

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Northampton
Trinity Sunday 2020



A service of the Word with Spiritual Communion

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic this service will be available online on our YouTube channel (visit [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for Holy Sepulchre Northampton). Subscribe to the channel to receive notifications when new videos are uploaded.

You are invited to join with the words in **bold**.



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This service includes an act of Spiritual Communion.

The term 'Spiritual Communion' has been used historically to describe the means of grace by which a person, prevented for some serious reason from sharing in a celebration of the Eucharist, nonetheless shares in the communion of Jesus Christ.

The Book of Common Prayer instructs us that if we offer ourselves in penitence and faith, giving thanks for the redemption won by Christ crucified, we may truly 'eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ', although we cannot receive the sacrament physically in ourselves. Making a Spiritual Communion is particularly fitting for those who cannot receive the sacrament at the great feasts of the Church, and it fulfils the duty of receiving Holy Communion 'regularly, and especially at the festivals of Christmas, Easter and Whitsun or Pentecost' (Canon B 15).

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'.

Taken from The Church of England- Guidance on Spiritual Communion and Coronavirus.
(<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/Guidance%20on%20Spiritual%20Communion%20and%20Coronavirus.pdf>)

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Invitation to Confession

We have too often exchanged the worship of the living God for
idols of our own imagining.

As we gather to offer our praises to the holy and undivided Trinity,
and to worship him in spirit and in truth,
let us call to mind our sins.

Silence is kept.

Father, you come to meet us when we return to you:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Jesus, you died on the cross for our sins:
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Spirit, you give us life and peace:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May the Father forgive us
by the death of his Son
and strengthen us
to live in the power of the Spirit
all our days.

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.

Holy God,
faithful and unchanging:
enlarge our minds with the knowledge of your truth,
and draw us more deeply into the mystery of your love,
that we may truly worship you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah:

Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand
and marked off the heavens with a span,
enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure,
and weighed the mountains in scales
and the hills in a balance?

Who has directed the spirit of the Lord,
or as his counsellor has instructed him?

Whom did he consult for his enlightenment,
and who taught him the path of justice?

Who taught him knowledge,
and showed him the way of understanding?

Even the nations are like a drop from a bucket,
and are accounted as dust on the scales;
see, he takes up the isles like fine dust.

Lebanon would not provide fuel enough,
nor are its animals enough for a burnt-offering.

All the nations are as nothing before him;
they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.

Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,

'My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God'?
Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

(Isaiah 40:12-17, 27-31 - NRSV)

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

- 1 O Lord our governor, ♦
how glorious is your name in all the world!
- 2 Your majesty above the heavens is praised ♦
out of the mouths of babes at the breast.
- 3 You have founded a stronghold against your foes, ♦
that you might still the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, ♦
the moon and the stars that you have ordained,
- 5 What is man, that you should be mindful of him; ♦
the son of man, that you should seek him out?
- 6 You have made him little lower than the angels ♦
and crown him with glory and honour.
- 7 You have given him dominion over the works of your hands ♦
and put all things under his feet,
- 8 All sheep and oxen, ♦

even the wild beasts of the field,
9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea ♦
and whatsoever moves in the paths of the sea.
10 O Lord our governor, ♦
how glorious is your name in all the world!

(Psalm 8 - Common Worship Psalter)

Second reading

A reading from the Second letter of Paul to the Corinthians:

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

(2 Corinthians 13:11-13 - NRSV)

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia.

‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations’

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all

nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

(Matthew 28:16-20 - NRSV)

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

Sermon

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

We come boldly to the throne of grace,
praying to the almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
for mercy and grace.

We plead before your throne in heaven.

Father of heaven, whose love profound
a ransom for our souls has found:
We pray for the world, created by your love,
for its nations and governments ...
Extend to them your peace, pardoning love, mercy and grace.

We plead before your throne in heaven.

Almighty Son, incarnate Word,
our Prophet, Priest, Redeemer, Lord:
We pray for the Church, created for your glory,
for its ministry to reflect those works of yours ...

Extend to us your salvation, growth, mercy and grace.

We plead before your throne in heaven.

Eternal Spirit, by whose breath
the soul is raised from sin and death:

We pray for families and individuals, created in your image,
for the lonely, the bereaved, the sick and the dying ...

Breathe on them the breath of life
and bring them to your mercy and grace.

We plead before your throne in heaven.

Thrice holy! Father, Spirit, Son,
Mysterious Godhead, Three in One:

We pray for ourselves,
for your Church, for all whom we remember before you ...

Bring us all to bow before your throne in heaven,
to receive life and pardon, mercy and grace for all eternity,
as we worship you, saying,

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Amen.**

The Peace

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.

Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace.

Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.

The peace of the triune God be always with you

and also with you.

The Lord's Prayer

As we prepare ourselves to make our Spiritual Communion let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Spiritual Communion

**My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament.
I love you above all things
and I desire you in my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
As though you were already there,
I embrace you and unite myself wholly to you;
never permit that I should be separated from you.
Amen.**

(Act of Spiritual Communion by St Alphonsus Liguori)

Silence is kept.

Prayer after Communion

Almighty and eternal God,
you have revealed yourself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
and live and reign in the perfect unity of love:
hold us firm in this faith,
that we may know you in all your ways
and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory,
who are three Persons yet one God,
now and for ever.

Amen.

Blessing & Dismissal

God the Father,
who first loved us and made us accepted in the beloved Son,
bless us.

Amen.

God the Son,
who loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood,
bless us.

Amen.

God the Holy Spirit,
who sheds abroad the love of God in our hearts,
bless us.

Amen.

The blessing of the one true God,
to whom be all love and all glory for time and for eternity,
come down upon us and remain with us always.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.