



Thursday 20 August 2020

Bernard was born at Fontaines, near Dijon, in France in 1090. He entered the Benedictine abbey at Cîteaux in 1112, taking many of his young companions with him. Legend says that some were his own brothers.

Bernard led the reform within the Benedictine order and, in 1115, was sent to establish a new monastery at a place he named Clairvaux (or 'Valley of light'). Though times were hard, he built up the community with his remarkable qualities of leadership.

Bernard preached often and powerfully and proved himself a theologian of renown. Literally hundreds of monastic houses were founded on

the Cîteaux or Cistercian system, ensuring that Bernard's influence was immense.

He died on this day in 1153.

- All the Bible readings come from the *New Revised Standard Version*.
- The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration have been included at the end rather than in situ because many following the service will be in isolation and unable to celebrate the sacrament.
- The hymns are YouTube links. To hear the hymns please hover the mouse over each link, press Ctrl and then return.

Introduction and welcome

HYMN 1 [Bless the Lord, my soul](#) (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

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.

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 calls us to share the heavenly banquet of his love with all the saints in earth and heaven. Therefore, knowing our unworthiness and sin, let us 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

This Gloria is sung to the tune of 'Cwm Rhondda'. Click [here](#) for the tune.

All Glory be to God in Heaven,
Songs of joy and peace we bring,
Thankful hearts and voices raising,
To creation's Lord we sing.
Lord we thank you, Lord we praise you,
Glory be to God our King:
Glory be to God our King.

Lamb of God, who on our shoulders,
Bore the load of this world's sin;
Only Son of God the Father,
You have brought us peace within.

**Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,
Now your glorious reign begin:
Now your glorious reign begin.**

**You O Son of God are Holy,
You we praise with one accord.
None in heav'n or earth is like you,
Only you are Christ the Lord.
With the Father and the Spirit,
Ever worshipped and adored:
Ever worshipped and adored.**

The Collect for the St Bernard

Merciful Redeemer,
who, by the life and preaching of your servant Bernard,
rekindled the radiant light of your Church:
grant us, in our generation,
to be inflamed with the same spirit of discipline and love,
and ever to walk before you as children of light;
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.

All Amen.

First reading

A reading from the prophecy of Proverbs.

Get wisdom; get insight: do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth.
Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you. The
beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever else you get, get insight.
Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honour you if you embrace her.
She will place on your head a fair garland; she will bestow on you a beautiful crown.

Proverbs 4:5-9

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from the Revelation of St John the Divine

A voice came from the throne saying, 'Praise our God, all you his servants, and all who fear him, small and great.' Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder-peals, crying out, 'Alleluia! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure'—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, 'Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.' And he said to me, 'These are true words of God.'

Revelation 19:5–9

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 2 Breathe on me breath of God [\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All Glory to you O Lord.

Jesus said, 'If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.' *John 15:7–11*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

Why am I so poor a disciple and why is my sense of discipleship not growing? Why do I appear to be a Christian in name only? The clue lies in Jesus command, 'Abide in me'. Let's take that short phrase and see where it leads.

The word 'abide' means 'stay', 'remain' with overtones of 'do not stray'. When Jesus says 'Abide in me' he's saying that discipleship is a permanent thing. To abide is to stay always in Jesus, 24/7.

Next, just before today's excerpt, Jesus says, 'I am the vine'. All talk of vines and vineyards in the Bible points toward the concept of 'Messiah'. The first thing the Israelites heard about the promised land was the size of the grape bunches; later, Isaiah spoke about a vineyard that did not bear fruit; and the very first miracle Jesus performed was to make wine. Today's reading records Jesus talking to his disciples about discipleship on the very night before was executed. In this talk of vines he is being as explicit as he can: 'I am the vine, and you are the branches'. By calling himself the vine, Jesus was saying 'I am the Messiah and, *as such*, abide in me'. Only when we abide Jesus *as Lord and Messiah* do we start the adventure of true discipleship.

Next consider what happens when we *do* abide in Jesus. Imagine letting an occasional friend live with us. That person will see everything if they truly live with us. We may start on best behaviour but we'll either lapse and behave again as we did before, or else grow used to behaving the way we hope the friend will always want of us. It becomes firm habit. In the same way, the Christian who truly abides in Jesus will live with him at their side, in their mind's eye letting Jesus accompany every aspect of their lives and letting him see all they do. In proportion that the Christian respects Jesus and sees him as Messiah and Lord, and in proportion that they truly keep Jesus in view, so their life as a disciple will develop and grow.

We'll find that Jesus' influence grows as we abide with him. We'll want to change to please him. As is usual, we'll start imitating him and doing whatever we know he wants. We'll look at the way he loves and want to copy him. At first, that copying will probably look a bit like method acting. With time, though, the love we pretend will become more genuine. It will sink deeper. It will become habit and real. We will start to love with His love. The crucial moment of growth occurs when we stop living as though he is there and realise that he's truly present through his Spirit.

In summary, when Jesus tell us to abide in him, he means he wants to move into our lives of faith and stay there permanently. As we grow closer to him, we learn to love as he loves. Indeed, this way, his life develops in us until it becomes our life.

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

We pray to the Father in the power of the Spirit in order to grow more like Jesus,
the Son. Let us pray.

We pray that we may grow in our discipleship. Help us to realise the truth that our
discipleship can grow in love as well as loyalty.

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer.

We pray for your Church, asking that it too will grow in discipleship and love. Help
it to learn to do everything for you and grow in worship as it perceives you to be
abiding with us. Let our love grow as we abide in him.

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer.

Loving Lord, we pray for the world and its people. We ask that as your disciples
abide in Jesus so their love and faith will help heal the world.

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer.

Living God, we pray for our friends and families, colleagues and neighbours. We
ask that each will sense something of your love and power in us, and will be healed
of self as they begin to seek you for themselves.

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer.

God of life, we pray for those who have passed from this world to the next. Those who have died recently, died alone, or died without preparation. We ask your mercy on all those who've lost a loved one.

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer.

Merciful Father,

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

The peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

All And also with you.

**HYMN 3 Abide with me
Abide in me**

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

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

The Dismissal

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will;
and the blessing of God the Almighty:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and remain with you always.

All Amen.

HYMN 4 Who would true valour see [\(click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy
that we should always sing of your glory,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For you are the hope of the nations,
the builder of the city that is to come.

Your love made visible in Jesus Christ
brings home the lost, restores the sinner
and gives dignity to the despised.

In his face your light shines out,
flooding lives with goodness and truth,
gathering into one in your kingdom
a divided and broken humanity.

Therefore with all who can give voice in your creation
we glorify your name,
for ever 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 St Bernard and 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

God of truth,
whose Wisdom set her table
and invited us to eat the bread and drink the wine
of the kingdom:
help us to lay aside all foolishness
and to live and walk in the way of insight,
that we may come with your servant Bernard
to the eternal feast of heaven;
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.