

ORDER FOR A COMMUNION SERVICE IN LENT

Metrical Psalm 15 (CH3 5) Within thy tabernacle, Lord

Sentence

If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Let us pray

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name, through Christ our Lord.

Let us in our hearts confess the sins of which our conscience accuses us and humbly seek God's mercy for all the sin in us of which we are unaware.

Lord have mercy

CHRIST HAVE MERCY

Lord have mercy

Hear the Word of Grace and the assurance of pardon: "I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee." (Isaiah 44: 22)

Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all that are penitent: Create in us new and contrite hearts, that we worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

CH3 62 Glory be to God on high (read responsively)

O.T. Joel 2: 12-13, (NEB)

" the Lord says, even now, turn back to me with your whole heart, fast, and weep, and beat your breasts.

Rend your hearts and not your garments; turn back to the Lord your God; for he is

gracious and compassionate, long-suffering and ever constant, always ready to repent of the threatened evil."

Prose Psalm 51 (verses 1 to 17 and Gloria) (read or sung)

Ep. I Corinthians 9: 24-27 (NEB)

"You know that at the sports all the runners run the race, though only one wins the prize. Like them, run to win! But every athlete goes into strict training. They do it to win a fading wreath; we, a wreath that never fades. For my part, I run with a clear goal before me; I am like a boxer who does not beat the air; I bruise my own body and make it know its master, for fear that after preaching to others I should find myself rejected."

AMEN. THANKS BE TO GOD.

ALL STAND FOR THE GOSPEL S. Matthew 16: 24-25 (NEB)

"Jesus .. said to his disciples, 'If anyone wishes to be a follower of mine, he must leave self behind; he must take up his cross and come with me. Whoever cares for his own safety is lost; but if a man will let himself be lost for my sake, he will find his true self.'"

PRAISE BE TO THEE, O CHRIST.

SERMON

NICENE CREED (CH3 558)

CH3 307 'Lift up your hearts': I hear the summons calling

(The Great Entrance)

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Prayer of the Veil

O God, who by the blood of Thy dear Son hast consecrated for us a new and living way into the holiest of all; help us in faith to enter with Him and grant that, made pure in heart by Thy Grace, we may have part in His One, True, Pure, Immortal Sacrifice, for His Name's sake.

The Lord be with you / AND WITH THY SPIRIT

Lift up your hearts / WE LIFT THEM UP UNTO THE LORD
Let us give thanks unto our Lord God /
IT IS MEET AND RIGHT SO TO DO.

It is verily meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, almighty and everlasting God; Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin; by whose grace we are enabled to subdue all sinful desires and live no longer unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY, LORD GOD OF HOSTS,
HEAVEN AND EARTH ARE FULL OF THY GLORY:
GLORY BE TO THEE, O LORD MOST HIGH.

BLESSED IS HE THAT COMETH IN THE NAME OF THE LORD:
HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST

Not as fully as we ought, but as truly as we are able, do we bless thee for His holy Incarnation, for His perfect life, for His atoning death and triumph over death and the grave, for His exultation to thy right hand in glory as our High Priest and Advocate, for His gift of the Holy Spirit, and for the promise of His coming again in the glory of His Kingdom.

Wherefore in faith and obedience we set forth this memorial which He commanded us to make when in the night in which He was betrayed He took bread and having blessed Thee said 'TAKE, EAT: THIS IS MY BODY WHICH IS BROKEN FOR YOU: THIS DO AS A MEMORIAL OF ME.

LIKEWISE ALSO HE TOOK THE CUP AFTER SUPPER, saying, THIS CUP IS THE NEW COVENANT IN MY BLOOD: DO THIS, AS OFTEN AS YOU DRINK IT, AS A MEMORIAL OF ME.

We therefore pray thee by Thy Holy Spirit to hallow us and these thy gifts of bread and wine which we set before thee, that we, receiving them in faith, may share in the Body and Blood of Christ, for the forgiveness of our sins and the hallowing of our life and work, that so our lives, in union with our saviour, may be a living sacrifice acceptable to Thee.

And now, in fellowship with all the faithful, in heaven and on earth, we pray Thee to fulfil in us, and in all men, the purpose of Thy redeeming love, through Jesus Christ Thy Son, our Lord, in and through whom we together pray:

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: AND 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.

Holy thing for holy people. One only is holy, Jesus Christ, in whom we are to the glory of God the Father.

According to the institution and command of our Lord Jesus Christ, and for a Memorial of Him, we do this:

WHO, the same night in which He was betrayed, TOOK BREAD, and having given thanks BROKE IT and said: THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH IS FOR YOU: DO THIS AS A MEMORIAL OF ME.

IN THE SAME WAY He took the cup saying: THIS CUP IS THE NEW COVENANT SEALED IN MY BLOOD. WHENEVER YOU DRINK IT DO THIS AS A MEMORIAL OF ME.

LAMB OF GOD, THAT TAKEST AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD, HAVE MERCY UPON US.

LAMB OF GOD, THAT TAKEST AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD, HAVE MERCY UPON US.

LAMB OF GOD, THAT TAKEST AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD, GRANT US THY PEACE.

THE PEACE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST BE WITH YOU ALL.

Let us pray

Heavenly Father, we adore Thee for permitting us to share in this Holy Mystery. Through the working of thy spirit may Christ in us bring faith and peace to others, to the glory of Thy Thrice Holy Name. Amen.

The Benediction

CH3 588 (As elements are removed)

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands

Footnotes.

The above order was prepared for use at a quiet day during Lent, but could easily be

adapted for use at a Parish Communion.

If so used, the praise would, of course, have to be adapted to the local circumstances, and the readings would probably be longer.

The order as printed was used, with a very brief Sermon, and the entire Service was completed in three quarters of an hour. It is given here, as then used, as a paradigm for short celebrations for special groups.

Needless to say, when used for a Parish Communion during Lent, the element of Intercession should be expanded, either by extending the paragraph preceding the Lord's Prayer, or by including a prayer of intercession elsewhere in the Service.

The Rev John Heron MA DD

REVIEWS

THE PSALMS COME ALIVE - AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PSALMS THROUGH THE ARTS by John H Eaton (Mowbrays Christian Studies 1984 165pp PB £4.95)

Here is a splendid book that lives up to its title! Clearly written and well presented it will provide stimulating and welcome encouragement to all those involved in conducting or teaching about the worship of God. And it should delight all who love the Psalms, who wish to learn more about the context in which they were written, and who would understand better why they endure in the affection and worship of so many.

John Eaton is Reader in Old Testament Studies at Birmingham University. He has set out to show how our appreciation of the Psalms can be deepened and enriched as we come to understand the profound influence that the arts had upon them. 'In the Psalms religion and the arts do indeed pulsate together', he writes, and he has tried to prove this by exploring the Psalms along the paths of the various arts from poetry, through architecture, music and dance, to drama.

It is an exciting exploration. After a general introduction in which the influences of geographical setting and history are briefly noted, the matter of poetry and the Psalms is dealt with. Can poetry be translated and what is lost in the process? Through what forms are poetic imagery and truth expressed in the Psalms? How are the elements of praise and prayer, divine speech and wisdom distinguished? These questions are raised and answered, convincing us of the 'poetic genius' of the Psalms for describing God and portraying our relationship with him. Then