



GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Opening Hymn: Tune, Bangor

1. **From ashes to the living font
your Church must journey, Lord,
Baptised in grace, in grace renewed
By your most holy word.**
2. **Through fasting, prayer, and charity,
Your voice speaks deep within,
Returning us to ways of truth
and turning us from sin.**
3. **From desert to the mountaintop
in Christ our way we see,
so, tempered by temptation's might
we might transfigured be.**
4. **From ashes to the living font
your Church must journey still,
Through cross and tomb to Easter joy,
in Spirit-fire fulfilled.**

Alan J. Hommerding, b.1956;
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The priest greets and welcomes the people

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Acclamation

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins,
whose mercy endures for ever.

The Sentence

If you want to become a disciple of Jesus, deny yourself,
take up your cross, and follow him.

Mark 8.34

Please kneel or be seated

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God,
though we have rebelled and wandered far off.

Let us then ask for mercy,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

The Litany is said.

God the Father, **have mercy on us.**

God the Son, **have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit, **have mercy on us.**

Holy Trinity, one God, **have mercy on us.**

From all evil and mischief;
from pride, vanity and hypocrisy;
from envy, hatred and malice;
and from all evil intent,

good Lord, deliver us.

From sloth, worldliness and love of money;
from hardness of heart
and contempt of your word and your laws,

good Lord, deliver us.

From sins of body and mind;
from deceits of the world, the flesh and the devil,

good Lord, deliver us.

In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy;
in the hour of our death and at the day of judgement,

good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;
by your birth, childhood and obedience;
by your baptism, fasting and temptation,

good Lord, deliver us.

By your ministry in word and work;
by your mighty acts of power;
and by your preaching of the kingdom,

good Lord, deliver us.

By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion;
and by your precious death and burial,

good Lord, deliver us.

By your mighty resurrection;
by your glorious ascension;
and by your sending of the Holy Spirit,

good Lord, deliver us.

**Give us true repentance;
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance
and our deliberate sins;
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit
to amend our lives according to your holy word.**

The Kyries (if sung each is sung 3 times)

**Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

The Absolution

May almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you your sins and bring you to everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect

Let us pray.

Ever-faithful God,
you were well pleased with Abraham's obedience
and you accepted the sacrifice of your Son,
who gave himself up for the sake of us all.

Train us by Christ's teaching
and school us in his obedience,
that, as we walk his way of sacrifice,
we may come to share in your glory.

We ask this through Christ, our deliverance and hope,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
holy and mighty God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

A reading from the Book Genesis [17. 1-7, 15-16]

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face, and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, ^[a] but your name shall be Abraham, ^[b] for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations,

for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

¹⁵ God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her and also give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

[a] That is, exalted ancestor
[b] That is, ancestor of a multitude

Psalm 22. 24-32

O praise the Lord, all you that fear him:
*hold him in honour, O seed of Jacob,
and let the seed of Israel stand in awe of him.*

For he has not despised nor abhorred
the poor man in his misery:
*nor did he hide his face from him,
but heard him when he cried.*

From you springs my praise in the great congregation:
I will pay my vows in the sight of all that fear you;

The meek shall eat of the sacrifice and be satisfied:
*and those who seek the Lord shall praise him
—may their hearts rejoice for ever!*

**Let all the ends of the earth remember and turn to the Lord:
and let all the families of the nations worship before him.**

**For the kingdom is the Lord's:
and he shall be ruler over the nations.**

How can those who sleep in the earth do him homage:
or those that descend to the dust bow down before him?

*But he has saved my life for himself:
and my posterity shall serve him.*

**This shall be told of my Lord to a future generation:
and his righteousness declared to a people yet unborn,
that he has done it.**

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans [4. 13-25]

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the

righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore “it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Hear the word of the Lord,
thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: AHB 339 / TiS 431. Tune, Regent Square (vv 2,3,5)

2. **Thanks to God whose Word incarnate
human flesh has glorified,
who by life and death and rising
grace abundant has supplied.
*God has spoken, God has spoken:
praise him for his open Word.***
3. **Thanks to God whose Word was written
in the Bible’s sacred page,
record of the revelation
showing God to every age.
*God has spoken, God has spoken:
praise him for his open Word.***

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark [8. 31-38]
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

For the Gospel of the Lord,
praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

- 5. Thanks to God whose Word is answered
by the Spirit's voice within.
Here we drink of joy unmeasured,
life redeemed from death and sin.
*God is speaking, God is speaking:
praise him for his open Word.***

R. T. Brooks 1918–85 alt..

The Sermon

Silence for Reflection

The Nicene Creed is said, all standing.

