

Christ Church, Ipswich
Sunday 5th October 2025
Family Worship with Holy Communion

Psalm 111 (BPW 694)

I will thank the Lord with all my heart
 in the meeting of the just and their assembly.

**Great are the works of the Lord;
 to be pondered by all who love them.**

Majestic and glorious his work,
 his justice stands firm for ever.

**He makes us remember his wonders.
 The Lord is compassion and love.**

His gives food to those who fear him;
 keeps his covenant ever in mind.

**He has shown his might to the people
 by giving them the lands of the nations.**

His works are justice and truth:

his precepts are all of them sure,

standing firm for ever and ever:

they are made in uprightness and truth.

He has sent deliverance to his people
 and established his covenant for ever.

Holy his name, to be feared.

To fear the Lord is the first stage of wisdom;

All who do so prove themselves wise.

His praise shall last for ever!

Call to worship

We are among the 'works of the Lord'! As we read in today's Psalm, 'Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them. Full of honour and majesty is his work, and...his praise endures for ever.' Let us praise the Lord!

A gathering prayer

Lord, we gather before you to celebrate your great works. Throughout history, you have shown your grace and mercy, and have lifted up the outcast and the lowly to show them how special they are to you. Lift us now, we pray, that we may always remember your love for us and be open to sharing it with others, whatever their situation. Amen.

R&S 74 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:

come ye who hear,

brothers and sisters, draw near,

praise him in glad adoration!

2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,

bears thee on eagle's wings, and through all troubles sustaineth:

hast thou not seen

all that is needful hath been

granted in what he ordaineth?

3. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!

Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee:

ponder anew

all the Almighty can do,

who with his love doth befriend thee.

4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
 All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
 Let the amen
 sound from his people again:
 gladly for aye we adore him!

Joachim Neander (1650-80),
 tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-78) and others
 based on Psalm 103:1-5; Psalm 150; etc.

A prayer of adoration

Lord, you are gracious and compassionate, loving and just in all your ways. We give you praise for all that you are. Holy and awesome, wise and good – our God forever. We worship you today and always. **Amen.**

A prayer of confession

Faithful God, we carry within us forgetful hearts. So often we neglect to reflect on your goodness to us, but gratitude is a form of remembering and remembering is a form of gratitude. Where we have forgotten to remember, where we have forsaken love for hate, mercy for revenge, thoughtfulness for selfishness – turn us around once more, O God. Remind us of who you are and who we are called to be. We repent and turn away from the things that reek of forgetting you, the things that dishonour the identity we have been given in you. We ask your Spirit to lead us into a new day, full of remembering grace. In Jesus' name. Amen.

An assurance of forgiveness

The Holy Spirit has the power and the willingness to clean our hearts and minds today, ridding us from the things that hinder us. Thank you, O God, for your Spirit's cleansing presence, and that we can be renewed, daily, with assurance of your forgiveness and grace. Amen.

A prayer of praise and thanksgiving

Maker, redeemer, life-giving God, we thank you for all you have done for us. We acknowledge the myriad ways you have impacted our lives, the times you have helped us, healed us, drawn near to us. We recognise that there will be times you have helped us, but we did not see – we thank you for those, too! Help us perceive your working in our lives, and renew in us a spirit of gratitude. Thank you, Lord, for all you have done for us! Amen.

A prayer of dedication for all our giving

All good gifts around us are sent from You O God;
 we give thanks for all those gifts, and for all Your love.
 Bless us now as we return to You some of what you have given to us.

We thank You, Great God, for Your many gifts,
 sunshine and rain, flower and plant, bird song and joy.
 Bless these gifts which we offer to You now,
 that we may use them wisely and widely,
 sharing Your love and changing our ways. Amen

R&S 277 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

1. How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
 in a believer's ear:
 it soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
 and drives away our fear.

2. It makes the wounded spirit whole,
 and calms the troubled breast;
 'tis manna to the hungry soul,
 and to the weary, rest.

3. Dear Name! the rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding place,
my never-failing treasury, filled
with boundless stores of grace:

4. Jesus! my Shepherd, and my Friend,
my Prophet, Priest and King,
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
accept the praise I bring.

5. Weak is the effort of my heart,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see thee as thou art,
I'll praise thee as I ought.

6. Till then I would thy love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of thy Name
refresh my soul in death.

John Newton (1725-1807)

Old Testament Reading

2 Kings 5:1-15c

OT Page 314

The Healing of Naaman

5 Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favour with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. ² Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³ She said to her mistress, 'If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.' ⁴ So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. ⁵ And the king of Aram said, 'Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel.'

He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. ⁶ He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, 'When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy.' ⁷ When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, 'Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me.'

⁸ But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, 'Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.' ⁹ So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. ¹⁰ Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, 'Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean.' ¹¹ But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, 'I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! ¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?' He turned and went away in a rage. ¹³ But his servants approached and said to him, 'Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, "Wash, and be clean"?' ¹⁴ So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean. ¹⁵ Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, 'Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel'.

Gospel Reading

Luke 17:11-19

NT page 74

Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers

¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹² As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³ they called out, saying, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' ¹⁴ When he saw them, he said to them, 'Go and show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶ He prostrated himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus asked, 'Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? ¹⁸ Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?' ¹⁹ Then he said to him, 'Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.'

Reflection

A moment for reflection as Stephen plays

Our prayers of intercession

Faithful God, we, your people, lift before you the world.
 Across the globe, there are so many places in conflict,
 torn apart by discord and violence.
 We pray for an end to these wars and for peaceful resolutions to be found.
 Would the plans to end the war in Gaza bring peace,
 and would the needs of the vulnerable be safeguarded.
 Give your guidance to world leaders
 who negotiate and oversee these changes.
 Lord, bring your gift of peace.

