

# Lent 2 Communion – BCP

## Hymn – Thou didst leave thy throne

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z5jeNx66xAY>

Thou didst leave thy throne and thy kingly crown,  
when thou camest to earth for me;  
but in Bethlehem's home was there found no room  
for thy holy nativity:

Oh, come to my heart, Lord Jesus!  
There is room in my heart for Thee;

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,  
proclaiming thy royal degree;  
but in lowly birth didst thou come to earth,  
and in greatest humility:

Oh, come to my heart, Lord Jesus!  
There is room in my heart for Thee;

Thou didst come, O Lord, with the living Word  
that should set thy people free;  
but with mocking scorn, and with crown of thorn,  
they bore thee to Calvary:

Oh, come to my heart, Lord Jesus!  
There is room in my heart for Thee;

Heaven's arches shall ring, and a choir shall sing  
at thy coming to victory,  
let thy voice call me home, saying, "Yet there is room,  
there is room at my side for thee!"

And my heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus!  
when thou comest and callest for me.

## Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God,  
unto whom all hearts be open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hid:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love thee,  
and worthily magnify thy holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

## The Commandments

God spoke these words, saying, I am the Lord your God.

You shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself a graven image.

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Honour your father and mother.

You shall not kill.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

You shall not covet anything that is your neighbour's.

**Lord, have mercy upon us,  
and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.**

Almighty God, whose kingdom is everlasting, and power infinite: have mercy upon the whole Church; and so rule the heart of thy chosen servant Elizabeth, our Queen and Governor, that she (knowing whose minister she is) may above all things seek thy honour and glory: and that we and all her subjects (duly considering whose authority she hath) may faithfully serve, honour and humbly obey her, in thee, and for thee, according to thy blessed word and ordinance; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth, ever one God, world without end.

**Amen.**

## The Collect

Almighty God,

who showest to them that be in error the light of thy truth,

to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness:

grant unto all them that are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion,

that they may eschew those things that are contrary to their profession,

and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;

through our Lord Jesus Christ,

who liveth and reigneth with thee,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

**Amen**

## Old Testament Lesson

*The Old Testament Lesson is written in the fifteenth chapter of the book of Genesis, beginning at the first verse.*

Genesis 15.1-12,17-18

The word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the Lord came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.'

He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

Here endeth the Lesson.

# Epistle

*The Epistle is written in the third chapter of the Letter of Paul to the Philippians, beginning at the seventeenth verse.*

Philippians 3.17 – 4.1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Here endeth the Epistle.

## **Hymn – Take my life and let it be**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvEY4SqqCbo>

Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet, and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing  
always, only, for my King;  
take my lips, and let them be  
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold,  
not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect, and use  
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine;  
it shall be no longer mine.  
take my heart, it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take my self, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

## **Gospel**

*The holy Gospel is written in the thirteenth chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Luke, beginning at the thirty-first verse.*

**Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

Luke 13.31-35

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

# **The Creed**

**I believe in one God the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
and of all things  
visible and invisible:**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of his Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation  
came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man,  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried,  
and the third day he rose again  
according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.  
And he shall come again with glory  
to judge both the quick and the dead:  
whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who spake by the prophets.**

**And I believe one catholic and apostolic Church.  
I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.  
And I look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Sermon

In the light of the Russian attacks on Ukraine, it puts the first of today's readings, from Genesis, in a new light. It's about new people taking over someone else's country – Abram is promised by God that his descendants will have ownership of all the land from Egypt to the Euphrates – that is roughly Israel, Jordan and Syria today.

And it's also relevant that the gospel is about how to live in a country that has been invaded – Israel was invaded by the Romans seventy years before Jesus' birth, and throughout his life he encounters Roman soldiers who are the occupying force.

Paul, writing some years after Jesus' death, is grappling with the right way of living, whoever is in power. "Don't set your mind on earthly things" is his message.

