



A Service of Holy Communion
Trinity 18

Welcome to St James, the parish Church of Bulkington. Thank you for joining us today, whether you are in the building or participating from home. We are very glad to be with you.

Holy Communion (or the Eucharist) is the central act of Christian worship. Through our community celebration of the Eucharist, we tell the story of God with his people throughout history, and proclaim that this God, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, is real among us.

We are following Government and Church of England guidelines to ensure that we have the safest possible experience of being with each other for our worship. Please care for yourself and others by:

- Maintaining a 2m distance from others
- Sanitise your hands
- Follow the directions of the ministers and stewards, and sit in places marked with a green tick.

This service is being filmed so that as many as would like to can be part of our worship. The camera will only focus on those contributing to the service.

There will be no collection plate passed around today, but please give generously to support St James. You can

- Leave a cash donation (including brown envelopes) in the plate provided on your way in or out of Church
- Join the Parish Giving Scheme (please speak to Rev Charles about this)
- Online at <https://tinyurl.com/y5o6gncq> (the QR code will take you to this page)
- Make an electronic donation via bank transfer or standing order.



“Stay close to God... but keep a safe distance from everyone else!”

The Gathering

*As we gather together and the organ plays, the stewards will show us to our seats. We will be **welcomed to the service** and taken through any **notices**.*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

The Greeting

The Lord be with you
All: and also with you.

Prayer of Preparation

**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.**

Confession and Absolution

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God,
though we have rebelled against him.

Let us then renounce our wilfulness and ask his mercy
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

cf Daniel 9.9

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

May the God of love and power
forgive *you* and free *you* from *your* sins,
heal and strengthen *you* by his Spirit,
and raise *you* to new life in Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

**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

We spend a moment in quiet prayer and then Rev Charles prays:

Almighty and everlasting God,
increase in us your gift of faith
that, forsaking what lies behind
and reaching out to that which is before,
we may run the way of your commandments
and win the crown of everlasting joy;
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.

The Liturgy of the Word

Exodus 32:1-14

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, 'Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.'² Aaron said to them, 'Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.'³ So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron.⁴ He took the gold from them, formed it in a mould,^[a] and cast an image of a calf; and they said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, 'Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord.'⁶ They rose early the next day, and offered burnt-offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

⁷ The Lord said to Moses, 'Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely;⁸ they have been quick to

turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!”⁹ The Lord said to Moses, ‘I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are.¹⁰ Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.’

¹¹ But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, ‘O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, “It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth”? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, “I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it for ever.” ¹⁴ And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Philippians 4:1-9

¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters,^[a] whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion,^[b] help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice^[c] in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.^[d] ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, beloved,^[e] whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about^[f] these things. ⁹ Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 22:1-14

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, “Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.” ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, “The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.” ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ ‘But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, “Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?” And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, “Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.’

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

After the sermon, we share a time of quiet.

The Creed

**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 Intercession

Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayer

At the end:

Merciful Father,

All: accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

God has called us to live in peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

cf I Corinthians 7.17

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: and also with you.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here

All: His Spirit is with us

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,
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 *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:

All: Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and 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.**

Giving of Communion

We are invited to receive the bread or a blessing

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

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

The body and blood of Christ keep us in eternal life

All: Amen.

We are invited to receive the bread or a blessing

Prayer after Communion

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Dismissal

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the lord

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.

Please remain in your seat until directed by a steward.

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