statement from Jesus in His prayer in John 17, when he had the audacity to make the prayer request, ‘That the disciples may have the full measure of my joy within them.’ How can He make that statement? Think about what Jesus went through. The pain, the suffering, the rejection, the abandonment, the beating, the frustration, the hatred. I don’t get it? Do you? How can Jesus make the statement that He wanted the full measure of His joy to be within the disciples?

Jesus prayed the night He was betrayed and arrested. He prayed for Himself, the disciples and us. So let's look at what Jesus says in John 17: 11, 'I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, protect them by the power of Your name, the name You gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.' It gets better:

While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that name You gave me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. 'I am coming to You now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that THEY MAY HAVE THE FULL MEASURE OF MY JOY WITHIN THEM. I have given them Your word and the world has HATED, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. SANCTIFY them by the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. (*John 17:12-19*)

There's a common theme running through this passage. Jesus knows the disciples believe in Him, they trust Him, even though they still don't get it. They're going to prove their faithfulness after the resurrection by their commitment and allegiance to Jesus. They won't back down to the Roman and Jewish authorities. They stand firm and convinced in their faith. Jesus knows what's coming for Him and what's coming for them. It's not going to be an easy trip. There are going to be roadblocks, detours, sinkholes, danger, assassins, lying, deceit, and more. It sounds like I'm talking about *Black Ops* or some other video game. But that was the reality for the disciples. Their leader had protected them, but now it was time to journey out on their own. He wouldn't be with them, and yet, He would, but they still didn't get that either! Which in all honesty is part of the beauty and power of the Gospel story and the story of the disciples?

So, Jesus prays,

I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, PROTECT them by the power of Your name, the name You gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

While I was with them, I PROTECTED them and kept them safe by that name You gave me.

Jesus knows the reality of what will happen; He will remain in the world no longer. He will be going to the cross, He will die, but He will ultimately join the Father in heaven.

While alive, Jesus was able to help the disciples through the difficult moments. He knew how to get out of situations which looked hopeless. He had some of those James Bond or Jason Bourne abilities to always get away, until it was time not to get away. Now the disciples won't have Jesus with them. So, He prays, not just to the Father, but this is the only time He prays to the HOLY Father. This captures God's power and tenderness. It balances the idea of ultimate purity with intimate paternity. He is mighty and majestic and He is also my Father.

Holy Father, protect them, keep them safe. Not by their power, but through your power, through the mightiest name ... YOUR NAME. Use your name, it will not only scare, but will defeat the enemy. Not only that, Jesus wants the disciples protected so that they may be one, as we are one. Jesus has kept his followers safe and secure and now that He's returning to His glory in heaven Jesus is handing them back to the Father for safekeeping. Jesus knew that with His departure Satan would attack the disciples. They always seemed vulnerable. Now they would especially be open to attack. So, now would be the time to strike. God's name represents His nature, and so Jesus knows with confidence the Father will protect them. The word to 'Protect' literally means 'to guard,' and more specifically means by guarding to cause one to escape in safety out of the power and assaults of Satan.

Notice that the heart of Jesus is for harmony and unity among the disciples. When Jesus says, just as we are One. He's referring to the unity of the Trinity. You see, the Trinity, the picture of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is the model for unity between brothers and sisters in Christ. We're designed to function as a community of unity, not in isolation or bitterness with one another. Jesus knew when the pressure mounted and the disciples were meeting, the goal was unity. Be one body, one group, because of who Christ was and is in their lives.

Remember St Peter's words in 1 Peter 5:8, 9, when he wrote,

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

Persecution and suffering were constants in the early church. Peter knew that and experienced it, ultimately dying a martyr's death. James would add, Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and He will come near to you. So, the command from Peter and James remains the same today, resist the devil, run from the devil, draw nearer to God and be firm in your faith! That's great wisdom to hold onto.

Then, Jesus makes this amazing request, 'I am coming to You now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. He also wants us to be satisfied. Because we are secure in our salvation, we can and should experience satisfaction. Jesus isn't talking about us having happiness or experiencing just a little bit of joy once-in-awhile but instead He wants us to experience the FULL MEASURE of HIS JOY.

Can you imagine that? Can you imagine in spite of all the bad around us, in spite of all the things that don't go our way, in spite of others, and in spite of ourselves, Jesus tells us He wants us to have the FULL MEASURE OF HIS JOY within us. That's difficult to comprehend, isn't it? In Greek, the expression gives a literal definition of 'to make complete in every particular situation; to render perfect'. It's the idea of our being completely full, filled to overflowing. Filled like we just got up from, Christmas dinner and Easter dinner combined. It's the image that we are 100% full, complete and satisfied. It's not about walking around with a fake smile on our faces. It's about a real experience of joy in our lives. It's because of our relationship with Christ. It's the life Jesus offers us a superabundant life. Living a more and better life than we ever dreamed of. That's the offer from Jesus.

