

Welcome to  
your Parish Church  
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS  
KINGS HEATH

# Sharper than a sword

Holy Communion for Trinity 20, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2024

## We gather

*For those worshipping at home, have ready in an honoured place a portion of food and something to drink. It may be bread and wine or something else. Set your Bible alongside. You might light a candle.*

*Music as we gather:*

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine:  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God;  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long. (x2)*

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture burst on my sight;  
angels descending, bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Saviour am happy and blest;  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

*(words & music: Frances Jane van Alstyne [Fanny J Crosby]; music: Phoebe Palmer Knapp)*

*When the song finishes we stand in silence.*

*We sing:*

1. Lord, enthroned in heav'nly splendour, first begotten from the dead,  
thou alone, our strong defender, liftest up thy people's head.

Alleluia, alleluia, Jesu, true and living bread.

2. Here our humblest homage pay we, here in loving rev'ence bow;  
here for faith's discernment pray we, lest we fail to know thee now.

Alleluia, alleluia, thou art here, we ask not how.

3. Though the lowliest form doth veil thee as of old in Bethlehem,  
here as there thine angels hail thee, Branch and Flow'r of Jesse's stem.

Alleluia, alleluia, we in worship join with them.

4. Paschal Lamb, thine off'ring, finished once for all when thou wast slain,  
in its fullness undiminished shall for evermore remain.

Alleluia, alleluia, cleansing souls from ev'ry stain.

5. Life-imparting heav'nly manna, stricken rock with streaming side,  
heav'n and earth with loud hosanna worship thee, the Lamb who died.

Alleluia, alleluia, ris'n, ascended, glorified!

*(words: George Hugh Bourne; music: George Clement Martin)*

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

**All: And also with you.**

WELCOME and NOTICES

*We pray:* **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.**

## We seek forgiveness

CONFESSION

Deacon God is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. All  
are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must  
render an account. Yet God invites us to approach, and find mercy  
and grace to help in time of need. With boldness, then, let us  
confess our sins and trust in his forgiveness. (Hebrews 4:12a;13b; 16)

**Almighty God, long suffering and of great goodness:  
I confess to you,  
I confess with my whole heart  
my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments,  
my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking;  
the hurts I have done to others,  
and the good I have left undone.  
O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you;  
and raise me to newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*FORGIVENESS is declared:*

*[May]* The almighty and merciful Lord grant *us* pardon and forgiveness of all *our* sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*We stand to give thanks for forgiveness, singing THE GLORIA*

*Glory! Glory! Glory to God!*  
*Glory! Glory! Glory to God!*

1. Glory to God in the heights of the heavens.  
Peace to God's people, all people on earth.
2. Son of the Father, all glory and worship;  
praise and thanksgiving to you, Lamb of God.
3. You take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us, receive our prayer.
4. Seated in pow'r at the right of the Father,  
Jesus alone is the Lord, the Most High.
5. And with the Spirit of love everlasting,  
reigning in glory for ever. Amen.

(George Salazaar)

**THE COLLECT for the twentieth Sunday after Trinity**

God the giver of life, whose Holy Spirit wells up within your Church:  
by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the gospel of Christ and make us  
eager to do your will, that we may share with the whole creation the  
joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is

alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

READINGS [Amos 5:6-7, 10-15](#) and [Hebrews 4:12-end](#)

HYMN [O God, our help in ages past](#)

1. O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home.

2. Beneath the shadow of thy throne,  
thy saints have dwelt secure;  
sufficient is thine arm alone,  
and our defence is sure.

3. Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received her frame,  
from everlasting thou art God,  
to endless years the same.

4. A thousand ages in thy sight  
are like an evening gone;  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.

5. Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
will bear us all away;  
we fade and vanish, as a dream,  
dies at the op'ning day.

6. O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guard while troubles last,  
and our eternal home.

*(words: Isaac Watts alt; music: William Croft; descant: Sydney Hugo Nicholson)*

*We remain standing for the* GOSPEL READING [Mark 10:17-31](#)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark  
**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end* This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON *in Church is offered by Tariro*

*At home: The image of God's Word penetrating the joints of the human body is surely designed to make us shudder. Sharper than a sword, the writer of Hebrews says, God reaches the very inside of things. A two edged sword, of course, is an emblem of the violent rule of the Roman Empire. The writer flings aside this weapon, it clatters on the ground, as s/he considers how much more penetrating is the Word, or character of God, living and active in our lives.*

*We might well shudder to realise we are understood so completely. Murky motives we ourselves are confused about are penetrated and known by God. The more we have to protect, the more we may shudder.*

*Of all the Gospels, Mark's bias to the poor is strongest. That makes today's encounter with the rich man unsurprising, then startling. That Mark dramatically show that it is difficult for the rich to enjoy the Kingdom of God is unsurprising. Two things, however, surprise. First, he shows this rich man is very good. He has indeed kept the commandments. He is not a baddy. He is not caricatured as selfish. The second surprise comes at the end. When Jesus has said how hard it is for the rich to grasp the Kingdom, everyone else, whose longing is to be at least a bit richer, and for whom traditionally wealth is seen as a sign of God's approval and blessing, they throw up their hands and say "Then who can be saved?" Here's the surprise. Jesus says, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible." It seems the rich can be saved.*

*Saved from what? A few years ago a vast super-yacht sailed into London. It was so big the bridge had to be raised. It moored beside HMS Belfast which looked like a shabby toy beside it. David admits he was fascinated by the description of the lavish facilities £350m gets you. It had three swimming pools. But then the article took a sinister turn. Its security kit was described at length, including an anti-torpedo defence system. Suddenly you had a sense of the fear that accompanies wealth. Lastly, it was revealed that the owner already had his next, bigger yacht, on order.*

