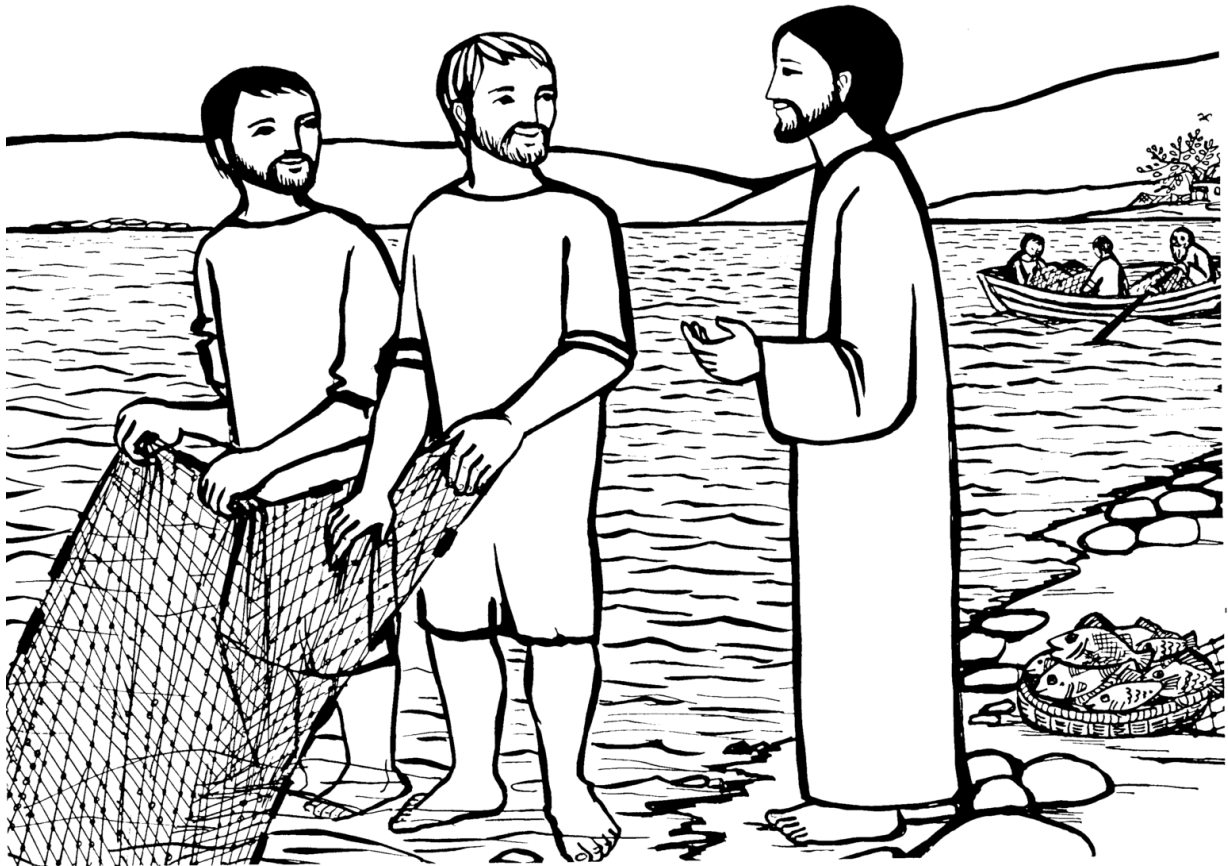


United Benefice of Berrow with Pendock Eldersfield, Hollybush and Birtsmorton



Holy Communion
for the Sundays after Trinity

THE WELCOME

Do have a candle, glass of juice/wine and cracker/piece of bread ready

THE FIRST HYMN

The Lord be with you
and also with you

**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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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.

(There will be a time of silence for reflection before we say the Confession together.)

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry, and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,
Forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Almighty God,
who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,
forgive you your sins,
open your eyes to God's truth,
strengthen you to do God's will
and give you the joy of his kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

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 WORD OF GOD

THE COLLECT

Merciful God,
you have prepared for those who love you
such good things as pass our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love toward you
that we, loving you in all things and above all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen

THE READINGS: Amos 7:7-17, Ephesians: 1: 3-14

THE GOSPEL READING: Mark 8: 22-26

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N.*
Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the reading:
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

Do you recognise a plumb line?



