



## **Sunday 21 June 2020**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

#### **WELCOME & INTRODUCTION**

Now we are at the second Sunday after Trinity – 2 out of 19. We anticipate this being the last Sunday that there will only be a Virtual Service. Next week we are planning to begin services on our property. I will send out a special letter about this. We will continue the YouTube services as well, but working out how best to do this in the 'new normality'.

As I said last week, at present I am planning on two Holy Communion services, one on Saturday evening at 6pm (still daylight and time to return home for dinner) and one on Sunday morning at 11am. Over the next few weeks we are going to have to have some flexibility and we will monitor what works best. When we get to the new normality of Phase 4 we will be having services inside. I will be sending out a letter with all the details. Do pray for us in all these decisions.

During this service, after each hymn being announced, we will allow time for you to change the YouTube link if you choose. Also, after each passage of our Bible reading is announced we will allow time for you to look it up in your Bibles, or on your Bible Apps or Bible Gateway and follow the reading. We use the New International Version (UK).

So let us quieten our hearts as we pray the St George's Prayer:

***Our Father, as individuals and as a community may we come to know and love you more and more, may we feel your love and care through each other, may we be witnesses to Christ wherever we are, and by the power of your Holy Spirit, may we be attentive to you, to our neighbour and to your world.***

**A SONG OF PRAISE TO CALL US TO WORSHIP** There are hundreds of sparrows ... based on our Gospel reading for today [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHg\\_0VPgBQI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHg_0VPgBQI)

#### **THE PSALM FOR THE DAY IS PSALM 86.1-10,16-17**

**A Prayer of David.** <sup>1</sup> Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, **for** I am poor and needy. <sup>2</sup> Preserve my life, **for** I am devoted to you; save your servant **who** trusts in you. **You are my God;** <sup>3</sup> be gracious to me, O Lord, **for** to you do I cry all day long. <sup>4</sup> Gladden the soul of your servant, **for** to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. <sup>5</sup> **For** you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you. <sup>6</sup> Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; listen to my cry of supplication. <sup>7</sup> In the day of my trouble I call on you, **for** you will answer me. <sup>8</sup> There is none like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. <sup>9</sup> All the nations you have made shall come and bow down before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. <sup>10</sup> **For** you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God. <sup>16</sup> Turn to me and have mercy on me; show your strength on behalf of your servant; save me, **because** I serve you just as my mother did. <sup>17</sup> Give me a sign of your goodness, **that** my enemies may see it and be put to shame, for you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen***

## THE GREETING

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

Faithful one, whose word is life: come with saving power to free our praise, inspire our prayer and shape our lives for the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**SONG OF CELEBRATION** - **The wise man built his house upon the rock** ... so build your life on the Lord Jesus Christ – a message for the *Sunday School* ... and for all of us  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkNOcr5iHP4>

## CONFESSION

✠ God the Father forgives us in Christ and heals us by the Holy Spirit.  
Let us therefore put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice,  
and confess our sins to God our redeemer. *cf Ephesians 4.30,32*

*We say together*

**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.**

**ABSOLUTION** *is pronounced and all respond:*

✠ May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw *you* to himself,  
and cleanse *you* from all *you* sins  
that *you* may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*In response we join in the words of the GLORIA:*

**Glory to God (Peruvian)** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ep4TLwVM9mQ> ... I found this version of the Gloria very moving with its photographs of Peru where we have served. In the photograph in Glory to the Son of Father there are two mountains and we have had the privilege of walking to the top of the higher on.

**THE COLLECT** *Let us pray:*

✠ Faithful Creator, whose mercy never fails:  
deepen our faithfulness to you  
and to your living Word,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

## THE WORD OF GOD

### THE FIRST READING GENESIS 21.8-21

<sup>8</sup>The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. <sup>9</sup>**But Sarah** saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. <sup>10</sup>**So she said** to Abraham, 'Cast out this slave woman with her son; **for** the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.' <sup>11</sup>The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. <sup>12</sup>**But God said** to Abraham, 'Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named after you. <sup>13</sup>As for the son of the slave woman, I will

make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.’ **14So Abraham** rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba. **15** When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. **16**Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, ‘Do not let me look on the death of the child.’ **And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. 17And God heard** the voice of the boy; **and the angel of God** called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, ‘What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. **18**Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.’ **19Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water.** She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink. **20 God was with the boy,** and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. **21**He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

