

# SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2020 HOLY COMMUNION

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1. We have a strong and certain hope  
Fixed and unchanging not in vain  
We have a friend in heaven's court  
Since Jesus rose to life again

We have an anchor for the soul  
Since Jesus blood has made a way  
Into the deepest heart of God  
Before the Father's throne of grace

We see him now, exalted above, Victorious Love!

*I know he lives! Jesus is alive  
And he reigns in glory now  
I know he lives! And with him we'll rise  
Hallelujah! I know he lives!*

We have a King high over all  
The new creation's first-born Son  
New heaven and earth await his call  
We shall be like him when he comes

We see him now, exalted above, Victorious Love!

*I know he lives!.....*

We see him now in majesty  
Enthroned above the galaxies  
Until his glories burst the skies  
And all creation joins the cry

*I know he lives!.....*

2. Above all powers, above all kings,  
above all nature and all created things;  
above all wisdom and all the ways of man,  
you were here before the world began.  
Above all kingdoms, above all thrones  
above all wonders the world has ever known;  
above all wealth and treasures of the earth,  
there's no way to measure what you're worth

*Crucified, laid behind the stone;  
you lived to die, rejected and alone;  
like a rose, trampled on the ground,  
you took the fall, and thought of me, above all.*

3. Into the darkness of this world,  
Into the shadows of the night;  
Into this loveless place you came,  
Lightened our burdens, eased our pain,  
and made these hearts your home.  
Into the darkness once again,  
O come Lord Jesus, come.

*Come with your love to make us whole,  
Come with your light to lead us on,  
driving the darkness far from our souls:  
O come Lord Jesus, come.*

Into the longing of our souls,  
Into these heavy hearts of stone,  
Shine on us now your piercing light,  
Order our lives and souls aright,  
By grace and love unknown,  
Until in you our hearts unite,

O come Lord Jesus, come.

*Come with your love....*

O Holy Child Emmanuel,  
Hope of the ages, God with us,  
Visit again this broken place,  
Till all the earth declares your praise,  
And your great mercies own.  
Now let your love be born in us,  
O come, Lord Jesus, come.  
*Come with your love to make us whole....*

*Come in your glory, take your place,  
Jesus, the name above all names,  
We long to see you face to face,  
O come Lord Jesus, come.*

## PRAYER OF PREPARATION

**Heavenly Father,  
you sent your Son Jesus Christ  
to make us ready to meet with you.  
Send your Holy Spirit on us now, we pray,  
that we may hear your word,  
Share in your communion,  
receive your grace,  
and be renewed in your love. AMEN.**

## CONFESSION

**Lord God, who reigns on high,  
We say sorry for the things we have got wrong:  
We repent of our wrong beliefs,  
We confess our lukewarm hearts,  
We ask forgiveness for the times  
when we have turned away from you;  
Give us grace to hear  
what your Spirit says to your Church,  
to open the door when you knock,  
and live in your victory and your peace. AMEN**

**READING:** Acts 12:1-17

12 It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. <sup>2</sup> He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. <sup>3</sup> When he saw that this met with approval among the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. This happened during the Festival of Unleavened Bread. <sup>4</sup> After arresting him, he put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover.

<sup>5</sup> So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.

<sup>6</sup> The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance.

<sup>7</sup> Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.

<sup>8</sup> Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him. <sup>9</sup> Peter followed

him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision.

<sup>10</sup> They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him.

<sup>11</sup> Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were hoping would happen."

<sup>12</sup> When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. <sup>13</sup> Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant named Rhoda came to answer the door. <sup>14</sup> When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!"

<sup>15</sup> "You're out of your mind," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel."

<sup>16</sup> But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. <sup>17</sup> Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison. "Tell James and the other brothers and sisters about this," he said, and then he left for another place.

*Reader:* This is the word of the Lord

*All:* **Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL:** John 14:11-17

*Reader:* Hear the Holy Gospel according to John

*All:* **Glory to you O Lord**

<sup>11</sup> Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup> Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup> And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup> You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, keep my commands. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

*Reader:* This is the Gospel of the Lord

*All:* **Praise to you O Christ**

**SERMON:** Dave ***GOD WITH US – When times are hard***

*Peter was stuck in prison, innocent yet under threat of death. Maybe he was encouraged by Jesus' words in John 14:16; "I will ask the Father and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever".*

**PRAYERS:**

**PEACE:**

4. The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;  
he makes me lie in pastures green,  
he leads me by the still, still waters,  
his goodness restores my soul.  
*And I will trust in you alone,  
and I will trust in you alone,  
for your endless mercy follows me,  
your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my ways in righteousness,  
and he anoints my head with oil;  
and my cup - it overflows with joy,  
I feast on his pure delights.

And though I walk the darkest path -  
I will not fear the evil one,  
for you are with me, and your rod and staff  
are the comfort I need to know.

Goodness and mercy surely now  
Shall follow me for all my days  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord  
Throughout all eternity

**COMMUNION 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.**

Father, you made the world and love your creation.  
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.  
His dying and rising have set us free  
from sin and death.  
And so we gladly thank you,  
with saints and angels praising you, and saying:

*All* **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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine out-poured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died  
he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life  
and cup of salvation,

we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free.  
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.  
Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

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

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

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.**

Draw near with faith.  
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.  
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving

5. When I survey the wondrous Cross  
On which the Prince of Glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast  
Save in the Cross of Christ my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See from his head, his hands, his feet  
Sorrow and love flow mingling down;  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine  
That were an offering far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

6. Father God, fill this place with your love,  
with your grace;  
as we call on your name,  
visit us in power again

Spirit come with your peace,  
heal our wounds, bring release;  
Lord, we long for your touch,  
fill our hearts with your love.

*Lord, we worship you;  
Lord, we worship you.*

### **Prayer after Communion**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood  
of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work  
to your praise and glory. AMEN.**

### **NOTICES and BIRTHDAYS**

7. In Christ alone my hope is found,  
he is my light, my strength, my song,  
this corner stone, this solid ground,  
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My comforter, my all in all,  
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh,  
fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness  
scorned by the ones he came to save;  
till on that cross as Jesus died,  
the wrath of God was satisfied  
for every sin on him was laid,  
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,  
light of the world by darkness slain  
then bursting forth in glorious day,

up from the grave he rose again!  
And as he stands in victory  
sin's cause has lost its grip on me,  
for I am his and he is mine,  
bought with the precious blood of Christ,

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
this is the power of Christ in me,  
from life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no human plan,  
can ever pluck me from his hand;  
till he returns or calls me home,  
here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

## **BLESSING:**

**Organ Music played by Dave**

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