

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

**All Amen.**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

**All**

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

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:  
The first commandment is this:  
'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.  
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'  
There is no other commandment greater than these.  
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**All Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

God so loved the world  
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ  
to save us from our sins,  
to be our advocate in heaven,  
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,  
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments  
and to live in love and peace with all.

**All** **Most merciful God,**  
**we confess to you,**  
**before the whole company of heaven and one another,**  
**that we have sinned in thought, word and deed**  
**and in what we have failed to do.**  
**Forgive us our sins,**  
**heal us by your Spirit**  
**and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.**

*The president says*

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.

**All** **Amen.**

**Gloria in Excelsis**

**All** **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 president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray'.*

Gracious Father,  
by the obedience of Jesus  
you brought salvation to our wayward world:  
draw us into harmony with your will,  
that we may find all things restored in him,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**All Amen.**

**A Reading**  
*Acts 16:19-40*

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, 'These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.' The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods.

After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.' The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' They answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' They spoke the

word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

When morning came, the magistrates sent the police, saying, 'Let those men go.' And the jailer reported the message to Paul, saying, 'The magistrates sent word to let you go; therefore come out now and go in peace.' But Paul replied, 'They have beaten us in public, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and now are they going to discharge us in secret? Certainly not! Let them come and take us out themselves.' The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens; so they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city. After leaving the prison they went to Lydia's home; and when they had seen and encouraged the brothers and sisters there, they departed.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**

**How sweet the name of Jesus sounds**

**Gospel Reading**

*Matthew 13.1-9, 18-23*

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

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!

Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

*After which the president says*

Let us declare our faith in God.

**The Creed**

**All We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family  
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us  
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

### The Peace

‘Where two or three are gathered together in my name,’  
says the Lord, ‘there am I in the midst of them.’

*All* The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### Hymn

#### The Lord's my shepherd

Pour upon the poverty of our love,  
and the weakness of our praise,  
the transforming fire of your presence.

*All* **Amen.**

### The Eucharistic Prayer

*All* The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

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.**

It is always right to give you thanks,  
God our Creator,  
loving and faithful,  
holy and strong.

You made us  
and the whole universe,  
and filled your world with life.

You sent your Son to live among us,  
Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.  
He suffered on the cross;  
he died to save us from our sins;  
he rose in glory from the dead.

You send your Spirit  
to bring new life to the world,  
and clothe us with power from on high.  
And so we join the angels  
to celebrate and sing:

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

Father, on the night before he died,  
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.  
He took the bread, and thanked you.  
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.  
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you.  
This is my blood,  
the new promise of God's unfailing love.  
Do this to remember me.

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

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,  
and remember his death and resurrection,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that we who share these gifts  
may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Pour your Spirit on us  
that we may love one another,  
work for the healing of the earth,  
and share the good news of Jesus,  
as we wait for his coming in glory.

For honour and praise belong to you, Father,  
with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit:  
one God, for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**All** **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.**

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

**All** **Though we are many, we are one body,**  
**because we all share in one bread.**

**All** **Lamb of God**  
**You take away the sins of the world**  
**Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God**  
**You take away the sins of the world**  
**Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God**  
**You take away the sins of the world**  
**Grant us peace.**

**All** **Most merciful Lord,**  
**your love compels us to come in.**  
**Our hands were unclean,**  
**our hearts were unprepared;**  
**we were not fit**  
**even to eat the crumbs from under your table.**  
**But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,**  
**and share your bread with sinners.**  
**So cleanse and feed us**  
**with the precious body and blood of your Son,**



that he may live in us and we in him;  
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,  
may sit and eat in your kingdom.  
**Amen.**

## **Anthem**

**I give you a new commandment, Aston**

## **Prayer after Communion**

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,  
that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered  
by your governance,  
that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** **You have opened to us the Scriptures, O Christ,**  
**and you have made yourself known**  
**in the breaking of the bread.**  
**Abide with us, we pray,**  
**that, blessed by your royal presence,**  
**we may walk with you**  
**all the days of our life,**  
**and at its end behold you**  
**in the glory of the eternal Trinity,**  
**one God for ever and ever.**  
**Amen.**

## **Hymn**

**Great is thy faithfulness**

## **Blessing**

The peace of God,  
which passes 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 Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All** **Amen.**

**All** Go in the peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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