

## WELCOME AND NOTICES

- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January at 11:00 in the church - Art's festival meeting

## CALL TO WORSHIP:

All your works praise you, Lord; your faithful people extol you. They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might, so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendour of your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. (Psalm 145:10-13)

## OPENING PRAYER

Gracious God, we come rejoicing in your presence, and proclaim the glory of your kingdom, for your mercy reaches from the heavens to the very depths, and your kindness and grace are seen in Jesus Christ our Lord. Now take our worship, all we have and all we are, for your glory's sake.  
**Amen.**

## SONGS:

### Men of faith

Men of faith rise up and sing  
Of the great and glorious King  
You are strong when you feel weak  
In your brokenness complete

Shout to the North and the South  
Sing to the East and the West  
Jesus is saviour to all  
Lord of heaven and earth

Rise up women of the truth  
Stand and sing to broken hearts  
Who can know the healing power  
Of our awesome King of love

We've been through fire we've been  
through rain  
We've been refined by the power of his  
name

We've fallen deeper in love with you  
You've burned the truth on our lips

Rise up church with broken wings  
Fill this place with songs again  
Of our God who reigns on high  
By His grace again we'll fly

### How can I keep from singing?

There is an endless song  
Echoes in my soul  
I hear the music ring

And though the storms may come  
I am holding on  
To the rock I cling

How can I keep from singing Your praise  
How can I ever say enough  
How amazing is Your love  
How can I keep from shouting Your name  
I know I am loved by the King  
And it makes my heart want to sing

I will lift my eyes  
In the darkest night  
For I know my Saviour lives

And I will walk with You  
Knowing You'll see me through  
And sing the songs You give

I can sing in the troubled times  
Sing when I win  
I can sing when I lose my step  
And fall down again  
I can sing 'cause You pick me up  
Sing 'cause You're there  
I can sing 'cause You hear me, Lord  
When I call to You in prayer

I can sing with my last breath  
Sing for I know  
That I'll sing with the angels  
And the saints around the throne

King of Kings, majesty  
King of kings, Majesty  
God of Heaven living in me  
Gentle Saviour, closest friend  
Strong Deliverer, beginning and end  
All within me falls at Your throne

Your Majesty, I can but bow  
I lay my all before You now  
In royal robes I don't deserve  
I live to serve Your Majesty

Earth and Heaven worship You  
Love eternal, Faithful and True  
Who bought the nations, ransomed souls  
Brought this sinner near to Your throne  
All within me cries out in praise.

Your majesty, I can but bow  
I lay my all before You now  
In royal robes I don't deserve  
I live to serve Your Majesty

Your majesty, I can but bow  
I lay my all before You now  
In royal robes I don't deserve  
I live to serve Your Majesty

### CONFESSION

Let us come before the Lord with humble hearts and confess our sins.

**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are,**

**and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

May God our Father forgive us our sins and bring us to the fellowship of his table with his saints for ever.

**Amen.**

### OFFERTORY PRAYER AND PRAYER FOR SUNDAY CLUB

Loving God, in your generosity you have given us life through your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Now bless these gifts and our lives for your kingdom's sake.

We pray now for the Sunday Club, that both the children and adults would know the joy of your presence and the power of your Holy Spirit that together they may grow closer to you, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

### READING: Daniel 2:24-49

<sup>24</sup> Then Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to execute the wise men of Babylon, and said to him, 'Do not execute the wise men of Babylon. Take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream for him.'

<sup>25</sup> Arioch took Daniel to the king at once and said, 'I have found a man among the exiles from Judah who can tell the king what his dream means.'

<sup>26</sup> The king asked Daniel (also called Belteshazzar), 'Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?'

<sup>27</sup> Daniel replied, 'No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, <sup>28</sup> but there is a God in heaven who

reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you were lying in bed are these:

<sup>29</sup> 'As Your Majesty was lying there, your mind turned to things to come, and the revealer of mysteries showed you what is going to happen. <sup>30</sup> As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than anyone else alive, but so that Your Majesty may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind.

<sup>31</sup> 'Your Majesty looked, and there before you stood a large statue – an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. <sup>32</sup> The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, <sup>33</sup> its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. <sup>34</sup> While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. <sup>35</sup> Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing-floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

<sup>36</sup> 'This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. <sup>37</sup> Your Majesty, you are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; <sup>38</sup> in your hands he has placed all mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky.

Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.

<sup>39</sup> 'After you, another kingdom will arise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. <sup>40</sup> Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron – for iron breaks and smashes everything – and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. <sup>41</sup> Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. <sup>42</sup> As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. <sup>43</sup> And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

<sup>44</sup> 'In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure for ever. <sup>45</sup> This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands – a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.

'The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true, and its interpretation is trustworthy.'

<sup>46</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honour and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him. <sup>47</sup> The king said to Daniel, 'Surely your God is the God

of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery.’

<sup>48</sup>Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men. <sup>49</sup>Moreover, at Daniel’s request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego chief ministers over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself remained at the royal court.

This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

### **REFLECTION: Making sense of the times.**

#### *An enduring kingdom*

Our reading today starts with Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, he was obviously thinking about his future, what it held for him, his family, etc., how long would his rule last, what was his legacy going to be? Strange isn’t it how some people want to leave a legacy such as the vanity projects of politicians and rulers, for example the Youth and community centre across the road, Boris Johnson’s garden bridge across the Thames or even the pyramids in Egypt. Others leave a legacy because we see their contribution to society through their very lives rather than vanity construction projects. Here I am thinking of say Albert Einstein with his  $E = mc^2$  which most people have heard of even if we cannot fully articulate it or Martin Luther King Jr with his I have a dream speech, or Nelson Mandela with his meteoric rise from prisoner to president in about a year. I hope you’ll excuse my shorthand for their much more significant contributions to modern life.

Some people are driven by wanting to leave a legacy, something that will outlive them, they want to leave their mark on something more permanent, and I think Nebuchadnezzar was that kind of person. Billy Graham said, The greatest legacy one can pass on to one’s children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one’s life, but rather a legacy of character and faith. Now that’s the sort of legacy that is worth striving for.

Nebuchadnezzar has a dream that clearly worries him can he remember it? Perhaps not or was he testing his so-called wisemen on pain of death to tell him the dream and what it meant, only they cannot. Consequently, the wisemen are set to be killed by Arioch. To save the wisemen, which included Daniel and his friends. Daniel acts. He prays along with his friends and God reveals the dream and its meaning to him in a vision. Daniel goes to Arioch saying don’t execute the wisemen take me to king, I will interpret his dream. When the king asks Daniel in v 27 can he tell him the dream and its meaning he replies, 27 “No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, 28 but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. That’s a very bold step, at first it sounds like Daniel is like the other wisemen, impotent, unable to say what the dream is. But he goes on God has showed him what the dream was and its meaning. In v 32 and 33 Daniel describes a large statue, with

- A head of pure gold – the Babylonian empire

- Chest and arms of silver – taken to be the Medo/Persian empire
- Belly and thighs of bronze – taken to be the Greeks Alexander the Great
- Legs of iron – taken to be the Roman Empire
- Feet of iron and baked clay – no consensus

In v 34 we see a stone not hewn by man's hand is hurled at the statue which shatters into dust and is blown away. I can see why Nebuchadnezzar was worried, was he the statue about to be destroyed, what of his legacy then?

In v37 onwards we get the interpretation of the dream but not before Daniel reminds Nebuchadnezzar that he is only king of kings because the God of heaven has given him that position. It is clear that this is something that happens in the future after the king's reign. The scholars can't agree exactly on the meaning, but the usual assignment is this  
I am not convinced we need to know which the empires or kingdoms are, certainly at the time it would have been impossible to say as the dream describes future events. I want to avoid that going down that rabbit warren any further. The big picture is that all these kingdoms/empires are blown away by the stone which then grows becoming a mountain which covers the whole earth. Initially I am sure the king was relieved to know these events would occur after his time and not during, phew!

Then in v 46 - 47 we see the king's reaction, 46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honour and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him. 47 The king

said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery." How surprising this vignette would have been to any onlookers. The mightiest of kings falling prostrate before his servant, his bondsman, his slave, this person held in part as a hostage against any uprising. The king clearly knew it wasn't Daniel himself who revealed these things, but it was the God of Israel who revealed these things through Daniel.

