William Blake: Jacob's Ladder, c.1799-1806

Welcome to St Michael's Holy Communion for the Feast of St Michael and All Angels, 26th Sept 2021

- You are most welcome to this service of Holy Communion.
- The celebrant is Revd Steve Butler.
- At present we are only able to receive communion 'in one kind', that is, only the communion wafer (the celebrant will receive the wine on behalf of all). To receive, please come forward, one household at a time, and use the hand sanitiser both before and after you receive.



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

Opening Hymn

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven, to his feet thy tribute bring; ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who like me his praise should sing ? Alleluia, Alleluia, praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour to our fathers in distress; praise him still the same as ever, slow to chide, and swift to bless: Alleluia, Alleluia, glorious in his faithfulness.

Father-like, he tends and spares us, well our feeble frame he knows; in his hands he gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes: Alleluia, Alleluia, widely as his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him; ye behold him face to face; sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space: Alleluia, Alleluia, praise with us the God of grace.

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.

Summary of the Law

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: "Love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these. **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Confession

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.

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

Gloria

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 (Michael and All Angels)

Eternal God, you have ordained and constituted in a wonderful order the

ministries of angels and mortals. Grant that as your holy angels stand before you in heaven, so at your command they may help and defend us here on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Psalm

Psalm 103.19-22

The LORD has established his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules over all.

Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, obedient to his spoken word.

Bless the LORD, all his hosts, his ministers that do his will.

Bless the LORD, all his works, in all places of his dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul.

Glory to God, Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, And shall be forever. Amen

Readings Genesis 28.10-17.

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

Reveleation 12.7-12

And war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon. The dragon and his angels fought back, but they were defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. The great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world-he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming, 'Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah, for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not cling to life even in the face of death. Rejoice then, you heavens and those who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, for the devil has come down to yo with great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!'

Gospel

(When the reading is announced, we say) Glory to Christ our Saviour.

John 1.47-51

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man "

(At the end)

Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious Gospel.

Praise to Christ our Lord.

Reflection

Steve

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 substance with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate 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. With the Father and the Son, he is worshipped and glorified.

He 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

(Prayer is offered: for the world and its people, for those who suffer and those in need, for the Church and its members)

The Peace

We meet in Christ's name. Let us share his peace. (We offer one another a word of peace)

Offertory Hymn

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth: *come and worship — Christ, the new-born King: come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.*

Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night, God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light:

Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar: seek the great Desire of Nations; ye have seen his natal star:

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear, suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear:

Though an infant now we view him, he shall fill his Father's throne, gather all the nations to him; every knee shall then bow down:

Liturgy of the Sacrament

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.

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.

Worship and praise belong to you, O God,

Creator of all things visible and invisible,

Source of life and immortality, Whom the heavens praise,

the sun and moon and all the stars, the earth, the sea and all that is in them,

in every place and at all times.

By your holy Word you brought order out of chaos.

You divided light from darkness, created the heavens and established the earth; you divided the sea from the dry land, and caused all life to come into being.

When you had made the plants and the animals, you formed humanity in your own image, and entrusted us with the priesthood of your Creation.

In Christ your holy Word became flesh, took our human form, lived among us, and, through dying on the cross, overcame sin and death, that your creation might be restored in him.

Through your life-giving Holy Spirit Who first moved over the waters, you renew your creation, call us to new birth, in a world restored by love.

As children of your redeeming purpose,

with all your creatures throughout space and time, we offer you our praise, together 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, God our creator, for the gift of your Son born in human flesh. Christ is your holy Wisdom, existing beyond time, present at creation. Through Christ you revealed yourself in the world, and bring your saving work to its completion. Obedient to your will he died upon

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 the Spirit's lifegiving 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.** The living bread is broken for the life of the world. **Lord, unite us in this sign.**

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.

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.

The Communion

(All are invited to receive, standing at the front of the altar rail)

Thanksgiving and

Give thanks to our gracious God, whose mercy endures for ever.

Father, your steadfast purpose is the

completion of all things in your Son. May we who have received the pledges of the kingdom, live by faith, walk in hope and be renewed in love, until the world reflects your glory and you are all in all; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Eternal God, you have fed us with the bread of angels. May we, who come under their protection, like them give you continual service and praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

For all the saints who from their labours rest,

who thee by faith before the world confessed,

thy name, O Jesu, be for ever blest. Alleluia.

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;

thou, Lord, their Captain in the wellfought fight;

thou, in the darkness, still their one true Light. Alleluia.

O blest communion, fellowship divine! we feebly struggle, they in glory shine; yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia.

But lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day;

the saints triumphant rise in bright array:

the King of Glory passes on his way. Alleluia.

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast, through gates of pearl streams in the

countless host,

singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost Alleluia.

Blessing

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Sending Out

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

Notices Next Sunday - 3rd October -Harvest Thanksgiving.

Please bring a donation for the East Neuk Foodbank. This can be in the form of tinned food or cheques/cash (cheques made out to East Neuk Foodbank).

Please note the following items that they **don't** currently need: spaghetti hoops, beans, tomato soup and dried pasta as they have received a couple of pallets of these.. any other soups tinned fruit, tinned meats and vegetables would be great.

Monday 4th October - Harvest Supper

A note for your diaries that Members of both St John's and St Michael's are warmly invited to a **Harvest Supper at The Dreel Hall, Anstruther at 5.30 for 6 pm on Monday 4th October**.

The evening will consist of a fish supper, with dessert, followed by some informal entertainment. The cost is once again set at \pm 7.50, and the likely finish is about 8pm. Please sign up to book your supper.