



Heacham Parish Church



## **Holy Communion in Lent – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

### **The Greeting**

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

Hymn: **Great is thy faithfulness (MP 200)**

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not  
as Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

*Great is Thy faithfulness,  
great is Thy faithfulness;  
morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed Thy hand hath provided -  
great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

*Great is Thy faithfulness....*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside!

*Great is Thy faithfulness....*

### **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.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God,  
though we have rebelled against him. Let us then renounce our  
wilfulness and ask his mercy by confessing our sins in  
penitence and faith.

**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.**

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:  
fill us with your Spirit.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:  
fill us with your Spirit.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:  
fill us with your Spirit.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

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.**

### **The Collect**

Hymn: **Faithful one so unchanging (MP 825)**

Faithful One, so unchanging;  
ageless One, You're my rock of peace.  
Lord of all, I depend on You,  
I call out to You again and again,  
I call out to You again and again.  
You are my rock in times of trouble,  
You lift me up when I fall down;  
all through the storm  
Your love is the anchor –  
my hope is in You alone.

**Bible reading** – Luke 13: 31-end read by Richard C

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Richard C.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

**A reflection** – by Pip

Let's pray,  
Father thank you for your word. For this season of reflection.  
Help us now to see something new from your word to help and  
sustain us. We ask in Jesus precious name. **Amen.**

It says in psalms, "Do not put your trust in princes, in mortal men, who cannot save. When their spirit departs, they return to the ground: on that day their plans come to nothing". They are timely words for all generations. We are not wise when we misplace trust. Much as we would all like it to be different, we have all to recognise that we live in a fallen world. Human nature, left to its own devices, is always inclined to be self-seeking and self-serving. We should not be surprised when we come across dishonest dealings. Or when we experience misleading advice and are given questionable information. Or when we were lied to or subject to exploitation. Or when we are taken by surprise or gaslit. Or we meet with cover up and deception. None of these things should take us by surprise. It says in John, "But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all men. He did not need man's testimony about men, for he knew what was in a man."

Today we are looking at the end of Luke 13, just over half-way through the gospel. Already the end of chapter 12 has revealed the direction that Jesus is headed. Geographically he is headed

to Jerusalem. Emotionally Jesus expresses his concern. He says, "I have a baptism to undergo and how distressed I am until it is completed." Jesus knew that he would essentially be taking the journey alone, despite the crowds. He would be alone and face much opposition. We see that opposition in the first verse of the reading this morning. "At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him "Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you."

On the surface it sounds very helpful advice. Jesus's safety is at risk. However, when you peel back the layers and reveal the motives of the heart, it is a different story. They have no real concern for Jesus. For some time, Jesus has been a source of trouble and disruption. He has been messing with the status quo. It would be very convenient if he would just go away. They pretend to be warning Jesus, to be concerned about Herod's intentions. Do they expect him to turn tail and run away? Jesus, without hesitation, puts them straight. He intends to keep going. He also lays some more markers down. Firstly, declaring his goal and his determination to reach it. Then secondly declared his prophetic ministry with the words "for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem."

That prophetic ministry is realised in the final words of the reading today. The fate of Jerusalem is spelled out. Desolation is in the future. It is not a desolation sort after. Jesus laments the realisation. Every part of him wishes to avert the destruction of Jerusalem. He says, "How often have I longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were never willing."

So, what can we draw from this reading to help us as we mark this second Sunday of lent 2022? I would like to explore some themes that have occurred to me. Hopefully, they will give us some food for thought. I would like to think through the lens of pretence, purpose, and permanence.

Let's kick off with pretence. The opening shot from the Pharisees is filled with pretence. They pretend concern and care for the well-being of Jesus. Pretence is often met with in life. We have all been on the receiving end of it. Why? Because often it is easier to pretend than actually tell the truth. At the superficial end of the equation, we can pretend or be economical with the truth, in response to the "do you like this?" question. You know what I mean, do you like this item of clothing, this colour, this car, this house, this person, this TV programme, the list is endless. In the grand scheme of things, I guess it doesn't really matter, we often don't want to hurt people's feelings over subjective things. However, pretence, at a deeper level can basically be a cover for more unpleasant motives. The kind of motives we would not want the Lord shining a light on. Motives that are not on the list of the fruit of the spirit. It is easy to see the pretence of the Pharisees, but what about our own? Maybe next time we are praying we could ask the Lord to show us where there is pretence in our hearts, then we can root it out with his help.

