

Holy Communion for Remembrance Sunday



The Stour Valley Benefice

Cavendish, Clare, Hundon, Poslingford, Stoke-by-Clare & Wixoe

- Introduction to the Season –

The period between All Saints and Advent is often referred to as Remembrance-tide and it is a time when we explore the theme of memory, both corporate and individual, and confront issues of war and peace, loss and forgetting.

It is a time when we are reminded that redemption is a work of God's grace; it is God who redeems us in Christ and there is nothing to be done beyond what Christ has done. But we still wait for the final consummation of God's new creation in Christ; those who are Christ's, whether or not they have passed through death, are joined in prayer that God's kingdom will be revealed finally and in all its fullness. We also sense that it is a fearful thing to come before the unutterable goodness and holiness of God, even for those who are redeemed in Christ that it is searing as well as life-giving to experience God's mercy.



Spiritual Communion

The term 'Spiritual Communion' has been used historically to describe the means of grace by which a person, prevented for some serious reason from sharing in a celebration of the Eucharist, nonetheless shares in the communion of Jesus Christ.

In joining with Revd Mark today as he celebrates the Eucharist from his own home, you too are able to join with him in communion. The Book of Common Prayer instructs us that if we offer ourselves in penitence and faith, giving thanks for the redemption won by Christ crucified, we may truly 'eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ', although we cannot receive the sacrament physically in ourselves.

The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'.

Hymn – O God, our help in ages past

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all its sons away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our home for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home.

(Isaac Watts 1674-1748)

The Gathering

Minister: We meet in the presence of God to commit ourselves to
work in penitence and faith for reconciliation between
the nations, that all people may, together, live in

freedom, justice and peace. We pray for all who in bereavement, disability and pain continue to suffer the consequences of fighting and terror. We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow those whose lives, in world wars and conflicts past and present, have been given and taken away.

The Greeting

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: and also with you.

Prayer of Preparation

**All: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from who 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.**

Prayers of Penitence

Minister: Let us confess to God the sins and shortcomings of the world; its pride its selfishness, its greed; its evil divisions and hatreds. Let us confess our share in what is wrong, and our failure to seek and establish that peace which God wills for his children.

**All: Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ, we confess that we have sinned in
thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,**

**and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk
humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

Absolution

Minister: 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 Collect

Minister: Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in
your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and
minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the

nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; 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 (*Malachi 4:1-2a NRSV*)

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

Minister: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading (*2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 NRSV*)

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labour we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

Minister: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading (*Luke 21:5-19 NRSV*)

Reader: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.'

They asked him, 'Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?' And he said, 'Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and, "The time is near!" Do not go after them.

'When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

Minister: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Creed

**All: 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

Minister: Let us pray for God's peace in the Church and in the world.

Keep the Church vigilant against error and false doctrine. As we give thanks for our places of worship, help us to remember that all earthly things will pass away. Teach us to be faithful in the Temple of the Spirit.

Have mercy on the world where nation rises against nation and the hearts of many are torn with anger. Bring the blessings of peace where there is war and violence. Protect your people from those who by abuse of power would deceive and lead astray those they govern.

Grant clear sight to us, to our families, friends and neighbours, that we may discern the truth and not fall into false ways. Give integrity and sureness of purpose to those who hold authority in this community.

Visit and relieve all who are suffering from natural disasters, the victims of famine and the victims of human aggression. Lead back into the right way all who have been brought to sorrow by following false leaders.

We pray for those who have come to the end of life in this world. Grant them peace in the world where there is no strife or danger, but joy that will not pass away.

We offer our prayer through Christ, in whose name alone we put our trust.

Minister: Merciful Father,

All: accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Minister: Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives." (*John 14:27*)
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: and also with you.

Preparation of the Altar

The Eucharistic Prayer

Minister: The Lord is here.

All: His Spirit is with us.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: it is right to give thanks and praise.

Minister: Living God, Father of light,
hope of nations, friend of sinners,
builder of the city that is to come:
your love is made visible in Jesus Christ,
you bring home the lost, restore the sinner

and give dignity to the despised.
In the face of Jesus Christ your light shines out,
flooding lives with goodness and truth,
gathering into one a divided and broken humanity.
With people from every race and nation,
with the Church of all the ages,
with the apostles, evangelists, and martyrs,
we join the angels of heaven in their unending song:

**All: 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.**

Minister: Lord God, you are the most holy one,
enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ
you reveal the power of your love
made perfect in our human weakness.

Embracing our humanity,
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;
loving us to the end,
he gave himself to death for us;
dying for his own,
he set us free from the bonds of sin,
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave himself for us all
he 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 we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross, we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb, we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high and we long for his coming in glory.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; form us into the likeness of Christ and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Look with favour on your people
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.

Bless the earth,
heal the sick,
let the oppressed go free
and fill your Church with power from on high.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast
with all your saints at the table in your kingdom,
where the new creation is brought to perfection in
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

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

**All: 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Minister: 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.**

The Agnus Dei

All: **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.**

Giving of Communion

Minister: 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.

All: **We do not presume to come to this your table,
merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.**

**We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your 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 Minister receives communion on behalf of all those in our community who are unable to be present.

Prayer after Communion

Minister: God of peace, whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom and restored the broken to wholeness of life: look with compassion on the anguish of the world, and by your healing power make whole both people and nations; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

**All: 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.**

An Act of Commitment

Minister: Let us pledge ourselves anew to the service of God and our fellow men and women: that we may help, encourage and comfort others, and support those working for the relief of the needy and for the peace and welfare of the nations.

All: **Lord God our Father, we pledge ourselves to serve you and all humankind, in the cause of peace, for the relief of want and suffering, and for the praise of your name. Guide us by Spirit, give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope; and keep us faithful now and always. Amen.**

A Prayer for the Armed Forces

Minister: Almighty God, stretch forth your mighty arm to strengthen and protect the armed forces; grant that meeting danger with courage and all occasions with discipline and loyalty, they may truly serve the cause of justice and peace; to the honour of your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Dismissal

Minister: God grant to the living grace, to the departed rest, to the Church, the King, the Commonwealth and all people, unity, peace and concord, and to us and all God's servants, life everlasting; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always.

All: **Amen.**

Minister: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

Hymn – For the healing of the nations

For the healing of the nations,
Lord, we pray with one accord,
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom,
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.

You, Creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.

Fred Kaan (1929-2009)
© 1968 Stainer & Bell Ltd

Common Worship: Times and Seasons & Common Worship: Festivals, material from which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council, 2006 & 2008.

Scripture quotations from *The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible*, is copyright © The Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches in the USA, 1989.

Intercessions are taken from *Hear our Prayer, Gospel-Based intercessions for Sundays, Holy Days and Festivals – Years A, B & C*, is copyright © Raymond Chapman 2003, published by The Canterbury Press Norwich 2007

(November 2023)