



COMMUNITY WORSHIP HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday, 20th September 2020 15th Sunday after Trinity

COME TO WORSHIP

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

After the hymn or reading is announced we will allow time to change to the YouTube link if you choose.

🎵 OPENING HYMN: How wonderful, how glorious

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vcRak7BdMg>

✠ THE PSALM FOR THE DAY IS PSALM 105:37-45

He brought out Israel, laden with silver and gold, and from among their tribes no one faltered. ³⁸ Egypt was glad when they left, because dread of Israel had fallen on them. ³⁹ **He spread out** a cloud as a covering, and a fire to give light at night. ⁴⁰ They asked, **and he brought them** quail; **he fed them well** with the bread of heaven. ⁴¹ **He opened** the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed like a river in the desert. ⁴² For **he remembered his holy promise given to his servant Abraham**. ⁴³ **He brought out** his people with **rejoicing**, his chosen ones with shouts of **joy**; ⁴⁴ he gave them the lands of the nations, and they fell heir to what others had toiled for – ⁴⁵ **that they might** keep his precepts and observe his laws. Praise the LORD.

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



THE GREETING



We come together in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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.

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.*

🎵 CELEBRATION SONG Amazing grace <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cIYvT745alg>

✠ INTRODUCTION TO CONFESSION

Human sin disfigures the whole creation,
which groans with eager longing for God's redemption.
We confess our sin 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.

✘ ABSOLUTION

The Lord enrich *you* with his grace, and nourish *you* with his blessing;
the Lord defend *you* in trouble and keep *you* from all evil;
the Lord accept *your* prayers,
and absolve *you* from *your* offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour.
Amen.

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS is said or sung and/or SONGS OF THANKSGIVING

🎵 GLORIA Glory to God (Peruvian) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ep4TLwVM9mQ>

✘ COLLECT

Lord God, defend your Church from all false teaching
and give to your people knowledge of your truth,
that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.



✘ OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 16:2-15

²In the desert the whole community **grumbled** against Moses and Aaron. ³The Israelites said to them, '**if only** we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! **There we sat round** pots of meat and ate **all the food we wanted**, **but you have** brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.'

⁴**Then the LORD said to Moses**, 'I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. **In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.** ⁵On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days.'

⁶**So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites**, 'In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?' ⁸**Moses also said**, 'You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD.'

⁹**Then Moses told Aaron**, 'Say to the entire Israelite community, "**Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.**"'

¹⁰ While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked towards the desert, **and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud.**

¹¹ **The LORD said to Moses,** ¹² ‘I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, “At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.”’

¹³ That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴ When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. ¹⁵ When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, ‘What is it?’ For they did not know what it was.

Moses said to them, ‘It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat.

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

✠ **NEW TESTAMENT READING** **Philippians 1:21-30**

²¹ **For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.** ²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labour for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. ²⁵ **Convinced** of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you **for your progress and joy in the faith,** ²⁶ **so that** through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

²⁷ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves **in a manner worthy** of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm **in the one Spirit,**^[a] **striving together** as one for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved – and that by God. ²⁹ **For it has been granted to you** on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, ³⁰ since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

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

🎵 **GOSPEL HYMN** **TIME OF SILENCE**

The Son of man came not to be served, but to serve: **to give up his life as a ransom for many.**

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

✠ **THE GOSPEL** **Matthew 20:1-16**

‘For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out **early in the morning** to hire workers for his vineyard. ² **He agreed to pay them** a denarius^[a] for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

³ **'About nine in the morning** he went out and saw others standing in the market-place doing nothing. ⁴ He told them, "You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay **you whatever is right.**" ⁵ So they went.

'He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. ⁶ **About five in the afternoon** he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, "Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?" ⁷ "Because no one has hired us," they answered.

'He said to them, "**You also go and work in my vineyard.**"

⁸ **'When evening came**, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first."

⁹ The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. ¹⁰ So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ When they received it, **they began to grumble** against the landowner. ¹² "These who were hired last worked only one hour," they said, "and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day."

¹³ **'But he answered one of them**, "I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. ¹⁵ Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious **because I am generous?**"

¹⁶ **'So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'**

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



Sermon Grumbling & Thankfulness

*May the words of my mouth and the meditation of all our hearts
be pleasing to you O Lord our Saviour*

Introduction

How easy to think the grass is greener on the other side of the fence, how easy to think that things were better before, how easy to grumble at the present, how easy to think the next generation is not like ours.

We have choices we must make. We can choose to live a life of grumbling ... **if only** (Exodus 16:3). Or we can choose to live a life of thankfulness.