Jesus had no time for pretence. He was always completely authentic and to use a word that is often used today, transparent. He responds to the pretence of the Pharisees with purpose and clarify. "Go tell that fox I will drive out demons and heal people today and tomorrow, and on the third day reach my goal." The lord's focus was the purpose and reason he came to earth. That purpose informed his words, his actions, his motives, and his commitment to the father's will. What is our purpose in 2022, as followers of Jesus Christ? Last week Veronica challenged us to pray about our calling, effectively our purpose. Did we all go home and do it? Or did the thought slip from our minds when we stepped outside these walls? If we did forget, then here is another opportunity to pray, to think, to ask, to seek the lord, and ask him what would you have me do in 2022 in my community, in my church, in my life. The challenges of the pandemic and now the war in

Europe may have left us feeling purposeless, lost, aimless, basically wondering what on earth is coming next. The unpalatable truth is Jesus never said it would be easy. He never said there will be no sickness and no war. He said in this world there will be trouble but take heart I have overcome the world. He said take up your cross and follow me. So maybe we need to take time grounding ourselves back in the Lord who will give us a sense of purpose, no matter who we are or what is going on.

He can fill us all with purpose and direction because of his permanence in creation, in history and in the eternal plan of salvation. That permanence permeates all of our lives if we allow it to. It's so fantastic that it still today permeates the lives of his chosen people and all who are yet to call on the name of the lord. It says in Romans, "as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs for God's gifts and his call is irrevocable."

Irrevocably called means we are permanently part of God's family. He is a permanent fixture for each and every one of us. Always with us and for us, never leaving us, our names are engraved on the palms of his hands. In all our times, in pretence and purpose we have the assurance that we are totally, permanently connected to the king of kings. Nothing can change that, not pandemic, not war, not failure, not even death.

Whatever is happening to us in the, so far, rather unsettling year of 2022, we can be settled in the fact that we are his, called, owned, provided for, and loved by a saviour who came to call those who would listen to his voice. Let's end by holding silence and taking a moment to thank the Lord for his goodness, faithfulness, and permanence in our lives.

**Amen.**

## **The Nicene Creed**

Let us declare our faith in God.

**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** - Led by Penny T

### **Prayer for Ukraine**

God of peace and justice,  
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.  
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,  
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.  
We pray for those with power over war or peace,  
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their  
decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in  
fear, that you would hold and protect them.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

**Amen**

Heavenly Father as we move our thoughts from Europe help  
us to pray for the World. We pray for your beautiful, damaged  
world. We pray for all the places that suffer from  
wars.....suffer from environmental disasters.....and civil  
unrest.

Lord in your Mercy Hear our Prayer

Heavenly Father who is the ruler of the earth we pray for  
Kings, Queens, and Governing bodies of the world. We pray  
for your wisdom and discernment in all the decisions they are  
called to make. We pray especially for our government as  
they have important decisions to make, we pray for James  
Wild, also our local county, borough, and local parish  
councillors. At this time, we pray especially for Heacham  
Parish Council with the unrest around the community building.  
We ask that your people here in the church will be agents of  
peace and reconciliation.

Lord in your Mercy Hear our Prayer.

Heavenly Father as your Son Jesus Christ is the head of your  
church we pray for those who lead under him. We pray for  
Archbishops Justin and Stephen. We pray for our Bishops  
Grahame, Jane, and Alan. We pray that you will guide and  
help them in all they do. We pray too for Veronica and Penny,

Pip and John in this church, give them such an outpouring of your Spirit that they will be able to rely totally on you.  
Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer

Lord Jesus who was the great Evangelist we pray for those who we support in mission. We pray for Andrew and Shona Goodman in Thailand, Rachel Karrach in Nepal, and Israel and Victoria Sanchez in Bolivia. We pray for our other partners, Nelsons Journey, TransAid, Christians against Poverty, and the Kings Lynn Night Shelter. Please give them the strength and reliance on you they need, as well as the resources of finance and time to do your work where they are placed.  
Lord in your Mercy Hear our Prayer

Lord Jesus the great Healer, we pray for those we know who are unwell in mind, body, or spirit....We remember too those who work at our local hospital, surgeries, hospice, and chemist at this time. Give them wisdom, strength, and resilience in this busy time. In a period of silence we bring them to the lord.  
Lord in your Mercy Hear our Prayer

Almighty Father who feels the suffering of all his children we pray for the many bereaved people in our locality and across the world. Bring your peace and comfort to them we pray.  
Lord in your mercy Hear our prayer.