**This is the Word of the Lord, Thanks be to God**

#### **THE SECOND READING Romans 6.1-11**

What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? **2**By no means! **How can we who died to sin go on living in it?** **3**Do you not know that all of us who have been **baptized into Christ Jesus** were baptized into his death? **4**Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, **so that, just as** Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, **so we too** might walk in newness of life. **5 For if** we have been united with him in a death like his, **we will** certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. **6We know** that our old self was crucified with him **so that** the body of sin might be destroyed, **and we might** no longer be enslaved to sin. **7For** whoever has died **is freed** from sin. **8But if** we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **9We know** that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. **10**The death he died, he died to sin, **once for all;** but the life he lives, he lives to God. **11So you also** must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**This is the Word of the Lord, Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL HYMN** *to prepare us to listen to the story of our Lord we will sing a prayer of openness to God* **Lord You are more precious than silver** ... a song of priorities .. perhaps simply listen prayerfully <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2hGhWiAMQk>

#### **THE GOSPEL MATTHEW 10.24-39**

**Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew , Glory to you O Lord**

**24** ‘**A disciple is not above the teacher,** nor a slave above the master; **25it is enough** for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, **how much more** will they malign those of his household! **26** ‘**So have no fear** of them; **for nothing** is covered up that will not be uncovered, **and nothing** secret that will not become known. **27**What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. **28Do not fear** those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; **rather fear him** who can destroy both soul and body in hell. **29**Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? **Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father.** **30**And even the hairs of your head are

all counted. **31 So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.** **32 'Everyone therefore** who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; **33 but whoever** denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. **34 'Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.** **35** For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; **36** and one's foes will be members of one's own household. **37 Whoever loves** father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and **whoever loves** son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; **38** and **whoever does** not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. **39 Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.**

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

### **SERMON FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

*May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight,  
O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.*

Surely God as a God of love should be a God who makes everything clear, who doesn't treat people differently, who doesn't talk about division or judgement, who doesn't have people praying against their enemies. This would be a God made in the image of what we think He should be. Our definitions of love don't fit in with this.

If I believe the Bible is trustworthy and authoritative I come face to face with a God who I have to struggle with, because as Isaiah 55 says his thoughts are not my thoughts and his ways are not my ways. My first degree is in science and a scientist has to deal with all the evidence, has to confront it and cannot with integrity ignore any part of it. In our Psalm today we have: Psalm 86.17: **that my enemies may see it and be put to shame**: there is a lot of stronger language about enemies in the Psalms but where is loving your enemies as Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount? We are told in **Proverbs 24:17 Do not gloat when your enemy falls; when they stumble, do not let your heart rejoice**, and in **Proverbs 25:21 21 If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink**. We cannot therefore get away from it by saying one is Old Testament and the other in New Testament. Yes, Jesus gives a fuller and more complete revelation, but is never inconsistent with the Old Testament. I believe this passage is saying we can be honest about our feelings when we pray.

Psalm 86 is titled a prayer of David – it is not attributed to a particular time in David's life as some Psalms are – it is David at prayer. He describes himself: **1 for I am poor and needy. 2 for I am devoted to you; who trusts in you. You are my God; 3 for to you do I cry all day long. 4 for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. 7 In the day of my trouble I call on you.**

**This is the prayer of a man who knows that he needs his God:** **1 Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, 2 Preserve my life, save your servant; 3 be gracious to me, O Lord, 4 Gladden the soul of your servant.** David got many things wrong – he is honest about that and his redeeming factor is that despite his political and military power he looks to God and knows the nature of God: **5 For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you. 10 For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.** Therefore his cry is: **16 Turn to me and have mercy on me.** This is humility. **True humility** is the recognition that whatever my role, my power, my successes and failures, I need God and I come to him and am open before him. Humility involves integrity before God and people and an acknowledgement of weakness and need. This is Bible greatness.

**(NB <sup>16</sup> because I serve you just as my mother did.** (and save the son of your maidservant or save your faithful son as in Psalm 116.16) as in the Psalm of last week .. a very Jewish picture of the role of the mother as the spiritual teacher of the young child.)

