



God With Us

*“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name
Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”
(Matt 1:21)*

Call to Worship

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!

**Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!
Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually!** *(Psalm 105:1-4)*

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you 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.**

Psalm 65 (Praise Awaits You God in Zion)

Praise awaits you God in Zion,
Soon to you all flesh will come.
Though our sins prevail against us
You atone for every one.
Blessed are those
you choose and welcome.
Dwelling in your courts of grace.
We are filled with every blessing,
Satisfied in you always.

Holy God and mighty Saviour,
Hope of all the farthest seas.
When we pray you hear and answer
You make known
your wondrous deeds.

By your strength
you formed the mountains,
Stilled the roaring of the waves.
Earth rejoices at your goodness,
Dawn and evening sing your praise.

From your river ever-flowing
You give life to all the land.
Autumn rains and grain at harvest,
You provide for every man.
All the year
is crowned with bounty,
Deserts bloom and hills bear fruit.
Hills and valleys, all creation
Lift their hymn of praise to you.

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Confession and Assurance

Hear the summary of the whole law, from our Lord Jesus Christ:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.” (Matt 22:37-40)

Have mercy on us, O God

**According to your unfailing love;
According to your great compassion.**

God's word tells us:

*“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (1 Jn 1:8-9)

Let us therefore confess our sins against God, and against our neighbour,
first in silence and then aloud together.

Please kneel or be seated.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty and most merciful God,

**We confess to you that we are by nature sinful and unclean,
and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed;
not only in outward transgressions, but also in secret thoughts and desires
that we are not able to understand, but which are all known to You.
For this reason, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy,
seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

"But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isa 53:5-6)

Come People of the Risen King

Come, people of the risen King,
Who delight to bring Him praise.
Come, all and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him,
Where steady arms of mercy reach
To gather children in.

*Rejoice! Rejoice!
Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice,
O Church of Christ, rejoice!*

Come, those whose joy is morning sun
And those weeping through the night.
Come, those who tell of battles won,
And those struggling in the fight.
For His perfect love will never change,
And His mercies never cease,
But follow us through all our days
With the certain hope of peace.

Come, young and old from every land,
Men and women of the faith.
Come, those with full or empty hands,
Find the riches of His grace.
Over all the world, His people sing,
Shore to shore we hear them call
The Truth that cries through every age;
'Our God is all in all'.

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God's Word

First Reading: Gen 15:1-21, God's Covenant with Abraham, p. 10

This is the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God

Psalm 77: 1-10 (Loud Cries at Night)

I cry aloud to God, aloud to God,
and he will hear me.

**In the day of my trouble
I seek the Lord;
in the night my hand is stretched out
without wearying;
my soul refuses to be comforted.**

When I remember God, I moan;
when I meditate, my spirit faints.

**You hold my eyelids open;
I am so troubled
that I cannot speak.**

I consider the days of old,
the years long ago.

**I said, "Let me remember my song
in the night;
let me meditate in my heart."**

Then my spirit made a diligent search:
"Will the Lord spurn forever,
and never again be favourable?

**Has his steadfast love forever ceased?
Are his promises at an end
for all time?**

Has God forgotten to be gracious?
Has he in anger shut up his
compassion?"

**Then I said, "I will appeal to this,
to the years of the right hand
of the Most High."**

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

**As it was in the beginning,
is now, and shall be forever,
age after age.
Amen!**

Second Reading: Matt 1:18-25, p. 807

This is the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Sermon: God With Us (Mark Payne)

Tell Out My Soul

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.

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.

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.

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!

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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 power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

**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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

All baptised Christians who trust in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and seek to lead a new life by God's mercies, are welcome at this table. If you do not profess faith in Christ, please refrain from receiving the bread and wine.

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 him thanks and praise.

Please join in saying the Sanctus ("The Holy", based on Isaiah 6:3)

**Holy, Holy, Holy,
Lord God of Hosts
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

The stewards will distribute the wine and bread.

Eat the bread as you receive it, but keep the wine until we all drink together.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Father, as we have received these gifts of bread and wine, you have fed us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love, and that we are members of his body. Renew us by your Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son, and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gifts and Offerings

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall.

"Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God that he has given you." (Deut 16:17)

Psalm 23 The Lord's my Shepherd

The Lord's my Shepherd,
I'll not want;
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still,
still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in You alone,
And I will trust in You alone,
For Your endless mercy follows me,
Your goodness will lead me home.*

He guides my ways
in righteousness,
And He anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on His pure delights.

And though I walk
the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For You are with me,
and Your rod and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.

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Benediction

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the Name of Christ, Amen.

Notes & Notices

The Gospel of Matthew

- 1:1 - 4:16 The Person of Jesus, the Christ
- 4:17 - 16:20 The Proclamation of Jesus (Galilee)
- 16:21 - 25:46 The Proclamation of Jesus (Judea)
- 26:1 - 28:20 The Passion, Resurrection & Commission of Jesus

The Fulfilment of Christ

- Matt 1-2 The Greater Abraham (Genealogy & Birth)
 - Matt 5-7 The Greater Moses (Sermon on the Mount)
 - Matt 10 The Greater Joshua (Sending out the Twelve)
 - Matt 11-12 The Greater David (Coming of the King)
 - Matt 13 The Greater Solomon (Parables of the Kingdom)
 - Matt 14-17 The Greater Elisha (The Kingdom Community)
 - Matt 23-25 The Greater Jeremiah (The End of the Age)
 - Matt 24-25 The Son of Man
 - Matt 26-28 The Son of God
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Please diarise and pray for the following:

Mon 25th Sep	Fellowship Group (What Does it Mean to Fear the Lord)	Alan
Tue 26th Sep	Women in the Word	Hilary
Wed 27th Sep	Fellowship Group (What Does it Mean to Fear the Lord)	Mark
Sun 1st Oct	Morning Worship (Matt 2:1-12) and Church Lunch	10am

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are from the English Standard Version (ESV)