**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 of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ has promised that you will hear us when we ask in faith receive the prayers we offer.

God of hope, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord.

And may light perpetual shine upon them.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray,

**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.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE GREETING OF PEACE

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn: AHB 53 / TiS 125. Tune, Leoni. (verses 1, 4-6)

1. **The God of Abraham praise who reigns enthroned above,
ancient of everlasting days, and God of love:
the Lord, the great I AM
by earth and heaven confessed!
We bow and bless the sacred name for ever blessed.**
4. **The God who reigns on high the great archangels sing,
and ‘Holy, holy, holy,’ cry, ‘almighty King!’
who was and is the same and evermore shall be,
the Lord, our Father, great I AM eternally.**
5. **Before the Saviour’s face the ransomed nations bow,
all praising his almighty grace, for ever new.
He shows his wounds of love, they kindle to a flame
and sound through all the worlds above
the slaughtered Lamb.**
6. **The whole triumphant host gives thanks to God on high:
‘Hail, Father, Son and Spirit blest!’ they ever cry.
Hail, Abraham’s God and ours!
with heaven our songs we raise:
all might and majesty are yours, and endless praise.**

Thomas Olivers 1725–99 alt.
based on the Jewish Yigdal c.13th cent. and Revelation 4 and 5.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, it is our duty, our joy and our salvation,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you,
almighty and everlasting God,
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord.

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/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.**

Holy and gracious God,
all creation rightly gives you praise.
All life, all holiness, comes from you
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
whom you sent to share our human nature,
to live and die as one of us,
to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

Hear us, merciful Lord;
through Christ accept our sacrifice of praise;
and, by the power of your Word and Holy Spirit,
sanctify this bread and wine,
that we who share in this holy sacrament
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood. ✠

Who, when his hour had come,
on the night before he went up to the cross
to make full atonement for the sins of the whole world,
offering once for all his one sacrifice of himself,
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.' ✠

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Therefore, in obedience to his command,
we commemorate and celebrate his saving passion and death,
his mighty resurrection and ascension into heaven
and we eagerly await his coming again in glory.

We thank you that by your grace alone
you have accepted us in Christ;
and here we offer you a spiritual sacrifice,
holy and acceptable in your sight.

Through Christ, receive this our duty and service,
and grant that we who eat and drink these holy gifts
may, by your Holy Spirit, be one body in Christ,
and serve you in unity and peace.

In your grace and mercy,
bring us to the joy of your eternal kingdom
with all the company of the redeemed.
May we praise you in union with them,
and give you glory through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, Father eternal,
in songs of never-ending praise:

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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

The bread is broken

We break this bread,
Communion in Christ's body once broken.

Let us pray

**We do not presume to come to your table,
merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

The gifts of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

After all have Communicated—tune, Grafton, AHB 343 (j).

1. Here proclaim the glorious mystery
of the body and the blood;
formed within the womb, made human,
he the earth's transcendent Lord;
offered for the world's redemption,
promise of eternal good.
4. Therefore we, with deepest reverence,
celebrate this sacrament;
finding all the ancient scriptures
sealed in his new covenant;
what the senses fail to fathom,
faith receives as nourishment.
5. Praise and worship to the Father,
power and blessing to the Son,
honour to the Holy Spirit,
glory to the Three in One;
let the Church proclaim for ever
what eternal Love has done.

St Thomas Aquinas (c. 1225-1274)
translated by Alan Gaunt (b. 1935)

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,
and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all adversities
which may happen to the body,
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul;

**Father of all
we give you thanks and praise
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.**

**Keep us in this hope that we have grasped;
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name. Amen.**

Notices

Concluding Hymn: AHB 496 / TiS 583. Tune, Breslau.

- 1. 'Take up your cross,' the Saviour said,
'if you would my disciple be;
take up your cross with willing heart
and humbly follow after me.'**
- 2. Take up your cross; let not its weight
fill your weak spirit with alarm;
his strength shall bear your spirit up
and brace your heart and nerve your arm.**
- 3. Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
and let your foolish pride be still:
your Lord refused not even to die
upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.**
- 4. Take up your cross, then, in his strength
and calmly every danger brave;
it guides you to a better home
and leads to victory o'er the grave.**
- 5. Take up your cross and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.**

James Phillip McAuley 1917–76
Words by permission Curtis Brown (Aust)

The Blessing

Christ give you strength to overcome all temptation,
to deny yourself, and to take up your cross and follow him;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Resources used in this Order of Service include:

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