

## **The Holy Communion - FIRST ORDER**

### **GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

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

A Sentence of Scripture

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Colossians 3.1

Let us pray.

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**

### **Two Great Commandments**

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' Jesus said: 'This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

**Lord, have mercy on us: and write your law in our hearts by your Holy Spirit.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Living God, Judge of us all,  
you have placed in our hands the wealth we call our own:  
through your Spirit give us wisdom,  
that our possessions may not be a curse, but a means of blessing in our lives.  
Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **Hosea 11.1-11**

<sup>1</sup> 'When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. <sup>2</sup> But the more they were called, the more they went away from me. They sacrificed to the Baals and they burned incense to images. <sup>3</sup> It was I who taught Ephraim to walk, taking them by the arms; but they did not realise it was I who healed them. <sup>4</sup> I led them with cords of human kindness, with ties of love. To them I was like one who lifts a little child to the cheek, and I bent down to feed them. <sup>5</sup> 'Will they not return to Egypt and will not Assyria rule over them because they refuse to repent? <sup>6</sup> A sword will flash in their cities; it will devour their false prophets and put an end to their plans. <sup>7</sup> My people are determined to turn from me. Even though they call me God Most High, I will by no means exalt them. <sup>8</sup> 'How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, Israel? How can I treat you like Admah? How can I make you like Zeboyim? My heart is changed within me; all my compassion is aroused. <sup>9</sup> I will not carry out my fierce anger, nor will I devastate Ephraim again. For I am God, and not a man – the Holy One among you. I will not come against their cities. <sup>10</sup> They will follow the Lord ; he will roar like a lion. When he roars, his children will come trembling from the west. <sup>11</sup> They will come from Egypt, trembling like sparrows, from Assyria, fluttering like doves. I will settle them in their homes,' declares the Lord .

## Psalm 107.1-9, 107.43

- <sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:  
for his loving mercy is for ever.
- <sup>2</sup> Let the Lord's redeemed say so:  
whom he has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,
- <sup>3</sup> And gathered in from every land,  
from the east and from the west: from the north and from the south.
- <sup>4</sup> Some went astray in the wilderness and in the desert: and found no path to an inhabited city;
- <sup>5</sup> They were hungry and thirsty:  
and their heart fainted within them.
- <sup>6</sup> Then they cried to the Lord in their distress:  
and he took them out of their trouble.
- <sup>7</sup> He led them by the right path: till they came to an inhabited city.
- <sup>8</sup> Let them thank the Lord for his goodness:  
and for the wonders that he does for the children of Adam;
- <sup>9</sup> For he satisfies the thirsty:  
and fills the hungry with good things.
- <sup>43</sup> Whoever is wise, let them observe these things:  
and consider the loving-kindness of the Lord.

## Colossians 3.1-11

<sup>1</sup> Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. <sup>5</sup> Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup> Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. <sup>7</sup> You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. <sup>8</sup> But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. <sup>9</sup> Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. <sup>11</sup> Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

## Luke 12.13-21

<sup>13</sup> Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.' <sup>14</sup> Jesus replied, 'Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?' <sup>15</sup> Then he said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.' <sup>16</sup> And he told them this parable: 'The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. <sup>17</sup> He thought to himself, "What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops." <sup>18</sup> 'Then he said, "This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. <sup>19</sup> And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'" <sup>20</sup> 'But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?" <sup>21</sup> 'This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich towards God.'

**Sermon**

**The Nicene 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 of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
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,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who 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.

## THE PRAYERS

**Let us pray for all people, and for the Church throughout the world.**

Generous God, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, 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.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

## PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

### Exhortation 1

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we who would come to the holy communion of the body and blood of our Saviour Christ must consider how St Paul exhorts us to examine ourselves before presuming to eat of that bread and drink of that cup.

For the benefit is great, if with a penitent heart and lively faith we receive that holy sacrament. We then spiritually eat the flesh of Christ and drink his blood; we dwell in Christ and he in us; we are one with Christ and Christ with us.

Yet also the danger is great, if we receive the bread and cup unworthily. Judge yourselves therefore, that you be not judged of the Lord. Repent truly of your sins, having a steadfast faith in Christ our Saviour. Amend your lives and love your neighbour.

Above all, give hearty thanks to God for the redemption of the world by the death and passion of our Saviour Christ, truly God and truly human, who humbled himself to death on the cross for us sinners, that he might make us children of God, and raise us to eternal life.

You who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God and walking in his holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to strengthen and comfort you. But first, let us make a humble confession of our sins to almighty God.

### **Confession**

**Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
maker of all things, judge of all people,  
we acknowledge with shame the sins we have committed,  
by thought, word, and deed, against your divine majesty, provoking most justly your wrath  
and indignation  
against us.**

**We earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry  
for all our misdoings.**

**Have mercy on us, most merciful Father.  
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake  
forgive us all that is past,  
and grant that we may ever hereafter  
serve and please you in newness of life,  
to the honour and glory of your name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*this Absolution.*

Almighty God our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all who with hearty repentance and true faith turn to him: have mercy on you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Hear the words of assurance for those who truly turn to Christ  
Jesus said: Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Matthew 11.28

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, Lord, Mighty Creator, and Eternal God.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with the whole company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, evermore praising you, and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Glory to you, O Lord most high.**

We do not presume to come to 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 we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. **Amen.**

All glory to you, our heavenly Father, for in your tender mercy you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death on the cross for our redemption: who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until his coming again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray, and grant that we who receive these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine, according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood; who on the night he was betrayed took bread<sup>1</sup>, and when he had given 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.' Likewise after supper he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying, 'Drink from this, all of you; for this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' **Amen**

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life; take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your body and soul to everlasting life; drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for you, and be thankful.

