

The Gathering – first video

Welcome - [Oliver]

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thousands of people followed Jesus to the middle of nowhere to be with him. But out there, they found themselves in a place that wasn't really made for public gatherings. It seemed it would be too complicated, too difficult to accommodate everybody, but Jesus made a way.

As we consider how we might all be fed in these confusing and problematic times, let us find ourselves drawn into a welcome where God meets our needs in miraculous ways.

Confession

[Kelvin] God is love and we are God's children.
There is no room for fear in love.
We love because God loved us first.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

[Silence]

God our Father, we confess to you and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and in what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry. Forgive us our sins, and deliver us from the power of evil, for the sake of your Son who died for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

[Oliver] God, who is both power and love, forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by the Holy Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria - [JENNIFER TAYLOR]

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his 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 - [Oliver]

Bountiful and compassionate God, you place in the hands of your disciples the food of life. Nourish us at your holy table, that we may bear Christ to others and share with them the gifts we have so richly received. We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Ministry of the Word – second video

Reading: Matthew 13:1-9,18-23 – [Michael]

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mathew.
Glory to Christ our Saviour.

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Sermon [Kelvin]

They said to Jesus, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late, send the crowds away so that they may go and buy food for themselves"

And Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat".

They replied – “We have nothing here but five loaves and two bottles of hand sanitizer”.

And Jesus said, “Hmm, well, tell them all to sit down – not too close together mind, in groups of fifty and we’ll see what we can do.”

The miracle of the loaves and fishes is a favourite story in the gospels. It was a favourite story for the Evangelists right from the beginning – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all have a version of the story and Matthew and Mark even have another go at it with different numbers of people and loaves of bread.

It is clear that for the early church, this story mattered quite a lot. I guess that what happened mattered more than the numbers involved.

The essence of the story remains the same – there were people without bread. Loaves and fishes were available and somehow in sharing these, the people were fed.

And it is always noted that the story fits a pattern with which we are familiar. Jesus takes bread, gives thanks for bread, breaks the bread and shares the bread. It is the same pattern that many of us are familiar with in church – remembering the last supper, the celebrant takes bread, gives thanks for the bread, breaks the bread and shares the bread.

And layer upon layer of meaning and identity has come to be associated with those Eucharistic acts.

I think it is interesting to think about the fact that this series of acts became definitive for much of the Christian church. And it is interesting to think about what didn’t happen too.

As someone who isn’t keen on seafood and who generally thinks that God put it in the sea to indicate to us that eating it wasn’t a

great idea, I think I'm rather relieved that the church took up bread and wine and changed the world with it rather than bread and fish.

Had I been offered the sacrament of the sardines, I'm not entirely sure what religion I would have ended up being part of.

Of course for me, I find thinking about the Eucharist really interesting because I grew up in one of the few parts of the Christian church which doesn't have it. In my Salvation Army childhood there was no bread and wine shared – though we loved Jesus all the same.

And of course, though all the gospel writers include the feeding of the multitude not all of them have the bread and wine that we are so used to. John speak of the last supper taking place where the towel and the bowl for footwashing take a central place.

The sacrament of the towel – service and love and intimacy. Well, that would have won me over more than making sacramental signs with salmon.

Within the tradition that I grew up in, there was still some sense of the Eucharist though even though we never celebrated one.

A hymn we used to sing had this verse:

My life must be Christ's broken bread,

My love His outpoured wine;

A cup o'erfilled, a table spread

Beneath His name and sign,

That other souls, refreshed and fed,

May share His life through mine.

And that's where we are right now. It is not possible for us to celebrate the eucharist at the moment in St Mary's though I hope

that in a few weeks' time it will be possible for at least some of us to do so.

But whether we receive in church or participate online, the truth is this – the Eucharist that we have right now is us. We are the broken body of Christ. Broken bread, scattered through the world. And we are in it to bring nourishment, holiness, goodness and love. That all the world might be blessed and changed and renewed.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Intercessions [Taylor]

God who guides us in the way of truth, be near us as we strive to discern your will, and hear our prayers for our world, the church, and our own lives.

We offer our prayers for the continued Black Lives Matter protests in Portland, Oregon and throughout the United States, as well as for LGBTQ+ communities in Poland and worldwide. Give wisdom and understanding to those who speak truth to power, and solace to those still hungering and thirsting for righteousness.

God, healer of the sick and feeder of the hungry, we offer prayers for all whose lives continue to be affected by COVID-19. Be with all medical researchers working to develop vaccines and treatments, and embolden all of us toward creative solutions to living in this new reality.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for your church throughout the world, praying this week especially for the new Province of Alexandria.