They say that "History repeats itself" and that seems very true of today. I've heard quite a few people recently saying that Putin seems to be behaving like Hitler. Perhaps we can also learn a few lessons from further back in time in the Middle East.

Abram was a wandering herdsman based in Iraq, just south of Baghdad. One night he received a dream from God saying that he was to head over to the coastal Mediterranean and settle his tribe down as farmers. And his descendants would be as numerous as the stars. It sounds a beautiful image.

But we don't hear anything of the battles that must have been fought to gain control of the land. However, after the exile to Egypt brought about by famine, we know that Moses led the Israelites back to Israel ready for conflict as they had, for example, to fight for the city of Jericho.

There are some very distasteful stories in the Old Testament about the violence used – for example in Deuteronomy 9 God says "Know then today that the Lord your God is the one who crosses over before you as a devouring fire; he will defeat them and subdue them before you, so that you may dispossess and destroy them quickly, as the Lord has promised you."

It was this background of violent conquest in the land around the city of Jerusalem that was the setting for Jesus' life. The Romans were, in fact, a peaceful occupier at this time – the encounters Jesus had with them are heart-warming stories such as Jesus healing the legionary's daughter. And the soldiers seeking advice about their behaviour. "Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'"

I feel sure that it was Jesus' hope that whoever was in overall power in his country would allow all the different races and creeds to co-exist.

So when the Pharisees came to warn him that his life was in danger from Herod, he almost joked about it, calling Herod an "old fox."

But Jesus was very upset that there was the potential for violent conflict again in Jerusalem – it did indeed culminate in the violent destruction of the city and temple by the Romans forty years later. So he gave us his wonderful image of himself as a mother hen, gathering her brood under her wings. (Very different from the God of the Old Testament being in the forefront of the army.)

In the face of the violence in Ukraine, isn't it amazing that people on the ground are behaving just as Jesus wished? Protecting the vulnerable, helping women and children to safety, trying to prevent bloodshed.

And I guess it's the same reaction that most of us are feeling today – wanting to protect all those at the risk of harm, to save them somehow – sending money and supplies, pressing for sanctions against Russia, offering safe homes for refugees.

But it's really hard when we feel so powerless, and perhaps guilty that we can't do more.

And yet, over the coming months and years, we will all be bearing the burden of increased fuel prices and other inflationary rises – as we tighten our belts, can we see this as a way of supporting Ukraine?

St Paul encourages us to move away from seeking physical comfort, away from setting our minds on earthly things. He uses the image of our belly being our God to ridicule a lifestyle that depends on physical well-being. "Our citizenship is in heaven," he reminds us. It's our spirit that matters – it's as fruits of the spirit that justice and peace, love and goodwill flourish.

The people who are staying behind in Ukraine are clearly putting their bodies, their lives, at risk as they focus on keeping the spirit of the country alive. We can rejoice that so many of them are bravely showing their indomitable spirits.

Paul would recognise them as "standing firm", getting their priorities right, setting aside bodily comfort, injuries, even life itself, to join in supporting and encouraging the people in their communities.

Keeping the spirit alive, looking to Jesus – for "blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord".

Amen.



## Offertory

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.      Matthew 5.16

### **Hymn – There's a wideness in God's mercy**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq6NdOsCdOU>

There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in his justice  
which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more keenly felt than heaven:  
there is no place where earth's failings  
have such gracious judgement given.

For the love of God is broader  
than the scope of human mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.

But we make his love too narrow  
by false limits of our own;  
and we magnify his strictness  
with a zeal he will not own.

If our love were but more simple,  
we should take him at his word;  
and our lives would see more gladness  
in the joy of Christ our Lord.

## Intercession

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church militant here in earth.

Almighty and ever-living God, who by thy holy apostle hast taught us to make prayers and supplications, and to give thanks, for all men: we humbly beseech thee most mercifully to accept our alms and oblations, and to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy divine majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: and grant, that all they that do confess thy holy name may agree in the truth of thy holy word, and live in unity and godly love.