So, hopefully that is the scene set, and if you have a bible open you might want to check to see if I have left anything material out. What does this mean for us today?

First of all, I think it sets a pattern for spiritual leadership. Way back at the start when Daniel goes to Arioch saying he can describe and interpret kings dream. Arioch immediately takes Daniel before the kings saying, "I have found a man among the exiles from Judah who can tell the king what his dream means." Thus claiming at least some of the glory for himself for finding Daniel (v 24 – 25). Compare that to Daniel's approach, he did not say he could interpret the dream but God in heaven could because he is in control of all things. Daniel acted only in extremis to save his friends and the other Babylonian wisemen. He did not seek prominence or spiritual leadership, he sought to remain faithful to God despite the complex, religious, moral and ethical circumstances he faced in exile. Much of Daniel shows a group of friends who stay steadfast in their trust and reliance on God. The royal food incident we looked at last week, or the fiery furnace incident or the lion's den incident we will be looking

at later. These events all speak of a steadfast trust in God in the face of life-threatening situations. While most of us want face life threatening situations because of our faith we all face complex situations where our moral, ethical and religious concerns are being challenged. Daniel and his friends put their faith and trust in God. They held on to their fundamental beliefs they did not compromise those beliefs but did accept some changes due to their exile. If we hold too strongly to our convictions, we might be seen as harsh and uncaring. On the other hand, if we accept too many compromises what are we left with, for we have compromised God's truth. I'm reminded of Jehoshaphat who made an alliance with King Ahab only to be rebuke for his compromises by the prophet Jehu. That is big challenge to remain true to God's calling and to act with integrity rather than compromise. The challenge is as it was for Daniel and his friend to pick our battles, to pick what is foundational and protect those at all costs.

The stone that destroys all these gentile kingdoms is Christ ushering in God's kingdom through his crucifixion and resurrection. Here we can see this starting as something small, the stone but something that grows into a mountain that fills the whole earth. Mountains are symbolic of something that is solid and permanent. Mountains are places were in the Old Testament people went to be close to God. Think of Mount Sinai and Moses receiving the ten commandments, Mount Ararat and Noah's ark, Mount Moriah where Abraham went to sacrifice Isaac, and where Solomon built the temple. Mountains seem to be special places of closeness with God and become

associated with God. Unlike the earthly kingdom God's kingdom will not be destroyed or replaced it is eternal and enduring nothing can stand it its way. Think of the attempts to snuff out the early church. Of Peters miraculous escape from prison when his chains fell off that we can read in Acts 12, and the inspiring v 24 which says, "But the word of God continued to spread and flourish." Which fits very nicely with the imagery of the stone growing into a mountain. Or the passage in Isaiah 9: 7 talking about the increase of his government or dominion, "There shall be no end to the increase of His government and of peace, [He shall rule] on the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From that time forward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this." Unlike the other earthly kingdoms of the dream God's kingdom is one that will flourish and never fade away. Christ who ushered in this kingdom has defeated Satan, sin and death through his sacrifice on the cross and his resurrection.

We can see the everlasting or eternal nature of God's kingdom in various places such as

- Daniel 2: 44, "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.
- Daniel 7: 14, He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."

- Luke 1: 33, “And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”
- Revelation 11: 15, ““The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever.”

The last reading from Revelation fitting very tightly with the earthly kingdoms being swept away by God’s kingdom. What a wonderful and consoling thought in times of hardship that God’s kingdom will last forever and whatever we are going through is only temporary and transient.

The everlasting nature of Christ’s kingdom is to be a comfort for us, knowing that he is in charge and rules over all things for the good of his kingdom. Whenever a new ruler or leader emerges it is natural to have hope for a brighter future a better life for ourselves. How often, when we look back over world history, do we see those high hopes in new political leaders dashed. How often were their promises to re-establish former glories, make America great again, re-establish our rightful place on the world stage by leaving Europe. Perhaps laudable aims but ones that are not delivered on. A little further back in history we have dictators arising, initially popular but failing to deliver for the masses, Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, the two French empires of the Bonaparte family. Rulers often promise so much and yet for many of their subjects they deliver very little. Not too surprising as their main driver is it’s all about them, their power, position and authority, their legacy rather than the benefit of all their citizens. The only ruler that can deliver on his promises, that has our best interests at heart the

