



# Online Parish Communion Ordinary Time





## **The Sermon on the Mount**

Jan Brueghel the Elder, 1598

Collection of The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles

*Jan Brueghel the Elder was a key figure in a distinguished dynasty of Flemish painters of the 16th and early 17th centuries. His illustrious father Peter produced a famous series based on the seasons, depicting wide landscapes, the power of nature and scenes of everyday peasant life in novel ways. Jan worked on a smaller scale, both in terms of imagery (concentrating often on precise renderings of individual flowers) and the actual size of his paintings (remarkably the dimensions of this immensely detailed image are only 10 ½ inches by 14 ½ inches). His capacity to paint richly layered, delicate works earned him the contemporary nickname ‘Velvet Brueghel.’*

*Amidst the gathered crowd, Jesus is almost lost in it, yet can be found just to the left of the centre of the image, in a yellow garment and with his arms outstretched in exhortation. The semi-circular, almost orbit-like field of light around him is contrasted with the shadows of the fore- and backgrounds, subtly reminding us of Jesus’ assertion that he is ‘the light of the world’ and that ‘he who follows shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life’ (John 8:12).*

*With meticulous attention to detail, Brueghel depicts a huge range of characters, with their individuality conveyed in their differing faces, clothes and attitudes to Jesus. Those closest to him listen attentively, while everyday life goes on in the foreground without much, if any, awareness of his presence - close to the centre a pretzel seller in purple distributes his wares and nearby a crouching fortune teller tries to cast her spell. Distinctions in social class are also conveyed: in the foreground, on the right, elegant ladies in fine dress as well as more modestly attired women arrive concurrently on the scene. These depictions vividly recount what John’s Gospel records - ‘the word became flesh and lived among us’ (1:14) - and demonstrate Jesus’ willingness to enter right into a community’s life, just as it stood, in order to bring his message of new life, reconciliation and hope.*

*Perhaps most notably, Brueghel does not re-imagine the scene in the hot, dusty and primitive setting of Palestine during Jesus’ lifetime. Rather, he locates it in a then contemporary, recognisably European landscape, with deciduous trees providing shade and verdant moss on the forest floor. In the distance, down the mountain, domes, spires and masted ships in port also point to a developed society, both culturally and commercially. This shift in focus underlines the timelessness and universality of Jesus’ teachings in the Sermon on the Mount, as well as their applicability and reach beyond the boundaries of time, place, culture and nation.*

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*The minister welcomes everyone*

**Hymn – Praise, my soul, the King of heaven**

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 for 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.

**Prayers of Penitence**

God so loved the world  
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ  
to save us from our sins,  
to be our advocate in heaven,  
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,  
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments  
and to live in love and peace with all.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,**

**we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **The Collect**

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear  
the prayers of your people who call upon you;  
and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do,  
and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them;  
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.

### **Reading – Matthew 21:23-32**

### **The Authority of Jesus Questioned**

<sup>23</sup> When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” <sup>24</sup> Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. <sup>25</sup> Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ <sup>26</sup> But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” <sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

## **The Parable of the Two Sons**

<sup>28</sup> “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ <sup>29</sup> He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup> The father<sup>[a]</sup> went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. <sup>31</sup> Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup> For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

**Sermon**

## **The Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession – Nick Owen**

*At the end we say*

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

## **The Peace**

We are the body of Christ.  
In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body.  
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace  
And builds up our common life.

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

## Preparation of the Table

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 thanks and praise.**

Father, you made the world and love your creation.  
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.  
His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.  
And so we gladly thank you,  
with saints and angels praising you, and *saying*:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
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.  
So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.  
Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.  
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever. **Amen**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.  
And 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.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## Giving of Communion

God's holy gifts  
For God's holy people  
**Jesus Christ is holy**  
**Jesus Christ is Lord**  
**To the glory of God the Father**

## Prayer after Communion

**Almighty God,**  
**we thank you for feeding us**  
**with 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.**

## The Notices

### Hymn – Father, hear the prayer we offer

Father, hear the prayer we offer:  
not for ease that prayer shall be,  
but for strength that we may ever  
live our lives courageously.

Not for ever in green pastures  
do we ask our way to be;  
but the steep and rugged pathway  
may we tread rejoicingly.

Not for ever by still waters  
would we idly rest and stay;  
but would smite the living fountains  
from the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,  
in our wanderings be our guide;  
through endeavour, failure, danger,  
Father, be thou at our side.

## Blessing

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.**

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

**The hymns for this service were recorded remotely by the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields in their homes, and edited together.**

*This booklet is for use in the Parish of Itchen Valley, which comprises the churches of St Mary's Avington, St John the Baptist, Itchen Abbas, St Mary's Easton and St Swithun's Martyr Worthy*

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