

23rd July 2023 - Christ Church: Holy Communion Service

Welcome in the name of Christ. God's grace, mercy and peace be with you;
and also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made; **We will rejoice and be glad in it**

We prepare our hearts and confess our sins

What God has prepared for those who love him, he has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything. Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord, who has prepared good things for those who love him. *1 Cor 2:9,10*

We keep a time of quiet reflection.

Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Against you, you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Prayer of forgiveness

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**

Song: 10,000 reasons , Great are you Lord

Collect prayer for today:

Generous God, you give us gifts and make them grow: make our faith grow to your glory and the flourishing of your kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

New Testament Reading

Romans 8:12-25

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.

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

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

Sermon

Song: Draw me close to you

Our belief

Let us declare our faith in God:

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high.

We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 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

To crown all things there must be love. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

The peace of the Lord be always with you; **and also with you.**

Song: Above all (powers)

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 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 right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself. When we turned away you did not reject us, but came to meet us in your Son. **You embraced us as your children and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

He opened his arms of love upon the cross and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread, and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to them, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. **Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks, and said: Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me. **Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son. **As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

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.**

During the sharing of communion we would love to pray with you, or offer a simple blessing. Please head to the left of the table to receive prayer.

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.

Notices and Banns

Song: Holy holy (lift up his name)

The Blessing

All our problems **we send to the cross of Christ.**

All our difficulties **we send to the cross of Christ.**

All the devil's works **we send to the cross of Christ.**

All our hopes **we set on the risen Christ;**

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