only one who can ever do that is Jesus. Monarchs and rulers of this world don’t bring us the comfort that we have in Christ’s reign. Unlike all the other kingdoms, empires etc. of man Christ’s reign is the one that lasts through all generations and for eternity. Our king has showered us with undeserved blessing after blessing. He has defeated all his enemies and has conquered death. Satan has no claim over us, we have been freed from the consequences of our own sin and thus spared the ultimate death. We are spared from all these things because of Christ’s sacrifice and resurrection. What blessings has he given us, well they are different in each case for some it might be a spouse, a family for others it’s a single life. It might be a talent, a skill and ability, it might be an occupation or a career or a calling, it might now be retirement. Think of all those challenging times when we have asked for his help and our path has been made easier, I’m not saying easy but certainly easier. Isn’t that a wonderful thought our ruler is not so busy with bolstering his own ego or preparing his legacy that he’s oblivious to our plight and our needs but is actually concerned about and engaged in our welfare.

The kingdom Christ ushers in is a now and yet to be kingdom it was present when Jesus rose from the dead and will reach its glorious conclusion when he comes again in glory. At communion we often say as much don’t we when we read Paul’s instructions in 1 Corinthians 11: 26, “For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.” We are proclaiming Christ death until he comes, a death that has freed us from our sin and the consequences of our sin. Not because we

have done anything to deserve it but because we are foolish enough to believe Christ Jesus, that through the son we are saved. And we pray for God's kingdom to come in the Lord's prayer. In Daniel we have a signpost to the coming of God's kingdom not only in heaven but here on earth too in Jesus Christ the stone.

I said anyone seeing the king's reaction in prostrating himself before Daniel would be surprised by it. I wonder if some of the wisemen spared because of Daniels's action came to believe in the God of heaven. Two weeks ago, Mark spoke of the Magi, three wisemen or kings from the East. Tradition has it that three of them were, who?

- Balthazar was king of Macedonia,
- Gaspar derives from a Chaldean word, the Chaldeans being the racial elite and wisemen of Babylon
- Melchior was king of Persian.

It's strange how these two biblical passages seem to intertwine the wise men from the east formally Babylonia and our Daniel reading. I recall one of the elders in the church we went to in Bath saying there is no such things as coincidence only God created instances, God-instances, when we said it was an odd coincidence, we bought our first house from the church secretary not knowing at the time he was the church secretary and before we had joined the church, and the church at which Jan first came to faith and I rediscovered mine. No coincidence then? The wisemen, the magi at Christ's birth came from around where Babylon was situated, had some of the Chaldeans came to see that the God of Israel was not only the revealer of mysteries but the God of Gods. Had they gone on to believe in the God of Israel. Speculation but they were

certainly aware of the Jewish teaching and prophecies hence them seeing the star telling of Christs birth. I don't think God leaves it chance, to odd coincidences.

Why do I say Christ is the stone you might ask? Well, it's an image that is often used in for Christ being a living stone or a cornerstone. We often talk about Christ being the stone rejected by the builders in passages such as

- Psalm 118: 22, "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;"
- 1 Peter 2: 4 – 5, "As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house a to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

I do like that last reading Christ is the living stone rejected by humans, by the religious leaders of Christ's day but one precious to God. And v 5 says we too are to be living stones built into a spiritual house through Jesus Christ. We are to a holy or royal priesthood and as such one duty is to share Christ with others, to plant in them the seeds of faith. They may be our children; they may be complete strangers but that is what each and every single one of us is called to do. Remember the old adds on TV when the IT systems crashed, and they sat around the table, then the head of table asked whose responsibility is it? And they all turn to her and look at her! Well, the answer is it is our personal and individual responsibility to share Christ with those around us. I'm aware of a US business guru Peter Strople who said, "Legacy is not leaving something for people. It's leaving



something in people.” That something for us left in people is surely Christ. For Christ instructs us to share his message of salvation with others and thus to leave Christ in others. Legacy is not leaving a monument for posterity it’s about leaving Jesus in people’s lives, being that living stone in the family of believers, in that spiritual temple.

