



Welcome to St Alban's Church

Trinity 17

OPENING HYMN ©Michael Forster, b1946

1. Sing the Gospel of salvation,
Tell it out to all the earth;
to the ones so long excluded,
speak of hope and human worth.
All the darkness of injustice
cannot dim salvation's light,
for the outcast and exploited
count as worthy in God's sight.

2. Christ, the one eternal Shepherd,
calls creation to rejoice,
and the victims of oppression
thrill to hear salvation's voice.
All who recognize the Saviour
take their place within the fold,
there, in perfect truth and freedom,
life's eternal joys to hold.

3. See the host that none can number
gathers in from every side,
Once the victims of injustice,
now redeemed and glorified.
Fear and weeping here are ended,
hunger and oppression cease.
Now the lamb becomes the Shepherd!
Now begins the reign of peace!

† In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Brothers and sisters, as we prepare to celebrate the presence of Christ in word and sacrament, let us call to mind and confess our sins.

God be gracious to us and bless us, and make your face shine upon us:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May your ways be known on the earth, your saving power among the nations:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You, Lord, have made known your salvation, and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

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.**

THE GLORIA

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE COLLECT (The special prayer of the day)

Gracious God,
you call us to fullness of life:
deliver us from unbelief
and banish our anxieties
with the liberating love of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 5.1-7

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

² He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watch-tower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.
³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.

⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?

When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵ And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

⁶ I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷ For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice, but saw bloodshed;
righteousness, but heard a cry!

*After the reading ...*This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL
Matthew 21.33-end

**Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia.**

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

‘Listen to another parable.

There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watch-tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way.

³⁷ Finally he sent his son to them, saying, "They will respect my son." ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, "This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance." ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' ⁴¹ They said to him, 'He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.'

⁴² Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes"?

⁴³ Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.'

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

After the reading...This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE REFLECTION

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In the power of the Spirit, and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

At the end of the prayers we say together:

Merciful Father:

accept these prayers,

for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE PEACE

Blessed are the peace makers, for they shall be called children of God.

We meet in the name of Christ and we share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ, our risen high priest;
make yourself known in the breaking of bread. **Amen.**

THE EUCHARIST

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.

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 singing:

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.

New People's Mass, A Gregory Murray © 1975, 1987 McCrimmon

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 outpoured 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.

Great is the mystery of faith.

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

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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Alban, and 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.**

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.
And 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.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

God's holy gifts, for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'

An Act of Spiritual Communion

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.
I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and for ever. Amen.**

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us,
and make us continually to be given to all good works;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**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.**

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

May God, who in Christ gives us a spring of water welling up to eternal life, perfect in you the image of his glory; and the blessing ...

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

CLOSING HYMN *Music: George Job Elvey (1816-1893) Words: Matthew Bridges (1800-1894)*

**1. Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own!
Awake my soul and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless King
through all eternity.**

**2. Crown him the Virgin's Son,
The God incarnate born,
whose arm those crimson trophies won
which now his brow adorn:
Fruit of the mystic Rose,
as of that Rose the stem;
the Root whence mercy ever flows,
the babe of Bethlehem.**

**3. Crown him the Lord of love'
behold his hand and side,
rich wounds yet visible above
in beauty glorified:
no angel in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends his burning eye
at mysteries so bright.**

**4. Crown him the Lord of peace,
whose power a sceptre sways,
from pole to pole that wars may cease,
absorbed in prayer and praise:
His reign shall know no end,
and round his pierced feet
fair flowers of paradise extend
their fragrance ever sweet.**

**5. Crown him the Lord of heaven,
One with the Father known,
and the blest Spirit through him given,
from yonder triune throne:
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.**

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