So, we don't have to manufacture joy on our own. Our job is to abide in Christ and to allow the full measure of His joy to flow through us. God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him. If your aim is to glorify God, you will do it most by being satisfied in Him. There are so many more outlandish statements from Jesus. Experiencing the full measure of His joy, even in the midst of persecution and problems is not always easy. But Jesus reminds us that not only did He pray to the Holy Father, but now He's with the Holy Father. He seeks to help us, guide us and lead us. It's not always easy, but God promises us He will always, always be with us, wherever we go, and whatever we do. He won't abandon us. He'll be our God, and we are His children. Amen

The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
the source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of intercession

In faith, let us pray to the Lord, saying ...

Hear us Risen Lord,

All Our resurrection and our life.

We bless you, O God of our salvation,

And we delight in your law.

We exalt you alone, O God our God,

For your ways give life.

You are the Lord, and we sing praises to your Name:

Jesus, you are the true source of living water;

Plant us deeply in your presence.

Jesus, the exalted one.

By you we escape death.

I invite your praises and thanksgivings.

Silence

Hear us Risen Lord,

All Our resurrection and our life.

Holy Triune God, grant your church unity.

Keep us in your name, that we may be one, even as you are one.

Fulfil your joy in us,

And guard us closely, even as we remain in this world that is not our home.

Keep us from the evil one.

Sanctify us in the truth of your holy world.

Send us into the world, and enable us to proclaim through faithful witness:

Jesus has triumphed! Jesus is exalted!

I invite you to pray for the work of the worldwide church, remembering especially people who have not yet heard the good news about Jesus.

Silence

I invite you to pray for the global Anglican Communion, remembering especially our lay ministers, priests, deacons, and bishops.

Silence

Hear us Risen Lord,

All Our resurrection and our life.

O Lord, you know the world in which we live.

You dwelt among us and lived the suffering of the human condition.

You took upon yourself the weight of injustice and evil.

You see the entire world in this moment and no instance of pain escapes your attention.

We consider your cross, Jesus, and how hopeless it once appeared,

And we rejoice in your transforming power that brought about victory and new life from such a moment of darkness and despair.

We will say it again and again, 'Jesus has triumphed! Jesus is exalted!'

We trust in your everlasting triumph and look to you with hope.

Teach us to live in a world so torn asunder.

May your kingdom come in the midst of our suffering and pain.

I invite your prayers for those who suffer throughout the world and for those ministering to them in Christ's name.

Silence

I invite your prayers for all the leaders of the world.

Silence

Hear us Risen Lord,

All Our resurrection and our life.

Merciful Lord,

We were orphans, and you became our Father.

We were widows, and you became our Defender.

We were prisoners, and you brought us into freedom.

We were poor, and you gave us your provision.

We were solitary, and you made a home for us in our wilderness.

We were your enemies, and you, Lord God, came to dwell among us.

Your goodness fills our lives.

We rejoice in the beauty of your salvation, O Lord.

We are merry and joyful,

For you are in your holy habitation!

You are worthy, O Lord, of all our gratitude and worship.

We offer our lives to you, Lord of all, desiring to surrender every corner of our person to your lordship:

I invite you to cast all your worries and concerns on the Lord.

Silence

I invite you to commit the work of your hands to the Lord.

Silence

I invite you to ask for discernment in all your decisions this week.

Silence

I invite you to consider how you might love well those the Lord brings into your life this week.

Silence

I invite you to offer up any other prayers and intercessions.

Silence

Hear us Risen Lord,

All Our resurrection and our life.

How good it is to be part of your church, stretching back to those who first believed and spreading throughout the corners of the world.

We remember the millions of our brothers and sisters throughout the ages who together have believed and proclaimed your victory.

We join our voices with theirs to say it again and again, 'Jesus has triumphed! Jesus is exalted!'

Thank you Lord for those who have gone before us, those who have died in the faith.

Our hearts are encouraged by their faithful examples and we pray for them now, trusting that they are in your care.

I invite your thanksgivings to God for those who have died in the faith.

Silence

Hear us Risen Lord,

All Our resurrection and our life.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
In your compassion forgive us our sins,
Known and unknown,
Things done and left undone;
And so uphold us by your Spirit
That we may live and serve you in newness of life,
To the honour and glory of your Name;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said,
'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia!

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

All And also with you.

**HYMN 3 Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks with a grateful heart**

[\(click to hear the hymn\)](#)
[\(different version\)](#)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below.

**HYMN 4 Here is love, vast as the ocean
Here is love, vast as the ocean**

[\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)
[\(different version\)](#)

The Dismissal

God the Father,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.

All Amen.

God the Son,
who in bursting the grave has won a glorious victory,
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

All Amen.

God the Holy Spirit,
whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

All Amen.

And the blessing of God the Almighty:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ.
Amen.**

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

All He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, you made the world and love your creation.
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.
His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.
And so we gladly thank you,
with saints and angels 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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, 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.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we 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.
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 of the Bread

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

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**All 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.**

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.

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

All 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.

Communion is distributed.

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

All Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with 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.