In our own diocese we pray for Bishop Kevin and the churches of St Andrew's, Ardrossan; St Peter's, Dalry; and St Andrew's, Irvine.

And we pray for our cathedral, for all who minister here, and for all involved in developing reopening plans. May their decisions be grounded in love for you and your people as they envision new forms of communal worship as we emerge from lockdown.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We bring before you our city of Glasgow, and particularly all in our community involved in theatres, music, and dance. At a time when the arts are struggling, remind us all of their life-giving power and prophetic role in trying times, and help us find more sustainable and accessible ways of fostering creativity.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord, you fed a crowd of people, creating a bounty from all they had. Help us be mindful of the loaves and fishes in our own lives, that we may share what we have with one another.

We bring before you the people and situations in our own lives in need of our prayers, and those whose needs are known only to you.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We commend to your loving care all those who have died recently, including Cameron Steel. Be with their loved ones who mourn and remember them, and raise them to life everlasting. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Communion – third video

Offertory - [Oliver]

Something small turned into something big. That's what we hear happening over and over again in the Gospel: a mustard seed becomes a large bush, a small amount of yeast leavens flour and water, and five loaves and two fish feed thousands. As we consider what God can do with what we have, let us remember this Gospel message.

To make a financial contribution that works to build up the Church—that helps grow and feed this community—go to the Cathedral's website and click 'Donate to St Mary's Cathedral'. There, you'll find ways to transform our individual gifts into something bigger.

Let us present our offerings to the Lord.

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory,
the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in
heaven and on earth is yours.**

All things come from you, and of your own we give you.

Eucharistic Prayer - [Oliver]

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 God thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, Father,
in every place and at all times.

All power is yours. You created the heavens and established the earth; you sustain in being all that is.

In Christ your Son our life and yours
are brought together in a wonderful exchange.

He made his home among us that we might for ever dwell in you.

Through your Holy Spirit you call us to new birth
in a creation restored by love.

As children of your redeeming purpose
we offer you our praise,
with angels and archangels
and the whole company of heaven,
singing the hymn of your unending glory:

**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.**

Glory and thanksgiving be to you,
most loving Father,
for the gift of your Son born in human flesh

He is the Word existing beyond time,
both source and final purpose,
bringing to wholeness all that is made.

Obedient to your will he died upon the Cross.

By your power you raised him from the dead.

He broke the bonds of evil
and set your people free to be his Body in the world

On the night when he was given up to death,
knowing that his hour had come,
having loved his own,
he loved them to the end.

At supper with his disciples
he took bread and offered you thanks.
He broke the bread,
and gave it to them, saying:
“Take, eat.
This is my Body: it is broken for you.”
After supper, he took the cup,
he offered you thanks,
and gave it to them saying:
“Drink this, all of you.
This is my Blood of the new covenant;
it is poured out for you, and for all,
that sins may be forgiven.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

**We now obey your Son's command.
We recall his blessed passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension;
and we look for the coming of his Kingdom.
Made one with him, we offer you these gifts
and with them ourselves,
a single, holy, living sacrifice.**

Hear us, most merciful Father,
and send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and this wine,
that, overshadowed by his life-giving power,
they may be the Body and Blood of your Son,
and we may be kindled with the fire of your love
and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

**Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's Body
to live and work to your praise and glory;
may we grow together in unity and love
until at last, in your new creation,
we enter into our heritage**

**in the company of the Virgin Mary,
the apostles, and prophets,
and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.**

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be to you,
Lord of all ages,
world without end.

Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The living bread is broken for the life of the world.
Lord, unite us in this sign.

Lord's Prayer - [Kelvin]

As our Saviour has 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.
Do not bring us
to the time of trial
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,**

now and for ever.

Amen.

Music at Communion - [JENNIFER]

O Mysterium ineffabile by Lallouette

O mysterium ineffabile! O caritatis sacramentum admirabile!

O bonitatis prodigium! O pietatis miraculum!

O amor, O pietas, O epularum jucunditas, O convivarum felicitas!

O unspeakable mystery! O wonderful sacrament of love!

O marvel of goodness! O miracle of holiness!

O love! O holiness! O joy of feasts! O happiness of fellowships!

Blessing - [Oliver]

Thank you to all who have contributed to today's worship—a multiplicity of offerings. How wonderful to see everything come together!

You know, there wasn't just 'enough' to feed all the people who followed Jesus to that deserted place. There was plenty leftover. May the abundance and overflowing love of God nourish us and all those we encounter in the days to come.

The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

A hymn and materials for Young Church are available on the online worship page at www.thecathedral.org.uk/worship.

