



Family Communion 19th September 2021

"Sing to the Lord, you servants of his; give thanks to his holy name..." Ps.30.4

The Gathering

Welcome & Notices

Opening Prayer

Loving, gracious God,
who does not put us in order – greatest to least,
best to worst, loved most to loved least,
or any other order:
be with us as we spend time
with one another and with you.
Help us to listen to you as you speak to us
and challenge us, love us and encourage us.
Amen.

Song Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it

1 Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it,
for by his power each tree and flower was planned and made.
Jesus is Lord! The universe declares it.
Sun, moon and stars in heaven cry Jesus is Lord!

Chorus

Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord!

Praise him with alleluias for Jesus is Lord!

2 Jesus is Lord! Yet from his throne eternal
in flesh he came to die in pain on Calvary's tree.
Jesus is Lord! From him all life proceeding,
yet gave his life a ransom thus setting us free.

Chorus

3 Jesus is Lord! O'er sin the mighty conqueror,
from death he rose and all his foes shall own his name.
Jesus is Lord! God sends his Holy Spirit
to show by works of power that Jesus is Lord.

Chorus

Sung by the St Martin's Voices, David J Mansell (born 1936) © 1982 Authentic Publishing/Adm. by Kingsway songs, a division of David C Cook, www.kingswayworship.co.uk Used by permission (CCLI 39829)

Summary of the law

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

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Confession

(Take a moment to think about what jostling for position means to you. Where do you see yourself in relation to others?)

Jesus said: 'Anyone who wants to be first must be last.' Lord,
for the times I've put myself first, or argued with people,
because I think I know better than them or that I am better
than them...

**Lord, please forgive me,
and teach me my rightful place in you.**

For the times when I don't want to be a servant because I think I'm capable of greater things...

**Lord, please forgive me,
and teach me my rightful place in you.**

When I don't recognise Christ in those around me because I'm too busy looking out for myself...

**Lord, please forgive me,
and teach me my rightful place in you.**

When I don't understand what people mean, perhaps not understanding their feelings of fear or inadequacy...

**Lord, please forgive me,
and teach me my rightful place in you.**

When I jostle for position, rather than being happy where you put me...

**Lord, please forgive me,
and teach me my rightful place in you.**

Assurance of forgiveness

You challenge us, Lord, when we do wrong.

You get us to focus by using questions,
even though you know the answers.

Your image is present in each one of us.

When we confess our sins,
you are always there to forgive us.

We stand now, humbly in your presence. Forgiven.

Acknowledging that you are the greatest (keep silence).

Amen.

Collect

**Lord of creation, whose glory is around and within us: open our eyes to your wonders,
that we may serve you with reverence and know your peace at our lives' end, through
Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen

Reading Mark 9.30-37 read by Pam Blewett

30 They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, **31** because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, 'The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.' **32** But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

33 They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' **34** But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest.

35 Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, 'Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.'

36 He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, **37** 'Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.'

Sermon Nigel Lowe is opening God's Word for us today

Song All who are thirsty

Led by Brittany Hurlbert, Tim Packer, Sam Plyming and Brandon Hurlbert for evening worship during lockdown at St Nic's Church, Durham, Sunday 13 December 2020. Written by Songwriters: Brenton Brown & Glenn Robertson

Apostles Creed

**I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried.**

**He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

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

In you O Lord

Do we put our trust

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. If you love me, rejoice because I am going to the Father.' Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

We know that Christians have shared a sign of peace since the very earliest days of the Church. In these times, it may seem strange to 'share the Peace.' But peace is from the heart and from God. God's peace in the Spirit moves among us and unites us, physically distanced yet one in the Body of Christ.

Eucharistic Prayer

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, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word, through whom you have created all things; who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh; as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin, he lived on earth and went about among us; he opened wide his arms for us on the cross; he put an end to death by dying for us; and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life; so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

**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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke 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.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying:

*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.*

Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life: Lord Jesus, come in glory.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Breaking of the bread

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

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

Giving of Communion

The body of Christ bread for the world. The blood of Christ, the cup of abundance.

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

We are invited to make spiritual Communion with God, who comes to meet us wherever we are. And as we do so please listen to 'As the Deer pants.'

Prayer after communion

And we say together ...

**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 Dismissal

Song Tell out, my soul

1 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!

Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;

tender to me the promise of his word;

in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

2 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his Name!

Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;

his mercy sure, from age to age the same;

his holy Name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

3 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!

Powers and dominions lay their glory by.

Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

4 Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!

Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord

to children's children and for evermore!

Timothy Dudley-Smith (born 1926) from Luke 1 vs46-55, © administered by Oxford University Press in Europe (including UK and Ireland) and Africa, and by Hope Publishing Company in all other territories (including USA) (CCLI 27051; OL 73764)

Final Prayer & Blessing

**Lord, Jesus, may we go out into the world to shine with your love,
listen with your ears and speak words of kindness and hope
to everyone we meet – in your name.
Amen.**

Thank you for joining us today.



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Thank you for whatever you are able to give

Jostling for position

Mark 9.30-37

Where we find Jesus spending time with his disciples, trying to teach them about who he is and what will happen to him. But his disciples are more interested in which of them is the most important. Jesus teaches them that being great in God's eyes means making yourself less and thinking about other people more.

Now read **Mark 9.30-37** see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

Jesus knows the score: he knows what his disciples have been arguing about and he knows that, as humans, we're hardwired to look out for ourselves. How many times have you compared yourself with other people and been annoyed if someone else seems to have more, or something bigger or better than you? But Jesus says that, in God's kingdom, the opposite is true. You want to be important and have the best of everything? Then put other people first, and you will gain a spiritual reward that is beyond anything the world can offer.



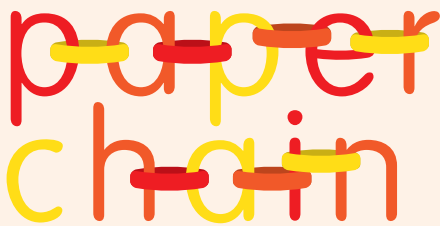
Ask yourself: Who or what would you put on the empty plinth in Trafalgar Square?

ORDER

Chat to friends or family members and organise yourselves in order from best to worst (or first to last) in various categories, such as 'best at loading the dishwasher', 'best cook' or 'champion arm wrestler'! Alternatively, organise Prime Ministers over the last 10 years in order from best to worst, or top 10 musicals or footballers – or whatever other category you want to use.



List all the privileges you gain as you get older – more pocket money, playing with friends without adults, staying up later, watching certain programmes, getting a phone, buying alcohol, voting, etc. Now list all the responsibilities that go along with these privileges. How can we use our privileges and status to celebrate and help others?



Make a paper chain of people (first cut a strip of paper, then fold it several times – one way and then the other. Draw a person, ensuring the hands and feet are touching the edges. Cut out carefully to keep the chain intact, cutting around the outline and leaving the connected edges). Unfold the paper chain and, on one side, draw in faces as if the line is moving forwards. On the other side, draw in faces as if the line is moving in the opposite direction (so that the first is last and the last is first). Put your paper chain up somewhere you'll see it to remind you to put others before yourself, trusting that God will take care of you.

ACROSTIC



Take each of the letters in the word 'first' and, for each, think of a word that reflects the qualities of God's kingdom. For example, your first word could be fair.



The next time you have the chance to push yourself forward – when treats are being shared out, when only one of something is left, or when you're arguing about who gets to choose what you watch on TV, remember Jesus' words. When we put others before ourselves on this earth, we store up even greater rewards in heaven.