

20th September 2020
Service of Holy
Communion



15th Sunday After
Trinity

The Greeting

The Lord is with us.
His Spirit is with us.

Prayer of Preparation

God of our times and years, we set this time
apart for you.
Form us in the likeness of Christ so that our
lives may glorify you. Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

God be gracious to us and bless us, and make
your face shine upon us:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May your ways be known on the earth, your
saving power among the nations:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

You, Lord, have made known your salvation,
and reveal your justice in the sight of the
nations:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us
a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive
you your sins, open your eyes to God's truth,
strengthen you to do God's will and give you
the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our
Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy
Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of
your love: grant that your people may be
fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that,
always abiding in you, they may be found

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steadfast in faith and active in service; through
Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and
reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading 2 Samuel 6: 1-22

David mustered the pick of the troops of
Israel—thirty divisions of them. Together with
his soldiers, David headed for Baalah to recover
the Chest of God, which was called by the
Name GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies, who was
enthroned over the pair of angels on the Chest.

They placed the Chest of God on a brand-new
oxcart and removed it from Abinadab's house
on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, Abinadab's sons,
were driving the new cart loaded with the
Chest of God, Ahio in the lead and Uzzah
alongside the Chest. David and the whole
company of Israel were in the parade, singing
at the top of their lungs and playing mandolins,
harps, tambourines, castanets, and cymbals.
When they came to the threshing floor of
Nacon, the oxen stumbled, so Uzzah reached
out and grabbed the Chest of God. GOD blazed
in anger against Uzzah and struck him hard
because he had profaned the Chest. Uzzah died
on the spot, right alongside the Chest.

Then David got angry because of GOD's deadly
outburst against Uzzah. That place is still called
Perez Uzzah (The-Explosion-Against-Uzzah).
David became fearful of GOD that day and said,
"This Chest is too hot to handle. How can I ever
get it back to the City of David?" He refused to
take the Chest of GOD a step farther. Instead,
David removed it off the road and to the house
of Obed-Edom the Gittite. The Chest of GOD
stayed at the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite
for three months. And GOD prospered Obed-
Edom and his entire household.

It was reported to King David that GOD had
prospered Obed-Edom and his entire
household because of the Chest of God. So
David thought, "I'll get that blessing for
myself," and went and brought up the Chest of
God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City
of David, celebrating extravagantly all the way,

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with frequent sacrifices of choice bulls. David, ceremonially dressed in priest's linen, danced with great abandon before GOD. The whole country was with him as he accompanied the Chest of GOD with shouts and trumpet blasts. But as the Chest of GOD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, happened to be looking out a window. When she saw King David leaping and dancing before GOD, her heart filled with scorn.

They brought the Chest of GOD and set it in the middle of the tent pavilion that David had pitched for it. Then and there David worshiped, offering burnt offerings and peace offerings. When David had completed the sacrifices of burnt and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies and handed out to each person in the crowd, men and women alike, a loaf of bread, a date cake, and a raisin cake. Then everyone went home.

David returned home to bless his family. Michal, Saul's daughter, came out to greet him: "How wonderfully the king has distinguished himself today—exposing himself to the eyes of the servants' maids like some burlesque street dancer!" David replied to Michal, "In GOD's presence I'll dance all I want! He chose me over your father and the rest of our family and made me prince over GOD's people, over Israel. Oh yes, I'll dance to GOD's glory—more recklessly even than this. And as far as I'm concerned . . . I'll gladly look like a fool . . . but among these maids you're so worried about, I'll be honoured no end."

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 20: 1-16

Jesus said to his disciples, "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his

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vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

5.

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

cf. Ephesians 3

Prayers of Intercession

The response is

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

And, at the end,
Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Peace

We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

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.

Look upon us in mercy, not in judgement; draw us from hatred to love; make the frailty of our praise a dwelling place for your glory. **Amen.**

Preparation of the Table

The 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, it is our duty and our joy, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise, holy Father, heavenly King, almighty

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and eternal God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For he is your living Word; through him you have created all things from the beginning, and formed us in your own image.

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin, giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross; you raised him from the dead and exalted him to your right hand on high.

Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit, and made us a people for your own possession.

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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, 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.

7.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in words of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

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

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup, **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

8.

When directed, please move forward in silence to receive the bread. The priest will receive the wine on behalf of us all.

Prayers after Communion

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy: and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fail, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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.

The Blackburn Diocesan Vision Prayer for Vision 2026

Heavenly Father, we embrace your call for us to make disciples, to be witnesses and to grow leaders. Give us the eyes to see your vision, ears to hear the prompting of your Spirit and courage to follow in the footsteps of your Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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