## **AFTER COMMUNION**

Lord and heavenly Father, we your humble servants entirely desire your fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and to grant that, by the merits and death of your Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and your whole Church may receive forgiveness of our sins and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present to you, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice, humbly beseeching you that all we who are partakers of this holy communion may be fulfilled with your grace and heavenly benediction.

And although we are unworthy, through our many sins, to offer you any sacrifice, yet we pray that you will accept this, our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, Father, world without end.

**Amen.**

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 amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen**

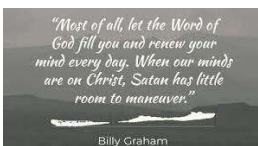


A few weeks ago, I spoke from Romans 12:2 regarding our need to be transformed by the renewing of the mind, and how that cannot happen unless we consciously work with God to allow him to do it.



When I was growing up, we had a dirt road outside our house. It was rough but ok for me to ride a push bike to school. The local council made a decision to seal the road, and it was difficult riding to school for some weeks. So it is when we allow God to start making changes in our lives. It is not something that happens at arms length, it is a change in which we have made a commitment to become involved. It will often become difficult but just as a nice sealed road is much easier to navigate, so is living with a mind that has been transformed.

Our new testament reading today encourages us to set our hearts (minds ?) on things above not on earthly things. How do we do that ?. We need to meditate on God's Word and use it as spiritual food for our souls. How many of us only take a meal of spiritual food once a week when we come to church ?. If we only had physical food once a week we would be very sick because our bodies NEED regular daily feeding. So too with our souls. We need regular daily spiritual food, and this comes from God's word. The Word of God can be described as the verbal expression of the mind of God. Now surely, if we want to grow and be strong in God, we are going to have to feed on His Word.



If I asked how many of each species of animal Moses took into the Ark, would you know that the answer was a) Moses was not part of the Ark, it was Noah, and b) he took 1 pair of each "unclean" animal and 7 pair of each "clean" animal. When our spiritual diet is lacking in content, we can very easily be swayed by all sorts of ideas which are not sound. God wants us to spend time reading His Word (after all, it is His last will and testament for us revealed in His Son).

King David, in today's psalm, says Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His loving mercy endures for ever. David knew God's word, and had a daily relationship with God. He is referred to as a man after God's own heart. When he says in another psalm "This is the day that the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it", does that just come from something he might have remembered from his childhood, or does that come from a daily relationship with God.



So often in our lives we start the day off on a positive note, but end up becoming fearful of situations that may develop. God DOES NOT GIVE FEAR. God GIVES FAITH ... Satan gives fear.



God says at least 300 times in the bible FEAR NOT. So what is faith? Let's see what God says faith is. Hebrews 11, God says Faith is the substance (or assurance) of things hoped for. The evidence of things not yet seen. Pope Francis says of faith "Faith is not a light that scatters all our darkness, but a lamp that guides our steps in the night".

How do we get faith? Once again, we go to God's word for the answer. Romans 10:17 says "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God". Now the translation for Word of God in this instance, is from the Greek *rhema* rather than *logos*. *Rhema* is best translated as the Personal Revelation of the verbal expression of the mind of God. That is, when you are reading something, and it jumps out from the text and becomes something personal that you can embrace. This is when God brings his Word to life in us. We have a seismic shift in our minds, and God's word becomes more foundational in our way of thinking - like roadworks where another layer has been laid down and is being rolled in to become part of the road base. So, God is transforming our minds and our way of thinking by His word.



The steam roller in the image is exactly like the one they used on the road outside our property when I was growing up. We do need to be ready and willing to work with God in helping Him to reconstruct our thoughts and thought processes to what He desires .. placing our minds on things above.

Let us get into his Word on a daily, not weekly, basis, and learn the character of God, how he guided and cared for His people in the past; How he guides and cares for His people today, and also other bits of historical information such as who was the prophet of fire, who was the oldest man in the bible (who also happened to die before his father), why was part of the book of Acts written in the first person, why the Jehovah's Witnesses cannot be the 144,000 referred to in the book of Revelation, why Satan was allowed to test Job, How the country of Spain existed before the time of Christ, WHY God placed a rainbow in the sky, and let God lay down some solid foundations in your way of thinking so that you naturally think faith, and not fear. So you naturally have your minds set on things above, not on earthly things.

When foundations are well prepared, they will stand the tests of time. I was back in Wingello a few months ago, and that road that was laid down outside our

property is STILL in the same condition it was 65 years ago and has NEVER been re-surfaced.

Work WITH God for Him to build solid foundations in your life, and to strengthen existing foundations and way of thinking. This leads us to be living our best life - with Him.



Have you wandered alone on life's pathway;

Have you lived without Him a life of fear.

Have you searched for that great Higher Meaning;

Friend, is your life filled with long wasted years.

Wasted years, wasted years, Oh how foolish

As you walk on in darkness and fear:

Turn around, turn around, God is calling !

He's calling you, from a life of wasted years !

He's calling you, from a life of wasted years !