

# Saturday 24th April 2021

## Sharing in Diversity

### ¶ PREPARATION

O Lord, open our lips

**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

All things work together for good for those who love God;

**we are called according to his purpose.**

We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for good works.

**We are the body of Christ.**

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, generous and true,  
to you be glory and praise for ever.

From you comes every generous act of giving,  
every good and perfect gift;  
you call us into community  
to share your the gifts with reverence and grace.

In fulfilment of your promise  
you give us birth by the word of truth,  
that as the first fruits of your new creation  
we may glorify you for ever:

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*This opening prayer may be said;*

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God,  
ste our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

### ¶ THE WORD OF GOD

#### Psalmody: Psalm 133

**The faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever.**

- 1 Behold how good and pleasant it is  
to dwell together in unity.
- 2 It is like the precious oil upon the head,  
running down upon the beard,
- 3 Even on Aaron's beard,  
running down upon the collar of his clothing.
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon  
running down upon the hills of Zion.
- 5 For there the Lord has promised his blessing:  
even life for evermore.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**The faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever.**

## Canticle: A Song of Repentance

**If we walk in the light  
we have fellowship with one another.**

- 1 This is the message we have heard from Christ  
and proclaim to you:  
that God is light,  
in whom there is no darkness at all.
- 2 If we say that we have fellowship with God  
while we walk in darkness,  
we lie and do not do what is true.
- 3 But if we walk in the light  
as God is in the light,  
we have fellowship with one another.
- 4 And the blood of Jesus, the Son of God,  
cleanses us from all our sins.
- 5 If we say that we have no sin,  
we deceive ourselves  
and the truth is not in us.
- 6 If we confess our sins,  
the One who is faithful and just will forgive us  
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**If we walk in the light  
we have fellowship with one another.**

## Scripture Reading

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the

*1 John 1. 5-9*

members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honourable we clothe with greater honour, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

*1 Corinthians 12.1-31*

## Responsory

Set your hopes on God

**who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.**

They are to do good and to be rich in good works.

**Set your hopes on God.**

They are to be generous and ready to share.

**God richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.**

They shall store up for themselves a treasure

of a good foundation for the future,

so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

**Set your hopes on God**

**who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.**

*from 1 Timothy 6.17-19*

## Gospel Canticle

**O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all.**

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,  
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,  
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old  
to save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors,  
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Luke 1.68-79*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all.**

## ¶ PRAYERS

*Intercessions are offered, and may conclude;*

Creator God,  
you plant within us spiritual gifts,  
and call us into one body in Christ;  
help us to remember the privilege  
of sharing in the ministry to the saints  
that together, our giving may reveal your goodness in the world;  
through Christ, who is the head and cornerstone.

**Amen.**

Drawing together as the Body of Christ,  
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 CONCLUSION

Giving God,  
we thank you for enriching us with every good gift,  
and pray that our gifts together  
enable us to be Christ in the world;  
in whose name we pray.

**Amen.**

The God of peace,  
who richly provides us with every blessing in abundance,  
bless us and keep us.

**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**