

Holy Communion – 21st September 2025
The Shrewd Manager

Welcome & Notices

Opening Prayer:

We come together in the name of Christ
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive God's holy word,
to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,
that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.
Amen.

Opening Hymn: Great is thy faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided—
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided—
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided—
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!***

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Collect for Purity:

**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.**

Prayers of Penitence:

[Silence]

**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:

**Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen****

Gloria. [sung]

**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.**

Collect for the Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity:

**Merciful God,
your Son came to save us
and bore our sins on the cross:
may we trust in your mercy
and know your love,
rejoicing in the righteousness
that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Reading: Amos 8 : 4-7 *(Sue Lyons)*

Hear this, you who trample the needy and do away with the poor of the land,
saying,

“When will the New Moon be over that we may sell grain,
and the Sabbath be ended that we may market wheat?”—
skimping on the measure, boosting the price
and cheating with dishonest scales,

buying the poor with silver and the needy for a pair of sandals,
selling even the sweepings with the wheat.”

The LORD has sworn by himself, the Pride of Jacob: “I will never
forget anything they have done.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn: Take my life and let it be

**Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in endless praise.**

**Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for thee.**

**Take my voice and let me sing,
Always, only for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from thee.**

**Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
Every power as thou shalt choose.**

**Take my will and make it thine,
It shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own,
It shall be thy royal throne.**

**Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for thee.**

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879)

Gospel Reading: Luke 16v1-15 (Cathy)

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

The parable of the shrewd manager

Jesus told his disciples: 'There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, "What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer."

The manager said to himself, "What shall I do now? My master is taking away my job. I'm not strong enough to dig, and I'm ashamed to beg – I know what I'll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses."

So he called in each one of his master's debtors. He asked the first, "How much do you owe my master?"

Three thousand litres of olive oil," he replied.

The manager told him, "Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifteen hundred."

Then he asked the second, "And how much do you owe?"

"Thirty tons of wheat," he replied.

He told him, "Take your bill and make it twenty-four."

The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money.'

The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. He said to them, 'You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of

others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God's sight.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon: *(Cathy)*

Creed:

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
**maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
**God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,**

begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.**

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession: (Eileen)

Response:

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our Prayer

Merciful Father:

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

Peace:

Since we have been justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace. *(Romans 5v1,2)*

The peace of the Lord be always with you:

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn: I heard the voice of Jesus say

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
Thy head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
And he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give

The living water: thirsty one,
Stoop down and drink and live.”
I came to Jesus and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am this dark world’s Light;
Look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
And all thy day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus and I found
In him my star, my sun;
And in that light of life I’ll walk
Till travelling days are done.

Horatius Bonar (1809-89)

Offertory Prayer:

Yours, Lord, is the greatness,
the power, the glory,
the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.
**All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you. Amen**

Eucharistic Prayer (A):

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 with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and *singing*:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
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 (sung)
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: (sung)

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.**

Breaking of Bread:

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.**

Prayer of Humble Access:

**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.**

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.

Worship During administration: River, wash over me
Give thanks with a grateful heart

**River, wash over me,
cleanse me and make me new;
bathe me, refresh me and fill me anew-
river, wash over me.**

**Spirit, watch over me
lead me to Jesus' feet;
cause me to worship and fill me anew –
Spirit, watch over me.**

**Jesus, rule over me,
reign over all my heart;
teach me to praise you and fill me anew –
Jesus, rule over me.**

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**Give thanks with a grateful heart.
Give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart.
Give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.**

**And now, let the weak say "I am strong",
let the poor say "I am rich",
because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now, let the weak say "I am strong",
let the poor say "I am rich",
because of what the Lord has done for us.**

Give thanks.

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Post Communion Prayer:

**Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Opportunity for Sharing

Blessing:

The peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen

Final Hymn: Liz

**There is a higher throne
than all this world has known,
where faithful ones from every tongue
will one day come.
Before the Son we'll stand,
made faultless through the Lamb;
believing hearts find promised grace:
salvation comes.**

*Hear heaven's voices sing,
their thunderous anthem rings
through emerald courts and sapphire skies,
their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, power,
strength, thanks and honour are*

*to God, our King who reigns on high,
forever more.*

And there we'll find our home,
our life before the throne;
we'll honour him in perfect song
where we belong.
He'll wipe each tear stained eye,
and thirst and hunger die;
the Lamb becomes our Shepherd King:
we'll reign with him.

*Hear heaven's voices sing,
their thunderous anthem rings
through emerald courts and sapphire skies,
their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, power,
strength, thanks and honour are
to God, our King who reigns on high,
forever more.*

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Dismissal:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ: Amen

Refreshments are available at the back.
Prayer ministry at the front – Sylvia.