# Growing Vocations: Vocations Sunday 3 May 2020

**Holy Communion (Common Worship Order One)**

**The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**The Gathering**

*A hymn may be sung*

*The president may say:*

In the name of the Father,

and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**The Greeting**

*The president greets the people:*

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you

**and also with you.**

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

**Let us rejoice and sing God’s praise for ever.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Words of welcome or introduction may be said:*

On this Vocations Sunday we give thanks to God that he calls us all to

varieties of forms of service in his Church and in the world. And so we pray

for openness to his Holy Spirit, that each of us may discern the call of God

upon our lives.

**Prayer of Preparation**

**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.**

**Prayers of Penitence**

*A minister says:*

‘I set no store by life:

I only want to finish the race and complete the task

that the Lord has assigned to me,

of bearing witness to the gospel of God’s grace.’

Let us confess our failure to live up to our calling.

Lord Jesus, you said to your disciples:

‘You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.’

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, we know that the harvest is plentiful

but the labourers are few.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you appointed us to go and bear fruit that will last.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*The president says:*

May God who loved the world so much

that he sent his Son to be our Saviour

forgive *you y*our sins

and make *you* holy to serve him in the world,

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Gloria in Excelsis may be said or sung.*

**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**

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer with these or other suitable words:*

Let us pray for the ministry of the whole people of God.

*The Collect is said.*

Almighty and everlasting God,

by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church

is governed and sanctified:

hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,

that in their vocation and ministry

they may serve you in holiness and truth

to the glory of your name;

through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

**The Liturgy of the Word**

*One or two readings precede the Gospel reading.*

*The reading from the Acts of the Apostles should be used.*

**First Reading - Acts 2:42-end**

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.  Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 23**

Refrain: I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

1 The Lord is my shepherd; ♦

therefore can I lack nothing.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures ♦

and leads me beside still waters. ***R***

3 He shall refresh my soul ♦

and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil; ♦

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ***R***

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; ♦

you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.

6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, ♦

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Refrain: I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**Second Reading – 1 Peter 2:19-end**

For it is to your credit if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God’s approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

‘He committed no sin,and no deceit was found in his mouth.’

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

*At the end the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*A hymn or song may be sung*

**Gospel Reading – John 10:1-10**

*The following acclamation may herald the reading of the Gospel*

Alleluia, alleluia.

Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be the servant of all.

**Alleluia.**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says:*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

‘Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**The Creed**

*The president says:*

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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.

**With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.**

He 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**

Lord God and Father of all,

over all and in all and through all:

we give thanks that we are called to your service;

may all your people may be attentive and obedient to your calling.

Lord, hear your people

**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be apostles, sent out to do your work.

We pray for all who respond to this calling to serve in your name:

for those immersed in the world, seeking to bear witness to the gospel in word and action,

for those whose service takes them to places where they face opposition and difficulty,

may they be continually filled with your Spirit, and empowered to follow your calling.

Lord, hear your people

**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be prophets.

We pray for all whom you have called to speak out and proclaim the values of your kingdom:

for those who challenge injustice and apathy and untruth,

for those who campaign for the well-being of your people and your world

may they be continually filled with your vision, and have courage in their prophetic calling.

Lord, hear your people

**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be evangelists.

We pray for all whom you have called to share the message of your love:

for those who communicate the good news of Christ to others from a variety of backgrounds,

for those whose enthusiasm and love conveys your truth,

may they be filled with your love as they share the good news with others.

Lord, hear your people

**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be pastors.

We pray for all whom you have called to care for others through prayer and through service:

for those who take care of any who are young or old, who are sick or struggling,

for those whose work supports medical, social and community services,

may their lives be channels of your love and grace.

Lord, hear your people

**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all, we give thanks that you call some to be teachers.

We pray for all whom you have called to encourage adults and children to learn and grow:

for those who teach informally as parents, mentors and facilitators,

for workers in schools, colleges and universities, and for those who teach in our churches,

may they speak your truth, and help others to grow in wisdom.

Lord, hear your people

**and answer our prayers.**

Lord of all,

you have called each of us to serve you

in your world and in your Church;

strengthen and equip us by your Spirit

to recognise your call to us,

and give us grace and courage to fulfill that calling.,

through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen.**

**The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

**The Peace**

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples

and said, ‘Peace be with you.’

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

*cf John 20.19*

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

**Preparation of the Table**

*A hymn or songs may be sung*

*The gifts of the people may be gathered and presented.*

*This prayer may be said:*

Heavenly Father,

as we set before you these gifts of bread and wine,

bless also the gift of our hearts and minds

as we offer our lives in your service;

for Jesus Christ’s sake.

**Amen.**

**The 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.**

It is indeed right,

it is our duty and our joy

at all times and in all places

to give you thanks and praise,

heavenly Father, source of all that is,

for you have called our world into existence,

and filled it with abundant life.

You called a chosen people as your own,

and led them in the way of holiness.

You called your beloved Son,

in whom you were well pleased,

to give his life for us on the cross,

and rise again in glory.

And now we give you thanks

that you call men and women

to equip your holy people for the work of ministry,

for the building up of the body of Christ.

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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,

through Jesus Christ, our Lord;

and as we obey his command,

send your Holy Spirit,

that broken bread and wine outpoured

may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends

and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.

Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,

in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice

made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,

we proclaim his death and resurrection

until he comes in glory.

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,

help us to work together for that day

when your kingdom comes

and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,

gather us in your loving arms

and bring us with [*N and*] all the saints

to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,

for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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**

*The president breaks the consecrated 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 one bread.**

**Giving of Communion**

*The president says the invitation to communion:*

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*This prayer may be said:*

**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 president and people receive communion.*

*Authorized words of distribution are used and the communicant replies*

**Amen.**

*During the distribution hymns and anthems may be sung.*

**Prayer after Communion**

*Silence is kept.*

Merciful Father,

you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,

and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:

keep us always under his protection,

and give us grace to follow in his steps;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Heavenly Father,**

**whose risen Son gave gifts of leadership and service**

**to the Church:**

**strengthen us who have received this holy food**

**to be good stewards of your manifold grace;**

**through him who came not to be served but to serve,**

**and give his life as a ransom for many,**

**Jesus Christ our Lord**

**Amen.**

**The Dismissal**

*A hymn may be sung.*

*The president says:*

May the boldness of the Spirit transform you,

may the gentleness of the Spirit lead you,

may the gifts of the Spirit equip you

to serve and worship God;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

*A minister says*

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

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