

**Holy Communion - Harvest Festival - St Michael's
Church
3rd October 2021**

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

Hymn

**Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home!
All is safely gathered in
Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide
For our needs to be supplied;
Come to God's own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest-home!**

**We ourselves are God's own field,
Fruit unto His praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown,
Unto joy or sorrow grown;
First the blade, and then the ear,
Then the full corn shall appear:
grant, O harvest Lord, that we
Wholesome grain and pure may be.**

**For the Lord our God shall come
And shall take His harvest home;
From His field shall purge away
All that doth offend, that day,
Give His angels charge at last**

**In the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store
In His garner evermore.**

**Then, thou Church triumphant, come,
Raise the song of harvest home;
All be safely gathered in,
Free from sorrow, free from sin;
There, forever purified,
In God's garner to abide:
Come, ten thousand angels, come,
Raise the glorious harvest-home!**

We say sorry to God

We say sorry for the wrong we have done against God, the whole world, and our neighbour;
so let us call to mind our sins and the sins of our society in the misuse of God's creation.

God has blessed us, but still God's children go hungry.
Lord, have mercy

All Lord, have mercy

God has blessed us, but still the poor cry out for justice.

Christ, have mercy

All Christ, have mercy

God has blessed us, but still we see inequality and oppression in the earth.

Lord, have mercy

All Lord, have mercy

May the God of all love and power

Forgive you, and free you from your sins.
Heal and strengthen you by his Spirit.
And raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect - A special prayer for today

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

We listen to God's Word

Verses from Psalm 104

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God, you are very great.

You are clothed with honour and majesty,
wrapped in light as with a garment.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow between the hills, giving drink to every wild animal;
the wild asses quench their thirst.

By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;
they sing among the branches.

You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to use,

to bring forth food from the earth,
and wine to gladden the human heart,
oil to make the face shine,
and bread to strengthen the human heart.
The trees of the Lord are watered abundantly,
the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.
In them the birds build their nests;
the stork has its home in the fir trees. The high mountains are for
the wild goats;
the rocks are a refuge for the conies.
O Lord, how manifold are your works.
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.
When you send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.
May the glory of the Lord endure for ever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works - who looks on the earth and it
trembles,
who touches the mountains and they smoke.
I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
May my meditation be pleasing to him,

may we hallow life's brief span.

**You, Creator God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that by our response and service
earth its destiny may find.**

We go in God's strength

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and all the
peoples and wonders of his world.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is the source of all goodness and growth,
pour his blessing upon all things created,
and upon you his children,
that you may use his gifts to his glory and the
welfare of all peoples;
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and
Holy Spirit be with you
and all those you love, in this world and the next and
remain with you always.
Amen.

Hymn

**For the healing of the nations,
Lord we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.**

**Lead us Father, into freedom,
from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.**

**All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice**

for I rejoice in the Lord.

Let sinners be consumed from the earth,
and let the wicked be no more.

Bless the Lord, O my soul. Praise the Lord!

This is the word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark. *Mark*
4 v1-9

All: Glory to you, O Lord

Again Jesus began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold." And he said, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn:

**O God of boundless hope,
we need your Spirit's power;
creation's crisis deepens with
each passing hour.
So make us strong
to speak your word,
and make it heard,
and right what's wrong.**

**Too many suffer now
from fire and wind and rain,
as livelihoods and homes are lost
and hope seems vain.
Will we ignore
all those who strive
just to survive,
and close our door?**

**The world is changing fast
and warming year by year;
a tipping point is close,
the time to act is here.
We'll work and pray;
as nature bleeds
we'll sow the seeds
of hope today.**

**Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come
in.**

**Our hands were unclean, our hearts were
unprepared; we were not fit even to eat the crumbs
from under your table.**

**But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,
and share your bread with sinners.**

**So cleanse and feed us with the precious body and
blood of your Son, that he may live in us, and we in
him; and that we, with the whole company of Christ,
may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

O loving God, your Son made himself known to
his disciples in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in each other and in his
redeeming work, who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

With gratitude to God, we pray together:

**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.**

We ask for God's blessing

when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.
And now with all your saints we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever. **Amen.**

Trusting in the compassion of God, we say the prayer our
Saviour taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

**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 for ever. Amen.**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Draw near with faith.
Received the body of our lord Jesus Christ which he gave
for you, and his blood which is shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

As we come to receive these holy gifts, we pray together:

**Together we will walk
the new way you reveal;
our planet cries from wounds
that love alone can heal.
Inspire us, Lord,
to give and care,
that all may share
your earth restored.**

*Author: Brian Davis
Tune: My Song is Love Unknown*

Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
**We believe and trust in God the Father
who made the world.
We believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ,
who redeemed the world.
We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit who gives life to the
people of God. Amen.**

We bring our prayers to God (Intercessions)

We share God's peace

Please stand for 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

Offering of Harvest Gifts

We offer these gifts, O Lord, as a sign of thankfulness and a pledge of our love.

Everything we possess comes from you. Take all that we are, and show us how to give with joy and share without fear. **Amen**

We celebrate Holy Communion

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
It is right to give him 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, to share and to cherish. You give us sun and moon and star-lit sky, everything that gives us light, light for our eyes, our hearts, our minds. You made us all, wonderfully different, To join with the angels and sing your praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.**

We thank you loving Father, because,
when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave himself 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