



Welcome to our service of worship
with Holy Communion

Sunday 11 January 2026, 10am

**Tough love in Luke's Gospel:
The great banquet**

Welcome

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you
and also with you.

Song (976)

Blessing and honour, glory and
power
Be unto the Ancient of Days;
From every nation, all of creation
Bow before the Ancient of Days.

*Every tongue in heaven and earth
Shall declare your glory,
Every knee shall bow at your
throne, in worship;
You will be exalted, O God,*

*And your kingdom shall not pass
away,
O Ancient of Days.*

Your kingdom shall reign over all
the earth:
Sing unto the Ancient of Days.
For none shall compare to your
matchless worth:
Sing unto the Ancient of Days.

(Gary Sadler & Jamie Harvill)

Song (924)

¹Salvation belongs to our God,
Who sits on the throne,
And to the Lamb.
Praise and glory, wisdom and
thanks,
Honour and power and strength:

Chorus:

*Be to our God forever and ever,
Be to our God forever and ever,
Be to our God forever and ever,
amen.*

²And we, the redeemed shall be
strong
In purpose and unity,
Declaring aloud,
Praise and glory, wisdom and
thanks,
Honour and power and strength:

Chorus.

(Adrian Howard and Pat Turner)

Confession

God of mercy,
we acknowledge that we are all sinners.
We turn from the wrong that we have thought and said
and done,
and are mindful of all that we have failed to do.
For the sake of Jesus, who died for us,
forgive us for all that is past,
and help us to live each day
in the light of Christ our Lord. Amen.

Absolution

Collect – 1st Sunday of Epiphany
Prayer for Sonlight

Readings

Psalms 25:1-9

¹ LORD, you are my God;
I will exalt you and praise your name,
for in perfect faithfulness
you have done wonderful things,
things planned long ago.
² You have made the city a heap of rubble,
the fortified town a ruin,
the foreigners' stronghold a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.

³ Therefore strong peoples will honour you;
cities of ruthless nations will revere you.
⁴ You have been a refuge for the poor,
a refuge for the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the storm
and a shade from the heat.
For the breath of the ruthless
is like a storm driving against a wall
⁵ and like the heat of the desert.
You silence the uproar of foreigners;
as heat is reduced by the shadow of a cloud,
so the song of the ruthless is stilled.
⁶ On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare
a feast of rich food for all peoples,
a banquet of aged wine—
the best of meats and the finest of wines.
⁷ On this mountain he will destroy
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,
the sheet that covers all nations;
⁸ he will swallow up death forever.
The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears
from all faces;
he will remove his people's disgrace
from all the earth.
The LORD has spoken.

⁹ In that day they will say,
"Surely this is our God;
we trusted in him, and he saved us.
This is the LORD, we trusted in him;
let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

Luke 14:15-24

When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus,
"Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God."

Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.' Another said, 'I have just bought

five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

"The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.' 'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.'

"Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.'"

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

Sermon

Song (1011)

¹There's a place where the streets
shine
With the glory of the Lamb.
There's a way, we can go there,
We can live there beyond time.

*Because of you, because of you,
Because of your love,
Because of your blood.*

²No more pain, no more sadness,
No more suffering, no more tears.
No more sin, no more sickness,
No injustice, no more death.

Chorus.

*All our sins are washed away,
And we can live forever,
Now we have this hope,
Because of you.
Oh, we'll see you face to face,*

*And we will dance together
In the city of our God,
Because of you.*

³There is joy everlasting,
There is gladness, there is peace.
There is wine everflowing,
There's a wedding, there's a feast.

Chorus.

*All our sins are washed away,
And we can live forever,
Now we have this hope,
Because of you.
Oh, we'll see you face to face,
And we will dance together
In the city of our God,
Because of you.*

(Paul Oakley)

Affirmation of faith

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.**

**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

Intercessions

The Peace

Christ is our peace.

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.

The old has passed away: behold, everything has become new.

