



Holy Communion

9.30am – Sunday 25th Oct 2026

Last Sunday after Trinity

Come down, O love divine, 175
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round,
the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing:
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings
weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass
the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till he become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

Bianco da Siena

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Gathering and Greeting

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

All: Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.

All: And also with you

Welcome – Revd John Lenton

Prayers of Penitence

As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of
God's love, revealed in Word and
Sacrament, let us call to mind our sins.

Confession

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.

Assurance of forgiveness

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. Amen.

Gloria

Glory to God, Glory to God
Glory to God in the highest,
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.

Glory to God, Glory to God
Glory to God in the highest,
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.
Glory to God, Glory to God
Glory to God in the highest,
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.
Glory to God, Glory to God
Glory to God in the highest.

The Collect

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
All: Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Nehemiah 8.1–12

¹ All the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel.

² So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. ³ He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

⁴ Ezra the teacher of the Law stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion. Beside him on his right stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah and Maaseiah; and on his left were Pedaiah, Mishael, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam.

⁵ Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing

above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. ⁶ Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, 'Amen! Amen!' Then they bowed down and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

⁷ The Levites – Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah – instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there.

⁸ They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read. ⁹ Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep.' For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

¹⁰ Nehemiah said, 'Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.' ¹¹ The Levites calmed all the people, saying, 'Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve.'

¹² Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119.9–16

Lead me, O Lord, in the path of your commandments.

⁹ How shall young people cleanse their way • to keep themselves according to your word?

¹⁰ With my whole heart have I sought you; • O let me not go astray from your commandments.

Lead me, O Lord, in the path of your commandments.

¹¹ Your words have I hidden within my heart, • that I should not sin against you.

¹² Blessed are you, O Lord; • O teach me your statutes.

Lead me, O Lord, in the path of your commandments.

¹³ With my lips have I been telling • of all the judgements of your mouth.

¹⁴ I have taken greater delight in the way of your testimonies • than in all manner of riches.

Lead me, O Lord, in the path of your commandments.

¹⁵ I will meditate on your commandments • and contemplate your ways.

¹⁶ My delight shall be in your statutes • and I will not forget your word.

Lead me, O Lord, in the path of your commandments.

New Testament Reading

Colossians 3.12–17

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. ¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you

teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 13:31-32

³¹ He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field.

³² Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – Revd John Lenton

Kingdom Questions

3. *Why does it all seem so small?*

Profession of Faith

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy

Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

This response may be used:

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

And at the end: Merciful Father,

Accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross. We meet in his name and share his peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: And also with you.

All for Jesus, all for Jesus,
this our song shall ever be;
for we have no hope, nor Saviour,
if we have not hope in thee.

All for Jesus, thou wilt give us
strength to serve thee, hour by hour;
none can move us from thy presence
while we trust thy love and power.

All for Jesus, thou hast loved us;
all for Jesus, thou hast died;
all for Jesus, thou art with us;
all for Jesus crucified.

All for Jesus, all for Jesus,
this the church's song must be,
till, at last, we all are gathered,
one in love and one in thee.

W Sparrow-Simpson ©

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

All: 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 truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God. From sunrise to sunset this day is holy, for Christ has risen from the tomb and scattered the darkness of death with light that will not fade. This day the risen Lord walks with your gathered people, unfolds for us your word, and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread. And though the night will overtake this day you summon us to live in endless light, the never-ceasing sabbath of the Lord. And so, with choirs of angels and with all the heavenly host, we proclaim your glory and join their unending song of praise.

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.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his
command, grant that by the power of your
Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
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.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember
his offering of himself made once for all
upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty
resurrection and glorious ascension; we
look for the coming of your kingdom, and
with this bread and this cup we make the
memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus.

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

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and
as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the
presence of your divine majesty, renew us
by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and
unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who
stand before you in earth and heaven, we
worship you, Father almighty, in songs of
everlasting praise:

All: Blessing and honour and glory and
power be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour
has taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be
thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be
done; on 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.

The Breaking of Bread

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.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the
world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the
world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the
world, grant us peace.

The Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of
our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for
you, and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died
for you, and feed on him in your hearts by
faith with thanksgiving.

Prayer after Communion

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Church family news

Thy hand, O God, has guided
thy flock, from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written,
full clear, on every page;
our fathers owned thy goodness,
and we their deeds record;
and both of this bear witness:
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

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Thy heralds brought glad tidings
to greatest, as to least;
they bade men rise, and hasten
to share the great King's feast;
and this was all their teaching,
in every deed and word,
to all alike proclaiming
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

Through many a day of darkness,
through many a scene of strife,
the faithful few fought bravely,
to guard the nation's life.
Their Gospel of redemption,
sin pardoned, man restored,
was all in this enfolded:
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

Thy mercy will not fail us,
nor leave thy work undone;
with thy right hand to help us,
the victory shall be won;
and then, by men and angels,
thy name shall be adored,
and this shall be their anthem:
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

EH Plumtre ©

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; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen

Dismissal

Go in peace to love
and serve the Lord.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen

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Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England
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Readings for next Sunday

1st November – All Saints

Revelation 7.9–17

Psalms 34.1–10

1 John 3.1–3

Matthew 13:33–35

The week ahead

Sun 25 th	9.30am 11am	Holy Communion Morning Service
Mon 26 th		
Tues 27 th		
Wed 28 th		
Thurs 29 th	12 noon	Holy Communion
Fri 30 th		
Sat 31 st	4.30pm	Light Stop
Sun 1 st	9.30am 11am	Holy Communion Morning Service

Looking ahead...

Autumn dates – more details to follow

Sat 31st Oct – Children's LIGHT STOP

Sat 14th Nov – Women's Brunch

Sat 21st Nov – Fair and Fun Day

Sermon Series for October & November

Running through the Sundays in October and November we will be looking at parables from Matthew 13 that will answer a series of *"Kingdom Questions"*



Light Stop – Sat 31st October

This Saturday 31st October, from 4:30 to 6.30pm in the vicarage garden/driveway, we will be holding an alternative

celebration of Halloween, which we call *Light Stop!* This will be a great opportunity to shine the light of Jesus into the darkness of Halloween and to engage with our community at a time they will already be out and about. We'll be providing lots of light, hot chocolate, fun and nothing scary! If you are available to help run a station or to mingle or set up - please let Jess know!



Fair and Fun Day

Sat 21st Nov

Put the date in your diary – sign up to serve at the event.

Please also pray ...

Tim Vickers of Graduate Impact is supported by St Peter's as one of its six ministry and mission partners. Please find their letter with specific prayer point requests on the blue table.