*We may all fantasise from time to time about living in luxury, but rarely think about that spiritual, emotional cost, the loss of freedom it ironically involves. It is hard to measure the effect on the soul of having such choice that you never experience the liberating feeling of "enough."*

*The thought that God can penetrate the defences of such a rich man is quite something. The thought that God might want to is moving. As much speculation bubbles around about how much the very rich should pay in tax after the next budget, any resentment in us might be challenged by Jesus' insistence that even the rich might find their way to heaven. Our prayers today might be challenging...*

## We affirm our faith

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*We stand and at home, if able, we turn to look in the direction of Church, to affirm our faith in God, revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit:*

**All: 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.**

(from Common Worship)

### INTERCESSIONS

*At home:*

*Yes...Pray for the rich.*

*In our community, meanwhile, we also pray for those who are ill, including Venda McCollin, Kathy Farbrother and Nuala Beilby.*

*Among those who have died we remember Jenny Watling.*

*We stand for THE PEACE*

Deacon: A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: The peace of the Lord be always with you**

(James 3:18)

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### HYMN [Jesus Christ is waiting](#)

1. Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets:  
no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too;  
make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.

2. Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets  
where injustice spirals and all hope retreats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too;  
in the kingdom's causes let me rage with you.

3. Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets;  
curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too;  
let my care be active, healing just like you.

4. Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets,  
where each sign of hatred his strong love defeats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I feel triumph too;  
on suspicion's graveyard, let me dance with you.

5. Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,  
"Come and walk faith's tightrope, I will guide your feet."

Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few;  
walk one step before me, I will follow you.

*(words: John L Bell & Graham Maule; music: Traditional French melody, arr Christopher Tambling)*

*The Table is prepared in Church. At home, now is the time to say the Lord's Prayer (below) and consume the food and drink you have prepared.*

## We tell the story of salvation

Priest: The Lord be with you.

**All: 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 thanks and praise.**

We lift our hearts to you with thanks and praise, Almighty God, for nothing is impossible with you. You brought the universe to life and called a people to be your own. In Jesus you came and laid bare your purpose for us and all creation. In him you parted with all your possessions, came close to the poor and lived humbly with us. He is our great high priest who has passed through the heavens; he sympathises with our weaknesses and was tempted as we are, yet without sin. Because of his dying and rising we approach your throne with boldness, that we may receive mercy and find grace in time of need. And so with the whole host of heaven, we join in singing your eternal song:

**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.**

Reconciling God, in baptism you ask us to let go of family, friends and all security; but from you we receive back a hundredfold in brothers and sisters, mothers and children and in the age to come eternal life. As your church offers this food to you, give us back your glory, your wisdom and your power, that we may be your Son's body in the world. Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of

bread and wine that they may be for us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread and gave it to them saying, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

*A bell is rung*

After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples 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."

*A bell is rung*

Deacon: Great is the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Living and active God, your Word divides soul from spirit, joint from marrow. Speak your truth into the lives of all who plead for your saving power today. Hear the cries of those whose complaint is bitter; comfort any whose voices are weighed down with groaning; bless your children when they wish they could vanish and long for thick darkness to cover them. When our salvation seems as impossible as a camel passing through the eye of a needle, come among us with the joy and power of your Son's resurrection and astound us with your grace, until that day when every eye shall see you and every tongue shall tell how great is your mercy and wondrous your glory, Holy Trinity of Love. **Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Deacon: As our Saviour taught us, so we 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.  
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.**

Priest: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All: Though we are many, we are one body.**



## **For we all share in one bread.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died and now lives for you, and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

*We sing:* [Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,](#)  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.

*We pause to remember all who pray at home, then share the bread and wine,  
now for us the body and blood of Christ.*

### *HYMN during Communion*

1. Take my life, and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2. Take my hands, and let them  
move  
at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet, and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee.

3. Take my voice, and let me sing  
always, only, for my King;  
take my lips, and let them be  
filled with messages from thee.

4. Take my silver and my gold;  
not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect, and use  
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5. Take my will, and make it thine:  
it shall be no longer mine;  
take my heart: it is thine own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.

6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure-store;  
take myself, and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee.

*(words: Frances Ridley Havergal; music: W B Gilbert)*

## **We are sent out**

*We pray* **Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with your Word  
[and with the body and blood of Christ]. Strengthen us in**

**the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

*[May]* God give *us* grace to grow in holiness, to deny *ourselves*, take up *our* cross and follow him; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among *us* and remain with *us* always. **Amen.**

HYMN [Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it](#)

1. Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it,  
for by his pow'r each tree and flow'r was planned and made.  
Jesus is Lord! The universe declares it;  
sun, moon and stars in heaven cry: Jesus is Lord!

*Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord!  
Praise him with alleluias, for Jesus is Lord!*

2. Jesus is Lord! Yet from his throne eternal  
in flesh he came to die in pain on Calv'ry's tree.  
Jesus is Lord! From him all life proceeding,  
yet gave his life as ransom thus setting us free.

3. Jesus is Lord! O'er sin the mighty conqu'ror,  
from death he rose and all his foes shall own his name.  
Jesus is Lord! God sends his Holy Spirit  
to show by works of power that Jesus is Lord.

*(words & music: David J Mansell)*

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ, Amen.**

*This evening, 6.30pm **Evening Prayer***



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## PHOTOGRAPHY

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**All Saints Safeguarding** and Child Protection Coordinator is Eira Jones. If you have any concerns or worries about children, young people or vulnerable adults and don't know what to do, don't hesitate to contact her on 07497 781681.

## Giving to All Saints

If you wish to contribute financially to sustain All Saints Church and our ministry to Kings Heath you can leave a gift of cash on the collection plate on your way out of church; use the card reader near the Church door; speak to Steve Brittle about the

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