

# Trinity 4 Communion – BCP

## *Hymn – To God be the glory*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-15v9iworAU>

To God be the glory, great things he hath done:  
so loved he the world that he gave us his son,  
who yielded his life in atonement for sin,  
and opened the life gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!*

*O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory, great things he hath done.*

O, perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
to every believer the promise of God.  
The vilest offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice ...*

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,  
but purer, and higher, and greater will be  
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice...*

Frances Jane van Alstyne

(1820-1915)

## **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

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord;  
and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart,  
and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind,  
and with all thy strength.

This is the first commandment.

And the second is like, namely this:

Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

There is none other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**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

O God, the protector of all that trust in thee,  
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:  
increase and multiply upon us thy mercy  
that, thou being our ruler and guide,  
we may so pass through things temporal  
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;  
grant this, O heavenly Father,  
for Jesus Christ's sake our Lord,  
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 thirtieth chapter of the book of Deuteronomy, beginning at the ninth verse.*

*Deuteronomy 30.9-14*

Moses spoke to the people saying, The Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, when you obey the Lord your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?' No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

Here endeth the Lesson.

## Epistle

*The Epistle is written in the first chapter of the Letter of Paul to the Colossians, beginning at the first verse.*

*Colossians 1.1-14*

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow-servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Here endeth the Epistle.

### ***Hymn – He who would valiant be***

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_SL-mHuSymA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_SL-mHuSymA)

He who would valiant be  
'gainst all disaster,  
let him in constancy  
follow the Master.  
There's no discouragement  
shall make him once relent  
his first avowed intent  
to be a pilgrim.

Who so beset him round  
with dismal stories  
do but themselves confound  
his strength the more is.  
No foes shall stay his might;  
though he with giants fight,  
he will make good his right  
to be a pilgrim.

Since, Lord, thou dost defend  
us with thy Spirit,  
We know we at the end,  
shall life inherit.  
Then fancies flee away!  
I'll fear not what men say,  
I'll labour night and day  
to be a pilgrim.

Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)  
after John Bunyan (1628-1688)

# Gospel

*The holy Gospel is written in the tenth chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Luke, beginning at the twenty-fifth verse.*

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

*Luke 10.25-37*

A lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you.'

All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.'

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**

I must have read the parable of the Good Samaritan a hundred times, but when I read it again in preparation for today's service, one phrase jumped out at me that I'd never really noticed before:

'When he saw him, he was moved with pity.'

The Samaritan was moved with pity when he saw an injured man. And that's what distinguished him from the others.

I guess everyone feels pity from time to time? I know I do.

It can be for small things, like when a young bird flies into our glass patio doors with a loud bang. I always hope to see them get up and fly away, and they normally do, though sometimes it can take a while before they stir and rather groggily get back on their feet.

If they are just lying there, I will go out and make sure they are safe and comfortable – if necessary moving them to a sheltered place to recover. And I'll make sure Bridey (our spaniel) is kept well away.

Feeling pity for the young bird moves me to take action if necessary; and then I then feel pleased when they have recovered after my action. Pity moves me. If I did nothing and took no action, I would feel I had let the bird down.

The Samaritan was moved by the pity he felt, and was moved to do something about it.

Pity can be on any scale – like the feeling I guess almost everyone got when first seeing the people of Ukraine being made homeless, so many women and children being forced to flee; or when reading about a particularly brutal mass shooting, such as in a school.

We feel for them, we feel pity. Though perhaps pity is sometimes too weak a word – a stronger word is to say we feel “compassion.” And feel it deep inside, an almost a physical feeling. Some people have told me that they find themselves crying when they see these distressing images on TV. They are indeed disturbing images.

And it's wonderful how many people have been moved to action in some of the recent crises, responding when they can see that there is something that they can do.

