

St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh



The Eucharist at the General Synod of the Church of Ireland 2021

Thursday 30th September 2021

HYMN 52

(Sung by the Choir of St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh)

1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies
Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night;
Day-spring from on high, be near,
Day-star, in my heart appear.

2 Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see -
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

3 Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, Radiancy divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.

Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Based on Malachi 4:2; Luke 2:78; 2 Peter 1:19

THE GREETING

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all
and also with you.

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount
up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk
and not faint. *Isaiah 40:31*

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, **to 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 your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly
love you, and worthily magnify your holy name: through Christ our
Lord. Amen.**

PENITENCE

We gather as a Synod, conscious of our failure as God's people: of our personal sin, of our profitable connivance with the injustice of society, of the pursuit of our own interests as a church, of the stain on us of the sin of the world.

Let us examine our conscience and confess our sin.

Silence

O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who trust in him.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

The Lord ransoms the lives of his servants and none who trust in him will be destroyed.

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

Come my children, listen to me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive you your sins,
and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

(Setting: Missa de Sancto Albano – Willan)

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's 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.

COLLECT OF THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: Teach us to offer ourselves to your service, that here we may have your peace, and in the world to come may see you face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR THE OPENING OF A SYNOD

God, who from of old taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgment in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Proclaiming and Receiving the Word

FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8:1-12

Read by the Provost of St Mary's Cathedral, Tuam, the Very Revd Lynda Peilow.

All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose; and beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishaël, Malchijah, Hashum, Hash-baddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen', lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, helped the people to understand the law, while the people remained in their places. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.' So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, 'Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved.' And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM 19:7-11

- 7 *The law of the Lord is an undefiled law, converting the soul : the testimony of the Lord is sure, and giveth wisdom unto the simple.*
- 8 *The statutes of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart : the commandment of the Lord is pure, and giveth light to the eyes.*
- 9 *The fear of the Lord is clean, and endureth for ever : the judgements of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.*
- 10 *More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold : sweeter also than honey, and the honey-comb.*
- 11 *Moreover, by them is thy servant taught : and in keeping of them there is great reward.*

THE GOSPEL READING: Luke 10:1-12

Read by the Dean of Armagh, the Very Revd Shane Forster

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to St. Luke, chapter 10, beginning at verse 1.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to this house!" And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you." But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, "Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near." I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE SERMON

*The Bishop of Derry & Raphoe
The Right Revd Andrew Forster*

THE NICENE CREED

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 by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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

The Revd Canon Gillian Wharton (Hon Clerical Secretary of General Synod)
The Revd Canon Malcolm Kingston (Hon Clerical Secretary of General Synod)

THE PEACE

**Jesus said, Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.**

**The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.**

HYMN 418

(Sung by the Choir of St Mary's Cathedral, Limerick)

1 Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;
here faith can touch and handle things unseen;
here would I grasp with firmer hand thy grace,
and all my weariness upon thee lean.

2 Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
here drink with thee the royal wine of heaven;
here would I lay aside each earthly load,
here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.

3 I have no help but thine; nor do I need
another arm save thine to lean upon;
it is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;
my strength is in thy might, thy might alone.

4 Mine is the sin, but thine the righteousness;
mine is the guilt, but thine the cleansing blood;
here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace -
thy blood, thy righteousness, O Lord my God.

5 This is the hour of banquet and of song;
this is the heavenly table spread for me:
here let me feast, and, feasting, still proclaim
the hallowed hour of fellowship with thee.

Horatius Bonar (1808-89)

THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us;
therefore let us celebrate the feast.

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.

Father, almighty and everliving God, at all times and in all places it is right to give you thanks and praise: To this land you sent the glorious gospel through the teaching of Patrick. You caused it to grow and flourish in the lives of men and women filled with your Holy Spirit, building up the Church to send forth the good news to other places. And so with all your people, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

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!

Blessed are you, Father, the creator and sustainer of all things; you made us in your own image, male and female you created us; even when we turned away from you, you never ceased to care for us, but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin, giving your only begotten Son to become man and suffer death on the cross to redeem us: he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world: he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, 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 when he had given thanks to you, he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you, for 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.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we do as Christ your Son commanded: **we remember his passion and death, we celebrate his resurrection and ascension, and we look for the coming of his kingdom.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; and as we eat and drink these holy gifts, grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit that we may be made one in your holy Church and partakers of the body and blood of your Son, that he may dwell in us and we in him:

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, **all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

We, being many, are one body for we all share in the one bread.

THE COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Jesus Christ is holy,

Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

AGNUS DEI

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.*

ANTHEM

Ave verum corpus - Mozart

THE GREAT SILENCE

Going Out as God's People

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our guide, you feed us with bread from heaven as you fed your people Israel. May we who have been inwardly nourished be ready to follow you all the days of our pilgrimage on earth, until we come to your kingdom in heaven. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of 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.

HYMN 443

(Sung by the Choir of the Cathedral Church of Holy Trinity, Down)

1 Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from his table take leave.

The supper is ended; O now be extended
the fruits of his service in all who believe.

The seed of his teaching, our hungry souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.

His grace shall incite us, his love shall unite us
to further God's kingdom and answer his call.

2 With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.

Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
we claim as our neighbours the whole human race.

One bread that has fed us, one light that has led us,
unite us as one in his life that we share.

Then may all the living, with praise and thanksgiving,
give honour to Christ and his name that we bear.

Omer Westendorf (b. 1916) altd.

THE DISMISSAL

God, who in days of old gave to this land the benediction of his holy Church, fill you with his grace to walk faithfully in the steps of the saints and bring forth fruit of his glory: And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

VOLUNTARY

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Hymns

Irish Church Hymnal, Fifth Edition 2000

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