Finally, we pray for ourselves for the Growth of our Church,  
God of Mission  
Who alone brings growth to your Church  
Send your Holy Spirit to give  
Vision to our planning  
Wisdom to our actions  
Joy to our worship  
And power to our witness.  
Help our church to grow in numbers

In spiritual commitment to you  
And in service to our local community  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen**

Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our  
Lord Amen.

Lord, in your Mercy **Hear our prayers**

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your  
son our saviour Jesus Christ, Amen**

### **The Peace**

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God  
through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his  
grace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**And also with you**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

**Hymn: Father, hear the prayer we offer (MP 132)**

Father, hear the prayer we offer:  
not for ease that prayer shall be,  
but for strength that we may ever  
live our lives courageously.

Not for ever in green pastures  
do we ask our way to be;  
but the steep and rugged pathway  
would we strive to climb to Thee.

Not for ever by still waters  
would we idly quiet stay;  
but would smite the living fountains  
from the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,  
in our wanderings be our guide;  
through endeavour, failure, danger,  
Father, be Thou at our side.

Let our path be bright or dreary,  
storm or sunshine be our share;  
may our souls, in hope unwearied,  
make Thy work our ceaseless prayer

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

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 and good to give you thanks and praise,  
Almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your  
Son. For in these forty days, you lead us into the desert of  
repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline  
we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again.  
Through fasting, prayer, and acts of service you bring us back  
to your generous heart.

Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your  
presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others  
into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and *singing*:

**Holy, holy, holy is Lord,  
Holy is the Lord God Almighty.  
Holy, holy, holy is Lord,  
Holy is the Lord God Almighty.  
Who was, and is, and is to come;  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**

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.  
Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.**

**You are the Saviour of the world.**

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 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.**

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.**

Every time we eat this bread  
and drink this cup,

**we proclaim the Lord's death  
until he comes.**

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.



**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

**Distribution of Communion**

**Prayer after communion**

**God of our journey, as we walk with you on the path of obedience, sustain us on our way and lead us to your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**Hymn: I want to serve the purpose of God in my generations (MP 859)**

I want to serve the purpose of God  
in my generation.  
I want to serve the purpose of God  
while I am alive.  
I want to give my life  
for something that'll last for ever:  
Oh, I delight, I delight to do Your will.

*What is on Your heart?  
Show me what to do.  
Let me know Your will,  
and I will follow You.  
What is on Your heart ....*

I want to build with silver and gold  
in my generation.  
I want to build with silver and gold  
while I am alive.  
I want to give my life  
for something that'll last for ever:  
Oh, I delight, I delight to do Your will.

*What is on Your heart ....*

I want to see the kingdom of God  
in my generation.  
I want to see the kingdom of God  
while I am alive.  
I want to give my life  
for something that'll last for ever:  
Oh, I delight, I delight to do Your will.

*What is on Your heart ....*

I want to see the Lord come again  
in my generation.  
I want to see the Lord come again  
while I am alive.  
I want to give my life  
for something that'll last for ever.  
Oh, I delight, I delight to do Your will.

*What is on Your heart ....*

### **Blessing**

May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit,  
give to you a contrite heart.

**Amen.**

May Christ, who bore our sins in his body on the tree, heal you  
by his wounds.

**Amen.**

May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth, speak to you  
words of pardon and peace.

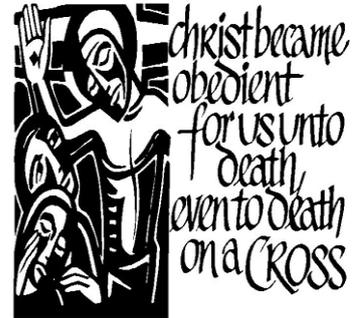
**Amen.**

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

**Amen.**

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord

**In the name of Christ, Amen**



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