Sadly, there seems to be very little, apart from prayer, that we can do about the shootings in America. But lots of people are making a big difference to the Ukrainians – raising large sums of money, and taking in refugees. About 90,000 Ukrainian refugees are now in the UK – indeed I met a Ukrainian family being shown round Widecombe Church on Sunday.

In Jesus' story, the important thing was the Samaritan was moved to action. He was “moved” by pity, he wanted to do something for the injured man. He didn't just walk past and do nothing.

I wonder whether the Priest or the Levite felt any pity? Jesus doesn't spell this out, just commenting that they passed by on the other side. It may be they were moved in a different way, by an opposite feeling, of revulsion.

Just as pity drives us to want to become involved, so revulsion can make us withdraw. For example, if something is too gory the BBC quite properly warns people that they might find it upsetting. Sometimes we do have to overcome revulsion in order to allow pity to move us.

But I suspect the Priest and the Levite weren't driven away by revulsion, but were simply suppressing any feelings of pity. They had become hardened, training themselves not to be drawn into difficult situations. Excusing themselves by arguing they had an important meeting or a Synagogue service to lead. They discovered it's possible to suppress pity if you work at it. It might even be seen as a good, professional attitude.

For example, it used to be that hospital doctors and nurses were trained to be unemotional, to be professional and not be drawn in, not to show their feelings. But in recent years there's been a turn-around – and they are being encouraged to show support, to show they care, to be sympathetic.

I would argue that this is a great step forward, allowing themselves to be human, to respond naturally.

But even the kindest and most caring of people find that when, say, they are flooded with distressing images day after day, each time they will feel them less, with pity being blunted by constant repetition. It's called Compassion Fatigue.

Similar to when yet another Charity Appeal comes through the letterbox – we can't support them all. The advertisers are relying on stimulating our sense of pity, but in fact are only blunting it. We become de-sensitised, and react less.

This could have happened to the Good Samaritan. What if he had come across another injured person a mile further on, and then another? Would he have been able to deal with them all?

I'm afraid it's all a bit messy, like the real world, and we have to make our own decisions about doing what we can, when we can. But being "moved to pity" was all that mattered in Jesus' story, the perfect example of how everyone should be.

What the Samaritan believed was irrelevant. Where he came from (a despised people) was irrelevant. Living a holy life was irrelevant.

Being important was irrelevant.

What mattered was what he felt, and how he then acted.

Sometimes I feel that some Christians get this back-to-front, focussing on what to believe rather than how to act.



But we learn from Jesus in this story that everyone is our neighbour, and that showing empathy, care and pity for our neighbours is to be a true Christian.

May we all allow ourselves to be moved by pity more often. 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 – When I needed a neighbour***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fExR7eOhJ00>

When I needed a neighbour  
Were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter  
Were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty  
Were you there, were you there?  
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?  
And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter  
Were you there?

When I needed a shelter  
Were you there, were you there?  
When I needed a shelter were you there?  
And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter  
Were you there?

Wherever you travel  
I'll be there, I'll be there  
Wherever you travel, I'll be there  
And the creed and the colour  
And the name won't matter  
I'll be there.

## **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 – The Servant King**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHYFFQJNa\\_I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VHYFFQJNa_I)

From heaven you came, helpless babe,  
Entered our world, your glory veiled;  
Not to be served but to serve,  
And give your life that we might live.

*This is our God, the Servant King,  
He calls us now to follow him,  
To bring our lives as a daily offering  
Of worship to the Servant King.*

There in the garden of tears,  
My heavy load he chose to bear;  
His heart with sorrow was torn,  
'Yet not my will but yours,' he said.

*This is our God, the Servant King,*

Come, see his hands and his feet,  
The scars that speak of sacrifice,  
Hands that flung stars into space  
To cruel nails surrendered.

*This is our God, the Servant King,*

So let us learn how to serve,  
And in our lives enthrone him;  
Each other's needs to prefer,  
For it is Christ we're serving.

*This is our God, the Servant King,*

Graham Kendrick  
© 1983 Kingsway Thankyou

### **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.**