

**Holy Communion – Sunday 12 February 2023, 2nd Sunday
before Lent**

Welcome and gathering worship

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you: **and also with you.**

Lord, thank you that you promise us that where two or three are gathered you are there in the midst. We welcome You amongst us today and celebrate the gift of life that you have lavished upon each of us.

We ask that You would open our ears so that we may hear your voice. Open our minds so that we may receive Your eternal wisdom. Open our spirits so that we may know Your leading and guidance. And open our hearts so that we may receive Your wonderful love.

We ask all this in the glorious name of Jesus. Amen.

Flames – We pray for our children and their leaders as they go out.

Song/Hymn: Be still for the presence of the Lord

We say sorry to God and one another

When the Lord comes, he will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness, and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Therefore in the light of Christ let us confess our sins.

We keep a short time of silence before we pray together.

Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us

according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Prayer of forgiveness

For it is the God who said, “Let light shine out of darkness”, who has shone in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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

Praise Songs: When I look into Your holiness and There is a higher throne

Collect prayer for today:

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things, now and for ever. Amen.

New Testament Reading

Romans 8.18-25

This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew; **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Sermon on the Mount

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Our belief

We say together in faith:

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.

We believe in God the Father, who created all things:
for by his will they were created and have their being.

We believe in God the Son, who was slain:
for with his blood, he purchased us for God, from every tribe and language, from every people and nation.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit:
the Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come!' Even so come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Prayers of intercession

(at the end) **Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

The Peace

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us, and as a pledge of what is to come has given us the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. The peace of the Lord be always with you; **and also with you.**

Offertory Hymn: I will sing the wonderous story

The Communion

Wise and gracious God, you spread a table before us; nourish your people with the word of life and the bread of heaven.

Amen.

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

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.**

...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.

...Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory:

Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

...Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, forever 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

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.**

We share bread and wine together

During the sharing of communion there will be an opportunity for prayer for healing. If you would like prayer or a simple blessing then please move to the 'prayer place' to the left of the dais where people are ready to pray with you.

Prayer after communion

God our creator, by your gift the tree of life was set at the heart of the earthly paradise, and the bread of life at the heart of your Church: may we who have been nourished at your table on earth be transformed by the glory of the Saviour's cross and enjoy the delights of eternity: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Notices

Closing Hymn: Will you come and follow Me?

The Blessing

Father of lights, from whom comes every good and perfect gift: keep us in the light of Christ, to shine in our world, that all may believe in you; and the blessing of God almighty, the

Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ, Amen