They were wrong of course in their **if only**. Life was not better ... they were slaves, they had to work without straw to bricks ... they could not sit around eating whatever they wanted. Our memories can play tricks.

✘ **PSALM 105:37-45** reminds us that it was God who did all these good things for his people **He brought out** ³⁹ **He spread out** **and he brought them** ...; **he fed them well** ... ⁴¹ **He opened** . So when, in our Old testament reading from **Exodus 16:2-15**, they were complaining against Moses for leading them to where they

were, they were actually complaining about God. Moses was simply God's servant ... he was a man ... he had not done it ... God had ... and they had forgotten or they failed to realise or they just were people who enjoyed complaining and who enjoyed grumbling.

You see, **God had remembered them** and he had worked a miracle on their behalf ... and how happy they were and how much they rejoiced (v43) ... they were **shouting with joy!** But now they were complaining.

He had brought them out to be a model people, an example to others ,,v45 of the Psalm, – ⁴⁵ **that they might keep his precepts and observe his laws** ... a people who would genuinely *Praise the LORD*.

✘ **OLD TESTAMENT READING Exodus 16:2-15** Even when they grumbled God was good to them ... and gave them food ... But in doing so, he suspected that they would not be satisfied. God says in v4 ⁴ **In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions**. As the story goes on we discover they did not learn the lesson and they continued to grumble.

Numbers 14:2 All the Israelites **grumbled** against Moses and Aaron,
Numbers 14:27 'How long will this wicked community **grumble** against me?
Numbers 14:29 – every one of you and who has **grumbled** against me.
Numbers 14:36 made the whole community **grumble** spreading a bad report
Numbers 16:11 Who is Aaron that you should **grumble** against him?'
Numbers 16:41 whole community **grumbled** against Moses and Aaron. '
Deuteronomy 1:27 You **grumbled** in your tents and said, '
Joshua 9:18. The whole assembly **grumbled** against the leaders,
Psalm 106:25 They **grumbled** in their tents and did not obey the LORD.
John 6:41 At this the Jews there began to **grumble** about him
1 Corinthians 10:10 And do not **grumble**, as some of them did –
James 5:9 Don't **grumble** against one another, or you will be judged.
Jude 1:16 These people are **grumblers** and fault-finders;

Matthew 20:11 to grumble against the landowner.

The Gospel parable is about grumbling ... God is dealing with grace and generosity- the people only talked about their rights and comparisons – the thief on the cross repents at the last moment and is welcomed into paradise. This is like **the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud**. God is a God who reveals himself in marvellous ways ... in his appearing and in his generosity.

I love the phrase in v12 of our OT Reading **Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.**''' – God is a God who wants to reveal himself.

In our NT reading of **Philippians 1:21-30** Paul says²¹ **For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain**. – he has such a sense of the glory of the Lord, of knowing him that life

itself is transformed by the thought of an eternity with Christ. He talks in v23 of being **Convinced** of this.

The opposite of grumbling is thankfulness ... how is this thankfulness to be expressed? I think Paul would say as in v27ff ²⁷ *Whatever happens, conduct yourselves **in a manner worthy** of the gospel of Christ. ... stand firm **in the one Spirit**,^[a] **striving together** as one for the faith of the gospel*

✘ **FINALLY, THE GOSPEL** **Matthew 20:1-16**

- ✘ Back to God's grace .. a strange and seeming unjust story. But the church operates my different values .. you are his, however long you have been God's and are as important as someone who has been God's for a lifetime. It is all about Christ and his grace, and he blesses as he will.
- ✘ It is the upside-down kingdom of God. It is about grace that supersedes justice.
- ✘ It may also have something to do with attitudes and openness to God – the people who worked all day did not lose anything – they were just being negative.
- ✘ Justice is not the only attribute – there is a grace that transforms ... but only if we permit the transformation, The potter can only work if the clay is malleable.

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

THE APOSTLES' CREED –

(If you are able, please stand)

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.

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

These responses may be used:

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer** or Lord, hear us **Lord, graciously hear us.**

At the end:

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.**

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✠ **INTRODUCTION TO THE PEACE**

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of 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*

🎵 **OFFERTORY HYMN Guide me O thou Great Redeemer**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SkVT8O5E1rM>

✠ **RECEIVING BREAD AND WINE**

Be present, be present,
Lord Jesus Christ,
our risen high priest;
make yourself known in the breaking of bread.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER (E) – *The great prayer of praise and thanksgiving.*

The Lord be with you (or) The Lord is here.
and also with you. 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.**

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:*

**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:

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 [*N 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,

**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.**

The Agnus Dei may be said or sung

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 heart 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

✠ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

. Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy;
and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall,
keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful,
and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

FINAL HYMN You shall go out with joy

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

