

St Matthew's Westminster



The Sunday Mass

The First Sunday
of Advent

November 29th, 2020

Welcome to St Matthew's Westminster

During the current national lockdown churches are not allowed to offer public worship, however we are permitted to stream the Mass with necessary participants and without a congregation.

This means that many people who would have received Holy Communion each Sunday, and some of them every day, are not able to receive the comfort and benefits of the sacrament.

This is a huge loss. However, it is not the first time that the Church has been in such a position. Throughout Christian history some Christian people have found themselves isolated from the sacramental life of the Church for all sorts of reasons, and particularly in times of plague, famine and warfare.

At such times the Church has encouraged people to make what is called a Spiritual Communion. It is a way of uniting yourself with Jesus and entering into communion with him even though you are not able to receive the sacrament itself.





THE GATHERING

Mass Setting

Mass in A minor

Harold Darke (1888-1976)

Organ Prelude

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Introit

The Matin Responsory

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525-94)

V: I look from afar:

R: And lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

V: Go ye out to meet him and say:

R: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

V: High and low, rich and poor, One with another,

R: Go ye out to meet him and say:

V: Hear, O thou shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.

R: Tell us, art thou he that should come?

V: Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come

R: To reign over thy people Israel.

V: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

R: I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

V: Go ye out to meet him and say:

R: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

The Greeting

Priest ✕ In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

All **and also with you.**

My brothers and sisters, we enter today the solemn season of Advent in which the Church bids us prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ; a coming that we recall in the Child of Bethlehem; a coming that we experience in the gift of his Spirit, in the bread of the Mass, in the joy of human lives that are shared; a coming we wait for, when God gathers up all things in Christ.

Let us in this holy season reflect on the coming of Christ who brings light to the world. Let us leave behind the darkness of sin, walk in the light that shines on our path, and renew within ourselves the hope of glory to which he beckons us. And as we turn towards the light, let us have on our hearts all those who see no light, for whom all is darkness and despair. Let us pray that they too may be illumined by Christ who is our light, as we pray Come, thou long expected Jesus.

As we prepare now to celebrate the presence of Christ here among us in word and sacrament, let us call to mind our sins and the measure of God's grace.

Prayers of Penitence

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you,
through our own fault,
in thought, and word, and deed,
and in what we have left undone.
We are heartily sorry,
and repent of all our sins.
For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison

The priest pronounces Absolution.

The Collect of the Day

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 64. 1-9

at the end of the readings –

Reader The Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 122

I was glad when they said unto me: We will go into the house of the Lord.

Our feet shall stand in thy gates: O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city: that is at unity in itself.

For thither the tribes go up, even the tribes of the Lord: to testify unto Israel, to give thanks unto the Name of the Lord.

For there is the seat of judgement: even the seat of the house of David.

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.

Peace be within thy walls: and plenteousness within thy palaces.

For my brethren and companions' sakes: I will wish thee prosperity.

Yea, because of the house of the Lord our God: I will seek to do thee good.

New Testament Reading 1 Corinthians 1. 3-9

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Holy Gospel St Mark 13. 24-end

when the Gospel is announced - Glory to you, O Lord.

at the end of the reading - Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

Fr Peter Babington
Parish Priest of St Mary le Strand

The Nicene Creed

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.

The Prayers of The People

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The Peace

Priest Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles
peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you:
regard not our sins but the faith of your Church,
and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom
where you live for ever and ever. Amen.

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

Offertory Hymn

Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
Once for favoured sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia!
God appears, on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him
Robed in dreadful majesty;
Those who set at nought and sold him,
Pierced and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing
Shall the true Messiah see.

Those dear tokens of his passion
Still his dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To his ransomed worshippers:
With what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen! let all adore thee,
High on thine eternal throne;
Saviour take the power and glory:
Claim the kingdom for thine own:
O come quickly!
Alleluia! Come, Lord, come!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Music: Helmsley (CP 31), T Olivers (1725-99)

The Altar is prepared. Once prepared, the Altar, with the gifts of bread and wine upon it, is blessed with incense. The clergy & participants are also censed.

Orate Fratres

Priest Pray, my brothers and sisters,
that this our sacrifice may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.

All **May the Lord accept the sacrifice we offer,
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good and the good of all his Church.**

The priest says a prayer over the gifts of bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Priest The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Priest Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*We celebrate the work of God in creating,
restoring and bringing to completion all that is his.*

... for ever praising you and saying:

Solo **Sanctus & Benedictus**

We recall Jesus' institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper.

Priest Great is the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died;**

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

*We recall the work of Christ, and pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit,
praying as members of the Church for our whole life and mission.*

Priest ... for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A short time of silence is kept at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

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

*The consecrated bread is broken in silence before it is shared.
We who are many, are one, for we all share in the one bread.*

Agnus Dei

Holy Communion

Priest Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.

Spiritual Communion

The prayer that follows draws on the story of the woman who comes to Jesus but only touches the hem of his garment. She still receives healing and blessing (See St Mark 5. 25-34). In a way, spiritual communion is like this. We are not able to receive the sacramental bread and wine. But in a spiritual communion we still come to Jesus and he still receives us.

Act of Spiritual Reception

O loving God, in union with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood of your dear Son, I offer you praise and thanksgiving.

Even though I am exiled from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us.

Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with your presence.

Communion Anthem

Joys Seven

John Morehen (b1941)

The Postcommunion Prayer

Priest God for whom we wait,
you have fed us with the bread of eternal life.
Keep us ever watchful,
that we may be ready to stand before the Son of man.
We ask this in the name of Christ the Lord. Amen.

Announcements

Postcommunion Hymn

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Cross of Jesus (CP 24)
John Stainer (1840-1901)

Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king;
Born to reign in us for ever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thy all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

THE DISMISSAL

The Blessing

Priest The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

The priest pronounces God's blessing, which is followed by the Dismissal -

All The Mass is ended. Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.



The Mass concludes with the Salve Regina, which recalls the centrality of the Incarnation as we are sent out to live the faith we have proclaimed.

Salve Regina

Salve, Regina, Mater misericordiae,
vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve.
Ad te clamamus exsules filii Hevæ,
Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes
in hac lacrimarum valle.
Eia, ergo, advocata nostra, illos tuos
misericordes oculos ad nos converte;
Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,
nobis post hoc exsilium ostende.
O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.

*O, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
Hail our life, our sweetness and our hope.
To thee do we cry, poor banished children
of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs,
Mourning and weeping in this vale of
tears.
Turn then, most gracious advocate,
Thine eyes of mercy toward us;
And after this our exile, show unto us the
blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin
Mary.*

Organ Postlude

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland
J S Bach (1685-1750)

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