

Sunday 3rd March 2024: Holy Communion

Welcome

Welcome, Spirit of God; **nothing can separate us from your love.**

Breathe on us, breath of God; **fill us with your saving power.**

Speak in us, wisdom of God; **bring strength, healing and peace.**

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**

Flames – we pray our children and their leaders as they go

We say sorry to God and one another

Human sin disfigures the whole creation, which groans with eager longing for God's redemption.

We confess our sin in penitence and faith.

God our Father, long-suffering, full of grace and truth, you create us from nothing and give us life.

You give your faithful people new life in the water of baptism.

You do not turn your face from us, nor cast us aside.

We confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbour.

We have wounded your love and marred your image in us.

Restore us for the sake of your Son, and bring us to heavenly joy, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We are forgiven

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed: forgive you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth, strengthen you to do God's will and give you the joy of his kingdom through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Songs

HE IS EXALTED,
The King is exalted on high,
I will praise Him.
He is exalted,
Forever exalted
And I will praise His name!

He is the Lord,
Forever His truth shall reign.
Heaven and earth
Rejoice in His holy name.
He is exalted,
The King is exalted on high!

BLESSÈD BE YOUR NAME

In the land that is plentiful,
Where Your streams of abundance flow,
Blessèd be Your name.
And blessèd be Your name
When I'm found in the desert place,
Though I walk through the wilderness,
Blessèd be Your name.

*Every blessing You pour out I'll
Turn back to praise.
When the darkness closes in, Lord,
Still I will say:
Blessèd be the name of the Lord,
Blessèd be Your name.
Blessèd be the name of the Lord,
Blessèd be Your glorious name.*

Blessèd be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me,
When the world's 'all as it should be',
Blessèd be Your name.
And blessèd be Your name
On the road marked with suffering,
Though there's pain in the offering,
Blessèd be Your name.

Chorus

You give and take away,
You give and take away.
My heart will choose to say:
Lord, blessèd be Your name.

*Blessèd be the name of the Lord,
Blessèd be Your name.
Blessèd be the name of the Lord,
Blessèd be Your glorious name.*

The church's prayer for today:

Eternal God, give us insight to discern your will for us, to give up what harms us, and to seek the perfection we are promised in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 20.1-17

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

Gospel

John 2.13-22

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

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

Sermon

Song

THIS IS MY DESIRE, to honour You:
Lord, with all my heart I worship You.
All I have within me, I give You praise:
All that I adore is in You.

Lord, I give You my heart,
I give You my soul;
I live for You alone.
Every breath that I take,
Every moment I'm awake,
Lord, have Your way in me.

Prayers of intercession -

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

The Peace

God has called us to live in peace.

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

Communion

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.

.... 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

We would love to pray for you – you will find our prayer team waiting at the front-left.

Prayer after communion

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Notices

Song

HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss –
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life –
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart –
His wounds have paid my ransom.

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 upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
In the name of Christ, Amen