



S^t HELEN'S CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

The First Sunday Eucharist Harvest Festival



The Preparation

After the welcome and before the Eucharist begins the President invites the congregation to prepare by an act of penitence.

Let us confess our forgetfulness of the needs of the poor,
and repent of the ways in which we waste the resources of
the world.

We confess to you
our lack of care for the world you have given us.
Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

We confess to you
our selfishness in not sharing the earth's bounty fairly.
Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

We confess to you
our failure to protect resources for others.
Lord, have mercy.

All **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.

All **Amen.**

The Holy Eucharist

The Entrance

All stand as the President, ministers and choir enter. Hymn numbers for the service can be found in the newsletter and on the hymn boards.

The Opening Hymn (CP250)

All creatures of our God
and King,
lift up your voice and
with us sing,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thou burning sun with
golden beam,
thou silver moon with
softer gleam:

Refrain:

*O praise him, O praise
him,
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia!*

Thou rushing wind that
art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in
heaven along,
O praise him, alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in
praise rejoice;
ye lights of evening, find
a voice: [Refrain]

Thou flowing water,
pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord
to hear,
Alleluia, alleluia!
Thou fire, so masterful
and bright,
that givest us both
warmth and light:
[Refrain]

Dear mother earth, who
day by day
unfoldest blessings on
our way,
O praise him, alleluia!
The flowers and fruits
that in thee grow,
let them his glory also
show: [Refrain]

All ye that are of tender
heart,
forgiving others, take
your part,
O sing ye, alleluia!
Ye who long pain and
sorrow bear,
praise God, and on him
cast your care: [Refrain]

And thou, most kind and
gentle death,
waiting to hush our
latest breath,
O praise him, alleluia!
Thou ledest home the
child of God,
and Christ our Lord the
way has trod: [Refrain]

Let all things their
creator bless,
and worship him in
humbleness;
O praise him, alleluia!
Praise, praise the
Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit,
Three in One: [Refrain]

William Henry Draper, based on St Francis of Assisi

The Gloria

All **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 of the Day

The president invites the people to pray silently, saying
Let us Pray

The president then says the special prayer for the day

Creator God, you made the goodness of the land,
the riches of the sea and the rhythm of the seasons;
as we thank you for the harvest, may we cherish and respect
this planet and its peoples, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

All sit.

The First Reading: 2 Corinthians 9.6–15

At the end

For the gift of the word
All **Thanks be to God.**

All stand.

The Gradual Hymn (SP110)

**For the fruits of all creation,
thanks be to God;
for the gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God;
for the ploughing, sowing,
reaping,
silent growth while we are
sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-
keeping,
thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done;
in the help we give our
neighbour,
God's will is done;**

**in our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God;
for the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God;
for the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound
us,
most of all that love has found
us,
thanks be to God.**

Fred Pratt Green

All remain standing for

The Holy Gospel

A cantor introduces the acclamation.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are ripe for harvesting.
Gather the fruit for eternal life.

Luke 12.16–30

*When the Gospel is announced all reply: **Glory to you, O Lord.***

*Then afterward: **Praise to you, O Christ.***

All sit.

The Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church;

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

All **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was
conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and was buried; he
descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he
ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the
Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

All **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**

The Intercessions

Please stand, kneel or sit as directed.

Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child and/or Baptismal Welcome

(see pages 14-15)

All stand.

The Peace

The harvest of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness and self-control.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

A suitable sign of the peace is shared by all.

All remain standing.

Blessing of the harvest offerings

Harvest gifts are brought forward and added to those in front of the altar. All the harvest gifts are then blessed.

Let us bring forward symbols of the harvest,
gifts that God has created and his sun and rain have nurtured.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The Offertory Hymn and Presentation of the Gifts

Bring forward the grain and the grape,
for our Saviour took bread and wine
to feed us with his body and his blood,
given and shed for the life of the world.
Let us feed on him by faith with thanksgiving.

All **Thanks be to God.**

A collection is taken.

Members of the congregation present bread and wine for consecration.

Offertory Hymn (CP251)

Refrain:

**All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.**

**Each little flow'r that opens,
each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings. [Refrain]**

**The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky. [Refrain]**

**The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden:
He made them every one. [Refrain]**

**He gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well. [Refrain]**

Cecil Frances Alexander (1848)

The Great Thanksgiving

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

Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Lord of all life, you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

You give us the fish in the sea,
the birds of the air,
and every plant and tree;
the life that sleeps in the winter earth,
and awakens again in the spring.

