



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 Greeting

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Hymn – Guide me, O thou great redeemer

Guide me, O thou great redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
Hold me with thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven
Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through:
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer;
Be thou still my strength and shield;
Be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction
Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

Prayers of Penitence

Jesus says, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.’
So let us turn away from sin and turn to Christ,
confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

**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

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit
upon your Church in the burning fire of your love:
grant that your people may be fervent
in the fellowship of the gospel
that, always abiding in you,
they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service;
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.

Readings

**Reading – Psalm 84
Read by Lavinia Owen**

The Joy of Worship in the Temple

¹ How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts!

² My soul longs, indeed it faints
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy
to the living God.

³ Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.

⁴ Happy are those who live in your house,
ever singing your praise. *Selah*

⁵ Happy are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.^[a]

⁶ As they go through the valley of Baca
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.

⁷ They go from strength to strength;
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

⁸ O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob! *Selah*

⁹ Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed.

¹⁰ For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than live in the tents of wickedness.

¹¹ For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
he bestows favor and honor.

No good thing does the Lord withhold
from those who walk uprightly.

¹² O Lord of hosts,
happy is everyone who trusts in you.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Reading – Mark 8:27-end
Read by Sarah Hunt

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark
Glory to you. O Lord

Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah

²⁷ Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”
²⁸ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰ Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.

Jesus Predicts His Death

³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. ³² He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.³³ But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

The Way of the Cross

³⁴ Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever wants to save their life^b will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. ³⁶ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? ³⁷ Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? ³⁸ If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father’s glory with the holy angels.”

**This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ**

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

To crown all things there must be love,
To bind all together and complete the whole.
Let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts.

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy
that we should always sing of your glory,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.
For you are the hope of the nations,
the builder of the city that is to come.
Your love made visible in Jesus Christ
brings home the lost,
restores the sinner
and gives dignity to the despised.
In his face your light shines out,
flooding lives with goodness and truth,
gathering into one in your kingdom
a divided and broken humanity.

Therefore with all who can give voice in your creation
we glorify your name,
for ever 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.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.

When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of
Mary, to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners,
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

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

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, 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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us
the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Bring us at the last with all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by whom, with whom, and in whom,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of
everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours 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 – Praise, my soul, the King of heaven

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring.
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King!

Praise him for his grace and favour
to his people in distress.
Praise him, still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Glorious in his faithfulness!

Fatherlike he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us,

rescues us from all our foes.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Widely yet his mercy flows!

Angels, help us to adore him;
you 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!

Blessing

Christ our King make you faithful and strong to do his will,
That you may reign with him in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

In the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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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