Amos is asking his listeners to think about the plumb line they know and imagine God similarly measuring them as a nation: their fairness and justice.

What would your plumb line look like?

The Jewish practice of hanging a mezuzah by the door. So that they touch it each time they enter and leave their home. There are the two great commands on it – you shall love God and love your neighbour.

What helps us to remember those 2 commandments in particular?

Consistently, Paul emphasizes the will of God as being important, and not that of our human will. The focus is on what God is doing in our lives, not on what we human beings are doing. God's clear and definite purpose is to lovingly adopt us into his family, so that we clearly know we are sons and daughters of God. God treats us and loves when we are adopted, we become full sons and daughters. We no longer remain as orphans who may grow up to be sold off as slaves. There is no greater privilege than to be sons and daughters. God is loving us like a son or daughter and giving us eternal life. As God's children, we are to live in peace with each other.

To do the will of God brings much to our lives. Jesus told the story or parable about two sons: one who listened to the father and one who didn't. In the Prodigal son, eventually the younger son who hadn't listened returned and was warmly welcomed back into the household, much to the muttering of the elder son. Jesus taught his disciples to pray: Our father who art in heaven, holy be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. The only thing Jesus said in this prayer about God's will was to do it. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus was facing enormous suffering and he prayed, "Not my will, but yours be done."

So when we study the will of God in Jesus and the Gospels, we hear a clear persistence and insistence that we Christians are not to spend time thinking about, contemplating and discovering the will of God. The Bible's clear insistence is that we do the will of God.

The stories from Jesus' life are so clear: we are to show the love of God for all people around us. The true family of Jesus are the ones who do the love, who don't simply talk about it, pray about it, think about it. That's what the Pharisees were good at: talking and praying and thinking about the will of God as a clever device to cover up the fact that they were not doing the love of God in their daily lives.

What is the will of God for my life?

The will of God. God's plan and design is so clear; for us to know and live like we are God's loving sons and daughters. And then God puts energy, determination, and will into accomplishing that great plan.

To further the "Kingdom of God." God enlists our help in making this dream come to reality—and Jesus helps us know what we can do to contribute to the building of that kingdom. Jesus tells us we can love our neighbours as ourselves. Jesus tells us we can love our enemies, and repay violence with kindness. Jesus tells us we can repent and forgive one another. The kingdom of God is not built with bricks, it is built with ideas—and these are some of the foundation ideas.

The author of Ephesians refers to God's gift of grace as a lavish inheritance. Something we didn't earn, but which is gifted to us.

When Jesus takes the blind man and spits in his eyes, the man rubs them and he is partially healed. He can see things, but not quite clearly.

Jesus puts his spit in the man's eyes, but Jesus has to try again. And Jesus does not give up on us too. Jesus keeps at us, trying again and again and again to heal us. Sometimes we have moments of clarity, and sometimes things are a bit hazy.

The revelation of our place in the Kingdom of God usually unfolds little by little, experience by experience. Repentance means turning around, it means having the courage and the heart to admit our Sin and seek salvation!

When we confess to God, we express our repentance by showing forgiveness and reconciliation among one another in the community. If we confess our sins, accept forgiveness and give forgiveness, we have a lot clearer vision of God's message for us.

The lavishness of grace is sometimes hard to believe or comprehend. We are adopted by God into the family of forgiveness. We live with this freshness in our hearts. We must continue to forgive and be forgiven, so that our eyes remain clear on this message, and so this message is communicated through our lives to others!
Amen

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;**

he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

At the end of the prayers:

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE PEACE

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

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

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

**As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now reunited on this table in the bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole church
soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth
into your kingdom. Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us

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.

Let us pray

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

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, in the company of [N and] all the saints,
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

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

**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 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.**

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast

(consume)

THE PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

God of our pilgrimage, you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**We thank you, Lord,
that you have fed us in this physical and spiritual sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples.
Amen.**

THE FINAL HYMN

THE 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. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.