(2 Corinthians 5.17)

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

May the peace of the risen Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Song (1008)

¹The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want.
He makes me lie in pastures green.
He leads me by the still, still waters,
His goodness restores my soul.

*And I will trust in you alone.
And I will trust in you alone,
For your endless mercy follows
me,
Your goodness will lead me home.*

(Descant)
*I will trust, I will trust in you.
I will trust, I will trust in you.
Endless mercy follows me,
Goodness will lead me home.*

²He guides my ways in
righteousness,
And he anoints my head with oil,
And my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on his pure delights.

Chorus.

³And though I walk the darkest
path,
I will not fear the evil one,
For you are with me, and your rod
and staff
Are the comfort I need to know.

Chorus.

(Stuart Townend)

Prayer of thanks for our offering

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.**

All honour and praise be yours...

... and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**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...

...Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest...

...in songs of everlasting praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power

be yours for ever and ever.

Amen.

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.

The breaking of bread

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.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

(a prayer that can be said by those unable to receive the bread and wine because they are watching at home)

*Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.*

*Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.*

*O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.*

Receiving Communion, with:

Hymn (381)

¹Jesus, stand among us
At the meeting of our lives;
Be our sweet agreement
At the meeting of our eyes.
*O Jesus, we love you, so we gather here;
Join our hearts in unity and take away our fear.*

²So to you we're gathering
Out of each and every land;
Christ the love between us
At the joining of our hands.
*O Jesus, we love you, so we gather here;
Join our hearts in unity and take away our fear.*

(Optional verse for Communion:)

³Jesus, stand among us
At the breaking of the bread;
Join us as one body
As we worship you, our Head.
*O Jesus, we love you, so we gather here;
Join our hearts in unity and take away our fear.*

(Graham Kendrick)

Hymn (66)

*Broken for me, broken for you,
The body of Jesus, broken for you.*

¹He offered his body, he poured
out his soul;
Jesus was broken, that we might
be whole:

²Come to my table and with me
dine;
Eat of my bread and drink of my
wine.

³This is my body given for you;
Eat it remembering I died for you.

⁴This is my blood I shed for you;
For your forgiveness, making you
new.

(Janet Lunt)

Hymn (431)

¹Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
Glorious, first-born from the dead,
You alone, our strong Defender,
Lifting up your people's head.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Jesus, true and living Bread.

²Prince of life, for us now living,
By your body souls are healed;
Prince of peace, your pardon giving,
By your blood our peace is sealed.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Word of God in flesh revealed.

³Paschal Lamb! Your offering,
finished
Once for all when you were slain,
In its fulness undiminished
Shall for evermore remain,
Alleluia, alleluia,
Cleansing souls from every stain.

⁴Great High Priest of our profession,
Through the veil you entered in,
By your mighty intercession
Grace and mercy there to win,
Alleluia! Alleluia,
Only sacrifice for sin.

⁵Life-imparting, heavenly Manna,
Stricken Rock with streaming side,
Heaven and earth with loud hosanna
Worship you, the Lamb who died,
Alleluia, alleluia,
Risen, ascended, glorified!

(George Hugh Bourne)

Prayer after Communion

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.

Notices and family news

Hymn (975)

¹Before the throne of God above,
I have a strong, a perfect plea,
A great High Priest whose name is Love,
Who ever lives and pleads for me.
My name is graven on his hands,
My name is written on his heart;

I know that while in heaven he stands
No tongue can bid me thence depart,
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

²When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look and see him there
Who made an end to all my sin.
Because the sinless Saviour died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God the Just is satisfied
To look on him and pardon me,
To look on him and pardon me.

³Behold him there! The risen Lamb,
My perfect, spotless righteousness;
The great unchangeable I AM,
The King of glory and of grace!
One with himself I cannot die,
My soul is purchased with his blood;
My life is hid with Christ on high,
With Christ, my Saviour and my God,
With Christ, my Saviour and my God.

(Charitie L. Bancroft)

Blessing

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