We beseech thee also to save and defend all Christian kings, princes and governors; and specially thy servant Elizabeth our Queen, that under her we may be godly and quietly governed: and grant unto her whole Council, and to all that are put in authority under her, that they may truly and impartially minister justice, to the maintenance of thy true religion and virtue.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops, priests and deacons, that they may both by their life and doctrine set forth thy true and lively word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy sacraments: and to all thy people give thy heavenly grace; and specially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy word; truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

And we most humbly beseech thee of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all them, who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear; beseeching thee to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only mediator and advocate. **Amen.**

## Invitation to Confession

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

## Confession

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
maker of all things, judge of all men:  
we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness,  
which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed,  
by thought, word and deed, against thy divine majesty,  
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.  
We do earnestly repent,  
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;  
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us;  
the burden of them is intolerable.  
Have mercy upon us,  
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;  
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and grant that we may ever hereafter  
serve and please thee in newness of life,  
to the honour and glory of thy name;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## Absolution

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins  
to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him:  
have mercy upon you;  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins;  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness;  
and bring you to everlasting life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Comfortable Words

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn  
to him:

Come unto me, all that travail and are heavy laden,  
and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11.28*

So God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son,  
to the end that all that believe in him should not perish,  
but have everlasting life. *John 3.16*

Hear also what Saint Paul saith:

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received,  
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1.15*

Hear also what Saint John saith:

If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father,  
Jesus Christ the righteous;  
and he is the propitiation for our sins.                      1 John 2.1,2

*The next part is the Holy Communion words for those in church:*

## **Preface**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

**It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right and our bounden duty,  
that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee,  
O Lord, holy Father,  
almighty, everlasting God.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we laud and magnify thy glorious name,  
evermore praising thee, and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,  
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.  
Amen.**

## **Prayer of Humble Access**

**We do not presume  
to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in thy manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy  
so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table.  
But thou art the same Lord,  
whose property is always to have mercy:  
grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ,  
and to drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body,  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

## **The Prayer of Consecration**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death, until his coming again:

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood:

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread;  
and, when he had given thanks, he brake it,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat;  
this is my body which is given for you:  
do this in remembrance of me.

Likewise after supper he took the cup;  
and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying,  
Drink ye all of this;  
for this is my blood of the new testament,  
which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins:  
do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.  
**Amen.**

O Lamb of God  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.

**O Lamb of God  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
have mercy upon us.**

**O Lamb of God  
that takest away the sins of the world,  
grant us thy peace.**

## **Giving of Communion**

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee,  
preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life.  
Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee,  
and feed on him in thy heart by faith with thanksgiving.

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee,  
preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life.  
Drink this in remembrance that Christ's blood was shed for thee, and be  
thankful.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour Christ hath commanded and taught us,  
we are bold to say

**Our Father, which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come;  
thy will be done,  
in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that 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.**

## Prayer after Communion

Almighty and ever-living God, we most heartily thank thee, for that thou dost vouchsafe to feed us, who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious body and blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom, by the merits of the most precious death and passion of thy dear Son. And we most humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

### Hymn – All my hope on God is founded

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W2oYTtyBSxk>

All my hope on God is founded  
he does still my trust renew;  
me through change and chance he guideth,  
only good and only true.  
God unknown, he alone,  
calls my heart to be his own.

Pride of man and earthly glory,  
sword and crown, betray his trust;  
what with care and toil he buildeth,  
tower and temple, fall to dust,  
but God's power, hour by hour,  
is my temple and my tower.

God's great goodness aye endureth,  
deep his wisdom, passing thought:  
splendour, light and life attend him,  
beauty springeth out of naught.  
Evermore, from his store  
newborn worlds rise and adore.

Still from man to God eternal  
sacrifice of praise be done,  
high above all praises praising  
for the gift of Christ, his Son.  
Christ doth call one and all:  
ye who follow shall not fall.

## **The Blessing**

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**