In the story of Abraham and Hagar in our Old Testament reading God says its OK for Abraham to do what his wife Sarah wants and send Hagar and her son away. How are we to understand that God permits Hagar, who seems to have been more sinned against than sinned herself, to get to the extremities she got to? Whatever the rights and wrongs – and the initial wrong was Sarah giving her maid to Abraham to get a child – and Abraham accepting it – it does not seem fair for Hagar to be treated that way.

There are two observations I want to make for:

**1. Sarah is guilty of very human jealousy:** <sup>9</sup>But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. Was Isaac going to love Hagar too much? Whatever was going through her mind, she wanted rid of Hagar. V11 tells us *The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son.* Even when something is not right, God does not let go and God promises to take care of Ishmael and bless him. Thus we have the Arab people of today. The Bible does not give everyone's stories – it really follows one story line until Jesus – but this passage shows us that there are other stories going on and God is involved in these stories even although we know nothing about it. God's story is much bigger than we know. The strange thing about God is that Sarah's motivation is not challenged – he sees that sometimes separation is necessary for peace – but he is not finished with Hagar and Ishmael – and is one of the very few times in Scripture that God makes a covenant with a woman. Hagar is to be blessed and <sup>17</sup> the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, *'What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is.* <sup>18</sup>*Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.* And v20 says: *God was with the boy*

**2. The second observation is to do with priorities.** God's priority – and thus Abraham's priority – was to ensure that God's working with humankind was going to be worked out, whatever the failings of the key characters. I always am challenged as to my priorities.

**Romans 6 is about priorities.** Is my priority to live as I want – to say God accepts me as I am and therefore it doesn't matter how I behave as he will forgive me? The phrase 'that is just the way I am' I believe can never be a Christian phrase – the teaching of Romans 6 is that in baptism *we have died to sin and therefore should not go living in it.* The key question is what does the Bible mean by sin here? The core meaning seems to be not missing the mark or failing to hit the target. My paraphrase of these verses is thus: In Christ I do not have to live with being a failure in relation to God's standards, these old ways of being controlled by failure have gone, my baptism is a sign of a new life of victory and being under God's control. That I <sup>4</sup> *might walk in newness of life.* My lifestyle is as governed by God, the old priorities have gone, the new priority is life in and with Christ. I am no longer a slave to my passions, I am free to be what God wants me to be. Therefore I have to ensure that my attitudes are in harmony with this. <sup>11</sup>*So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

We might fail as we are still human and our reflections in Romans over the next few weeks will give us insights in order to how avoid focussing on or simply accepting our failures.

**Our gospel reading makes these new priorities clear:** Matthew 10: <sup>25</sup>*it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher,* It is strange that in a passage which says do not fear – we are to fear the one that can judge us. The core of the Greek word used here is the word φοβέομαι: Phobeo. A phobia is something that rules us. We are not to have a ruling fear of evil or demons or any superstitions – but our ruling passion is to be that of God. A phobia is a bit like an obsession. What are my

obsessions? Above all it is to be in a God who knows absolutely everything about me – and then Jesus goes onto say what this God is like - <sup>29</sup>*Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father.* <sup>30</sup>*And even the hairs of your head are all counted.* <sup>31</sup>*So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.*

**All priorities mean that other things are not priorities.** It means that when God stands above everything else, the result can be rejection, division and persecution because we are different ... and being different is often a threat to the status quo. It costs to be different but unless we are willing to be different from the crowd we will not be walking God's way – it is a truism that only a live fish swims against the current. Jesus puts it so clearly:

<sup>37</sup>*Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me;* <sup>38</sup>*and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me.* <sup>39</sup>*Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.*

**The major lesson from today** is to do with priorities. When we were married we were given the advice by the man who married us ... put God first, then each other, then any children he may give you or if you are single, friendships, and put any work - including his work - a long way behind.

✘ This is to do with priorities, not necessarily how I use my time ... but it should affect how I use my time

✘ There are times in life, for whatever reason, one of these areas has to take pre-eminence and the working out of this is not simple.