There is many things we can draw out of our passage this morning let me reinforce four of the ones we have looked at this morning,

1. Through Daniel’s vision the power and wisdom of God is clearly and undeniably proved. The Babylonian wisemen and their God’s could not tell Nebuchadnezzar what his dream was, but through God, Daniel was given the dream and its meaning.
2. God’s kingdom ushered in through Jesus Christ will sweep away all earthly kingdoms and will last eternally. His reign will be forever.
3. In Daniel we have a model for spiritual leadership. Caught between a rock and a hard place, forced to act otherwise he and friends would have been killed along with the wisemen. He acted out of necessity yes but with great faith. And the first thing he did was gather his friends to pray with him.
4. Should we worry what is our legacy? The legacy we are called to leave behind is the planting of the seeds of faith in others.

Let us pray.

May we like Daniel seek to remain true to God and our calling, may we turn to the eternal kingdom of God when faced with complex moral and ethical decisions,

remaining true to the faith we have in Jesus Christ and his eternal reign. **Amen**

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord our God, our present help in times of trouble, we come before you trusting in your goodness and mercy, and in our desire to see the fulness of your kingdom.

Lord, we pray for the Church. Help us to build our lives on the firm foundation of your teaching in Scripture. Strengthen your Church when it is beset by the storms of the world, that we may remain firm in the hope you have given us and obedient to your Word always.

We pray for the persecuted Church, for those hiding in fear of their lives, for those in prison, for those who are alone. Lord, we thank you for your faithfulness to us. May your people remain faithful to you.

Lord, we pray for the world. We pray for those who are seeking meaning and purpose to their lives, for those whose lives are empty, for those who are looking in the wrong places for truth, love, hope and peace. We pray that they may discover the life only you can give.

We pray for those who teach and influence others, for those who set standards and offer ways of right living for society. We pray for all involved in government, in broadcasting and the press.

Finally, Lord, we pray for all whose lives have fallen apart, those who have lost loved ones, who have lost freedom, employment, and a place to call home. We pray for the island nation of Tonga following the tsunami this week. Please open the hearts of the nations to this

small country that the people of Tonga would get the help they need. As we pray for Tonga we also pray for our own homes and loved ones, that we may know your blessing.

All these things we pray in Jesus' name.  
**Amen.**

**SONG: Who can know the mind of our creator**

Who can know the mind of our creator?  
Who can speak of wonders yet unseen?  
Who can reach the height of understanding?  
To play the notes of Wisdom's melody?

**VERSE 2:**

Who has weighed the dust of every mountain?  
Who has walked the mysteries of the deep?  
Who has laid the earth on its foundation?  
And who conducts the waves upon the sea?

**CHORUS:**

I stand in awe of You  
I stand in awe of You  
So glorious and true  
I stand in awe  
I stand in awe

**VERSE 3:**

You have seen the end from the beginning  
You have been before the world began  
You have reached to me within my darkness  
And in the light of mercy now I see

**THE PEACE**

The Lord calls us to unity. He gives us his peace and invites us to share it.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us share with one another a sign of peace.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

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 right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation; in your love you made us for yourself. When we turned away you did not reject us but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed, at supper with his friends he took bread, and 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.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his body is the bread of life.**

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 for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him: his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world, we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

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

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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  
Lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil  
For the kingdom, the power  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

#### **THE BREAKING OF BREAD**

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

#### **THE GIVING OF THE BREAD AND WINE**

The Body of Christ keep you in eternal life  
The Blood of Christ keep you in eternal life

#### **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.**

#### **SONG: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty**

Holy, holy, holy  
Lord God almighty  
Early in the morning my song shall rise to thee  
Holy. holy, holy  
Merciful and mighty  
God in three persons, blessed Trinity

Holy, holy, holy  
All the saints adore Thee  
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea  
All the cherubim and seraphim are falling down before Thee  
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be

Holy, holy, holy  
Though the darkness hide Thee  
Though the eyes of sinful man Thy glory may not see  
Lord, only Thou art holy and there is none beside Thee  
Perfect in power, in love and purity

Holy, holy, holy  
Lord God almighty  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea

Holy, holy, holy  
Merciful and mighty  
You are God in three persons, blessed  
Trinity  
You are God in three persons, blessed  
Trinity  
Oh, God in three persons, blessed Trinity

**CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING**

Now may 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.**