Faithful God, we pray for those around the world who are marginalised.
 Those we are close to, those in our local communities,
 and the people groups around the world who are downtrodden and persecuted.
 We lift up the people of Afghanistan, where Taliban rule restricts their freedoms.
 For the women and young people who are barred from education,
 for those with restricted internet access that cuts off their communication,
 restricting their news of the outside world and their ability to run businesses.
 For those imprisoned for speaking out against the government.
 Lord, bring your gift of freedom.

Faithful God, we lift before you the leadership of our country.
 We pray for all who are anxious about the decisions of the government.
 For those who fear changes that may impact their future,
 their incomes and businesses, their education and financial stability.
 We pray for those in leadership – local councillors, civil servants, MPs,
 the Prime Minister and Cabinet ministers.
 Help them to make wise decisions,
 considering the impact on those who are already struggling.
 Lord, bring your gift of wisdom.

Faithful God, we pray for the discord that can exist in our society.
 Where discontent and fear turn people to divisiveness and blame.
 Help us to find ways to listen to one another, even where there is disagreement,
 that every person would feel their concerns can be heard.
 Impress upon us the importance of loving our neighbour and the stranger,
 even when they are entirely different from ourselves.
 Lord, bring your gift of unity.

Faithful God, we pray for those who are facing suffering;
 those living with chronic pain, terminal illness and those facing degenerative disease.
 For their loved ones who care for them and hate to watch them suffer.
 It can be hard to have hope in the midst of such difficulty.
 Bring your healing touch and your outpouring of love,
 so that those who suffer would know you as Christ who also suffered.
 Thank you for the scientific breakthroughs
 that are bringing healing and hope to those in need.
 Help those in research to find new ways to alleviate suffering.
 Lord, bring your gift of healing. **Amen.**

R&S 339 Great God, your love has called us here

1 Great God, your love has called us here
as we, by love, for love were made.
Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonoured, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind
your call to hear, your love to find.

2 We come with self-inflicted pains
of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,
by social forces swept along,
by powers and systems close confined
yet seeking hope for humankind.

3 Great God, in Christ you call our name
and then receive us as your own
not through some merit, right or claim
but by your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse your mercy-seat
and find you kneeling at our feet.

4 Then take the towel, and break the bread,
and humble us, and call us friends.
Suffer and serve till all are fed,
and show how grandly love intends
to work till all creation sings,
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

5 Great God, in Christ you set us free
your life to live, your joy to share.
Give us your Spirit's liberty
to turn from guilt and dull despair
and offer all that faith can do
while love is making all things new.

Brian Wren (1936-)
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Our children and young people will return from Café Church and join us for Holy Communion

Holy Communion

Gospel Words

Jesus said to them, I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. John 6:35

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking;
if you hear my voice and open the door,
I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. Revelation 3:20

God proves his love for us in
that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30

Invitation to the Table

Come to this table, not because you must but because you may,
not because you are strong, but because you are weak.
Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come,
but because you need mercy and help.
Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love him more.
Come, because he loved you and gave himself for you.
Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body.

We pray together:

**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.**

The Institution

The apostle Paul tells us of the institution of the Lord's Supper:

For I received from the Lord

what I also handed on to you,

that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed

took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks,

he broke it and said,

'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying,

'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,

you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 11.23–26

Thanksgiving

Loving God,

we praise and thank you

for your love shown to us in Jesus Christ.

We thank you for his life and ministry,

announcing the good news of your kingdom

and demonstrating its power

in the lifting of the downtrodden,

and the healing of the sick,

and the loving of the loveless.

We thank you for his sacrificial death upon the cross

for the redemption of the world,

and for your raising him to life again,

as a foretaste of the glory we shall share.

We give you thanks for this bread and wine,

symbols of our world

and signs of your transforming love.

Send your Holy Spirit, we pray,

that we may be renewed

into the likeness of Jesus Christ

and formed into his Body.

This we pray in his name and for his sake. Amen.

The Breaking of Bread

Jesus said, 'This is my body which is for you;

do this in memory of me'.

Sharing the Bread

Take this in remembrance that Christ died for you

and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

The Lifting of the Cup

In the same way,

he took the cup after supper, and said:

'This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood.

Whenever you drink it,
do this in memory of me.' 1 Corinthians 11:25

Sharing the Wine

Drink this and remember that Christ's blood was shed for you and be thankful.

Words of Acclamation and Prayer

Your death, O Lord, we commemorate.

Your resurrection we confess.

Your final coming we await.

Glory be to you, O Christ.

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Father of all,

we give you thanks and praise,

that when we were still far off

you met us in your Son and brought us home.

Dying and living, he declared your love,

gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.

May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;

we who drink his cup bring life to others;

we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.

Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,

so we and all your children shall be free,

and the whole earth live to praise your name;

through Christ our Lord. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Sung this Sunday

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. 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.**

R&S 522 From heaven you came, helpless babe

1 From heaven you came, helpless babe,
entered our world, your glory veiled;
not to be served, but to serve,
and give your life that we might live

*This is our God, the Servant King,
he calls us now to follow him,
to bring our lives as a daily offering
of worship to the Servant King.*

2 There in the garden of tears,
my heavy load he chose to bear;
his heart with sorrow was torn,
'Yet not my will but yours', he said.

3 Come see his hands and his feet,
the scars that speak of sacrifice,
hands that flung stars into space
to cruel nails surrendered.

4 So let us learn how to serve,
and in our lives enthrone him;
each other's needs to prefer,
for it is Christ we're serving.

Graham Kendrick (1950-)
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The Blessing

And may the blessing of God Almighty,
Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,
be upon us and those we love, this day and always. **Amen.**

The Grace

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen.**