✘ I have not been perfect in this. At one stage I took too many work roles on, did not take time to listen to the opinion of my wife on an offer to take on an extra role, and nearly had burn-out. It was then that we were invited to go to Papua New Guinea where I learned different values of life which have stayed with me ever since.

## **I BELIEVE**

1. These order of priorities are biblical ... it is the story of creation.
2. If God is first I can actually love others better and more fully. The more passionate I am about God the more passionate I can be about my wife.
3. If my spouse comes before my children, providing they feel truly loved, they will feel more secure and therefore able to develop into what God wants them to be.
4. Being a slave to God and to righteousness leads to a life which is forgiven, focussed, free and ... I would want to add ... fun!

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

✘ **THE APOSTLES' CREED** – *This is what we believe.*

**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.**

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** (adapted from the prayers of the Chaplaincy of Costa Blanca)

*O Lord, hear my prayer may be sung*

*To the words: Lord, in your mercy the response is: **hear our prayer***

Heavenly Father your light in Christ your Son led many to follow you. Through their following and seeking to be faithful to you many generations have come to faith and so we give thanks for that faith we have inherited, and for having been enriched by him in knowledge and love.

Lord in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

The Lord Jesus built his Church on the apostles. United with them, in faithfulness to the Gospel's teaching and way of life, we pray for our individual and communal roles in this Chaplaincy. We pray for our bishops, that they grow in union with all the saints, share the zeal of the first Disciples, and lead us by the grace of the Holy Spirit,

Lord in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Heavenly Father we pray for all who are persecuted for their faith, and for each of us, that we might be faithful when we are ridiculed or insulted for belonging to Jesus. We pray for the poor and the oppressed, and those who live in war-torn parts of the world.

Lord in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Heavenly Father we pray for the sick and the suffering. For those undergoing treatments and for those convalescing and those who are recovered, that they may all experience the light of the Gospel, in the quietness especially we pray for.....

Lord in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Heavenly Father we remember those who mourn that they will be comforted.

Lord in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Heavenly Father we rejoice in the call to belong to the Church, to believe in the Gospel, and to be united with the successors of your Apostles.

Merciful Father: **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

**Minister** Almighty and everlasting God,  
the comfort of the sad, the strength of those who suffer:  
hear the prayers of your children who cry out of any trouble,  
and to every distressed soul grant mercy, relief and refreshment,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**THE PEACE**

✠ Christ is our peace.  
He has reconciled us to God  
in one body by the cross.  
We meet in his name and share his peace.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace. *All may exchange a sign of peace*

- Normally the gifts of the people are gathered at this time. DonorBox is now live on our church website and you can give your tithes and offerings by Credit Card. If you are regular envelope giver, DonorBox records your name and amount and will be added to your envelope information. St George's needs your ongoing support as our costs continue even when we cannot have services here.

**OFFERTORY HYMN** **And can it be that I should gain ... a great Charles Wesley hymn**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQeIGbKqiW8>

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

✠ We bless you, High King of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer,  
which earth has given and human hands have made;  
they will become our spiritual food and drink. **Blessed be God for ever.**

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord is here **His Spirit is with us**  
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.**

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,  
at all times and in all places  
to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King,  
almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For he is your living Word;  
through him you have created all things from the beginning,  
and formed us in your own image.

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin,  
giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross;  
you raised him from the dead and exalted him to your right hand on high.

Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit,  
and made us a people for your own possession.

Therefore we join our voices with angels and archangels,  
to proclaim the glory of your name,  
for ever praising you and *saying*:

**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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,

**grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;**  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
**Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.**

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
**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.**

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,  
inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

#### **THE COMMUNION**

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

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

**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.**

## GIVING OF COMMUNION

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.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

**The body of Christ broken for you**

**The blood of Christ shed for you**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

✠ Loving Father,  
we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son:  
sustain us with your Spirit,  
that we may serve you here on earth  
until our joy is complete in heaven,  
and we share in the eternal banquet  
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Together we say:*

**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.**

***The Dismissal – The Lord sends us out***

**FINAL HYMN I will offer up my life in spirit and truth ... a song of commitment**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQkzHwz2eLE>

## BLESSING

God the Father,  
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,  
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life;

*and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
be among you and remain with you always.*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**In the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!**