

Saturday 24 August 2024

Saint Bartholomew



Statue of St Bartholomew
by Damien Hirst, in Great St
Bartholomew's Church, London

It has long been assumed that Bartholomew is the same as Nathanael though it is not a certainty. The gospels speak of Philip bringing Nathanael to Jesus and calling him an Israelite worthy of the name. He is also present beside the Sea of Galilee at the resurrection. Although he seems initially a somewhat cynical man, he recognises Jesus for who he is and proclaims him as Son of God and King of Israel.

The earliest legends say he was skinned alive and beheaded, explaining why he is often depicted (as above) holding his flayed skin or the curved flensing knife with which he was skinned.

Sermon and prayers of intercession © Sarah Gura.

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Bible readings © the publishers of the NRSV translation.

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

The hymns are YouTube links. To hear the hymns 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 Introduction

HYMN Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (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

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 Saints Bartholomew

Almighty and everlasting God,
who gave to your apostle Bartholomew grace
truly to believe and to preach your word:
grant that your Church
may love that word which he believed
and may faithfully preach and receive the same;
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 book of the Prophet Isaiah

Bring forth the people who are blind, yet have eyes, who are deaf, yet have ears!
Let all the nations gather together, and let the peoples assemble. Who among them
declared this, and foretold to us the former things? Let them bring their witnesses
to justify them, and let them hear and say, 'It is true.' You are my witnesses, says
the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe
me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be
any after me. I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no saviour. I declared and
saved and proclaimed, when there was no strange god among you; and you are my
witnesses, says the Lord. I am God, and also henceforth I am He; there is no one
who can deliver from my hand; I work and who can hinder it? *Isaiah 43:8-13*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Many signs and wonders were done among the people through the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared to join them, but the people held them in high esteem. Yet more than ever believers were added to the Lord, great numbers of both men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on cots and mats, in order that Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he came by. A great number of people would also gather from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all cured. *Acts 5:12-16*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 2 I, the Lord of sea and sky [\(please click on this link to hear the hymn\)](#)

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

All Glory to you O Lord.

A dispute also arose among the disciples as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest. But Jesus said to them, 'The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

'You are those who have stood by me in my trials; and I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.'

Luke 22:24-30

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

In the passage before today's Gospel, Jesus shared the last supper with his disciples. Jesus was about to leave them, but it appears they still did not understand Him, His mission, and His message. Instead, an argument broke among them about who among themselves was the greatest. He said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' The greatest people in the kingdom of God are not the rich and powerful, but the humble and powerless; not the ones with the most servants, but the ones who serve others the most. Jesus demonstrated this many times while on earth, touching the unclean, mixing with the gentiles who were considered lowly, and on the last supper he even washed his disciples' feet. He was teaching them up to the very end to serve others, teaching by example.

In Mark, Jesus is seen taking a small child into his arms and said to them, 'But not so with you; rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest' Imagine a baby or a child in Jesus' time, they represented the epitome of powerlessness. They had no rights or legal standing. They depend totally on their parents to provide for them and protect them. Even today's children heavily depend on adults. Yet, Jesus said, 'If you want to be a part of the kingdom of God, become as a child.'

So what is it saying about the greatest in heaven and the value of this world? It is not what we have but who we are that matters in god's sight. The world we live in values material wealth, the more you have the better you are. We are constantly looking over our shoulders and comparing what we have with others. We want the latest fashion, the latest phones, the latest cars. We give the so called 'VIPs' preferential treatment. We put them on the high table and treat them like royalty.

We completely forget about what Jesus taught about the nature of God's Kingdom. In the Bible, we hear of the wealthy who showed off giving large amounts of money and a poor widow who gave two small coins. The most heartfelt offering, she had put more because everyone gave out of their wealth, but the widow put in everything-all she had to live on, out of true faith and trust in God. In the Kingdom, a lowly beggar Lazarus will sit at the heavenly banquet while the wealthy man who would not help him watches from below.

The Bible speaks of a God who loves us with an unconditional, unending love ... so that the one sheep who is lost is more precious than the ninety-nine who are safe in the fold; a repentant sinner is praised over a self-righteous Pharisee.

This is a word we need to hear because, as far as the world is concerned, we'll always come up short. We'll never have enough faith or do enough good works; we'll never have enough education or knowledge, or be righteous enough to stand in God's sight. And yet, in the face of all these shortcomings and more, Jesus says, 'Come to me, all you who weary and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest.'

In God's sight what's important is not what we have to offer—or what we lack—but who we are. That's what it means to become as a child. It also means to rely on God's strength, not our own.

In fact, it is to live remembering what the Lord said to Paul, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' It's not our strength that's important, but the power of God's Spirit working within us. It's not our ability, but our availability, that counts—our willingness to let God use us as instruments of his grace and love. That's what it means to become as a child, to rely on God's strength, not our own.

It also means to give up our stubborn, independent nature and trust God to direct our lives and provide all that we need for a full and abundant life. It means, when we're faced with obstacles we can't overcome; when we encounter problems, we can't solve; when we're given a task, we can't accomplish; when we're faced with a challenge greater than our wisdom or ability we'll look to God and know that, with God, all things are possible.

So, the greatest in the kingdom are not the rich and the powerful, the strong and the capable, the independent and the resourceful; the greatest in the kingdom are those who know their limitations and are willing to lean upon the everlasting arms of Almighty God.

Today we remember St Bartholomew who witnessed the works, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. He proclaimed Jesus as the Son of the Almighty God and followed Jesus in serving others until his death. Let us be like him and follow in his footsteps living for the Lord and serving others just as Jesus commanded. Amen.

Prayers of intercession

Loving Father, we thank you for your servant Bartholomew and the message he carried to the people from our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant us that we, too may know how to sacrifice for the glorification of your name.

Lord in your mercy,

All Hear our prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray for all churches through out the world remembering all those who cannot worship you freely. We ask Father that our churches live according to Bartholomew's example and that they are places of rest for the weary and a source of love for the lonely.

Lord in your mercy,

All Hear our prayer

Creator of all we bring before you our broken world, only you can heal it. Help us to be kind to each other especially now when a lot of people are in turmoil. We pray that we see your presence in all the beauty that lies around us, the sunrise which brings new hope and the flower by the sidewalk.

Lord in your mercy,

All Hear our prayer

We pray for our communities and ask that they are safe environments to live in. We bring before you all those who are hungry, thirsty, and cold. We also remember those whose relationships have broken down and all those who are lonely. We pray for those who are suffering physically, mentally, and spiritually. May they be comforted by your love.

Lord in your mercy,

All Hear our prayer

Loving Father, we pray for all those who have recently died, may their souls rest in eternal peace. We also pray for those who mourn and miss them. May they be comforted by the Holy Spirit.

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

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.

The peace of the Lord be always with you:

All And also with you.

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

HYMN 3 My peace

(please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The Dismissal

May Christ who makes saints of sinners,
who has transformed those we remember today,
raise and strengthen you that you may transform the world;
and the blessing of God the Almighty:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be with you now and remain with you always.

All Amen

HYMN4 Go forth and tell!

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

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 Bartholomew 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

Almighty God,
who on the day of Pentecost
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles
with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,
filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:
by the power of the same Spirit
strengthen us to witness to your truth
and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;
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.