You give us happy times
and things to celebrate.
In these we taste your kingdom,
a feast for all your children.

And now we give you thanks
because you make us stewards of your creation,
to praise you day by day
for the marvels of your wisdom and power;
and now, joining our voices with angels, archangels,
and with all creation we sing your praise:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with [N and] all your saints
we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

All **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 forever.
Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

We who are many are one body,
All **because we all share in one bread.**

The choir leads the congregation in singing the 'O Lamb of God'

Lamb of God, you take away	(or)
the sin of the world,	Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.	have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away	Jesus, bearer of our sins,
the sin of the world,	have mercy on us.
have mercy on us.	Jesus, redeemer of the
Lamb of God, you take away	world, grant us peace.
the sin of the world,	
grant us peace.	

Then the President invites the congregation to come forward to receive either the Sacrament or a blessing saying,

God's holy Gifts for God's holy people.

The Communion

The congregation is directed to the altar rail by the sidespeople.

Anthem: Rutter, 'For the beauty of the earth'

The Post-Communion Hymn (CP275)

We plough the fields, and
scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand:
he sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes, and the sunshine,
and soft, refreshing rain.

Refrain:

All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord, O thank
the Lord,
for all his love.

He only is the maker
of all things near and far;
he paints the wayside flower,
he lights the evening star;
the winds and waves obey
him,
by him the birds are fed;
much more to us, his children,
he gives our daily bread.

[Refrain]

We thank thee then, O Father,
for all things bright and good,
the seed-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food.
Accept the gifts we offer
for all thy love imparts,
and, what thou most desirest,
our humble, thankful hearts.

[Refrain]

Matthias Claudius, tr. Jane Montgomery Campbell

Post-Communion Prayer

Lord of the harvest,
with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation
and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom:
by your grace plant within us a reverence
for all that you give us
All and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things
we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Blessing

May God our creator,
who clothes the lilies and feeds the birds of the air,
bestow on you his care
and increase the harvest of your righteousness;
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

All sit for the Notices.

The Dismissal

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation
and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.
Go in the peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The President, other ministers and choir depart while an organ postlude is played.



THANKSGIVING for the GIFT of a CHILD

Parents with their children gather at the altar rail. The President or other minister begins:

We gather today with parents as they give thanks for *their children*, and to support them in their responsibilities toward those whom they have brought into the world. God became one of us in Jesus, and understands all that surrounds the arrival and upbringing of children. It is God's purpose that children should know love within the stability of their home, grow in faith, and come at last to the eternal city where his love reigns.

The President/minister says:

Loving God, you hold all things in life
and call us into your kingdom of peace;
help us to walk the path of your truth
and fill our lives with gratitude and faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The minister says to each group of parents:

Do you receive this child as a gift from God?

The parents reply:

We/I do.

Do you wish to give thanks to God and to seek his blessing?

We/I do.

What name have you given this child?

His/her name is N.

The President/minister takes the child in his arms and says:

Heavenly Father, we praise you for *his/her* birth,
surround *him/her* with your blessing
that *he/she* may know your love,
be protected from evil,
and know your goodness all *his/her* days.

All **May *he/she/they* learn to love all that is true,
grow in wisdom and strength,
and, in due time, come through faith and baptism
to the fullness of your grace;
through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Giving of the Gospel

As a Bible is given to the family, the minister says:

Receive this Bible.
Hear God's word with us. Learn and tell its stories.
Rejoice in its Good News. Discover its mysteries.
Honour its commandments.
May God's life-giving word be to you sweeter than honey,
and may it lead you in the way of Christ.

All **Amen.**

WELCOME to THOSE RECENTLY BAPTISED

Families of those recently baptised come to the front of the church. Each receives a lighted candle and is given the Certificate of Baptism.

Receive this light. This is to show that you have passed from darkness to light.

All: Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.
God has received you by baptism into his Church.

All: We welcome you into the Lord's family. We are members together of the body of Christ; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we are inheritors together of the kingdom of God, we welcome you.

Some material in this service copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000, 2006, 2012.
Song lyrics reproduced under CCL licence no. 11689.