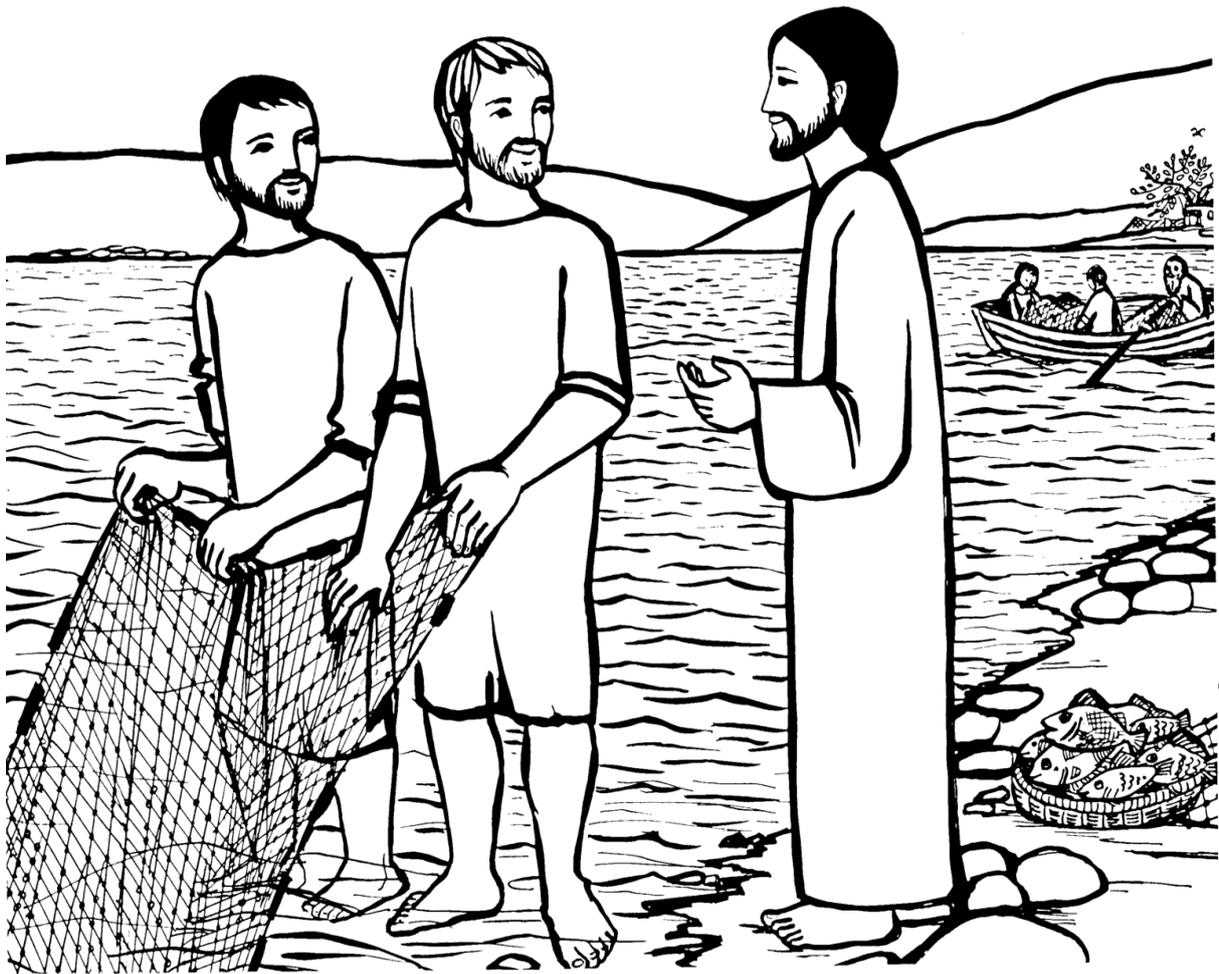


# **United Benefice of Berrow with Pendock Eldersfield, Hollybush and Birtsmorton**



**Holy Communion**  
**for the Sundays after Trinity**

## THE WELCOME

***Do have a candle, glass of juice/wine and cracker/piece of bread ready***

## THE FIRST HYMN

The Lord be with you  
and also with you

**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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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.

*(There will be a time of silence for reflection before we say the Confession together.)*

**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 in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed,  
forgive you your sins,  
open your eyes to God's truth,  
strengthen you to do God's will  
and give you the joy of his kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

**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.**

## THE WORD OF GOD

### THE COLLECT

Gracious Father, by the obedience of Jesus  
 you brought salvation to our wayward world:  
 draw us into harmony with your will,  
 that we may find all things restored in him,  
 our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
**Amen**

**THE READINGS:** Lamentation 3.22-33, 2 Corinthians 8. 7 to end

**THE GOSPEL READING:** Mark 5. 21-43

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N.*  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end of the reading:*  
 This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## THE SERMON

It's a tale within a tale. A story with a desperate father, a leader of the synagogue, pleading with Jesus to come heal his critically ill daughter. Then the story is

interrupted by Jesus' encounter with a woman who has been ill for twelve years with chronic bleeding. In the midst of a hundreds of grasping hands, Jesus feels a powerful connection with one hand. The woman believes that if she but touches his cloak she will be healed. With everybody's elbows out, Jesus asks, "Who touched me?" Meanwhile, the disciples respond, "You have got to be kidding! What do you mean who touched you?"

Some mourners come from the home to tell the father that his daughter has died; now there is no point in having Jesus come to heal her. When Jesus tells the crowd that she is not dead but sleeping, they laugh at him.

These mourners are not the first to scoff at what God is doing. Remember how old Abraham and Sarah, each in turn, laughed when they heard God promise that they would bear a son and become the forbearers of a great multitude? They had to laugh because the promise was impossible from a human point of view.

Like old Abraham and Sarah, these mourners don't take Jesus seriously. Why should they? They know about death. Death is an all too frequent and unwelcome intruder in the homes of the old and the young. What can Jesus do about death? But with God, all things are possible.

Both the woman and the father of the little girl take Jesus seriously. Both believe that Jesus can restore their lives. Both kneel before him. Jesus in the world with a divine power to restore life--abundant life for everyone. In Mark, we witness the abundant healing grace of God in Jesus. In Jesus, there is hope, life and community for all.

When we experience the abundance of God's grace, we can't help but take Jesus seriously. When this happens for us, we know what it is to be made whole. Jairus' bold actions shows that he is a doting father. And being an official of the synagogue, the law was clear. To touch a dead body made one unclean. So we watch as this leader of the synagogue puts aside all of his professional trappings in order to fully be a father.

And so he uses his social status and power in order to approach Jesus. He comes directly to Him, kneels, and addresses Jesus in the public arena with his concern for his child.

His advocacy for his daughter stands in contrast to the parallel story that is inserted. A woman, who has no identifying name and has no advocate. The doctors have not been able to cure her. The priests consistently send her away and keep her in isolation because of her impure status. In fact, the way that she drops before Jesus, trembling with fear.

The little girl so close to death that she has been pronounced dead is restored to life by Jesus. It is one of the three resurrection stories in the gospels. And the woman with the haemorrhage? In spite of the invisible role in which society placed her, she summons up the courage to approach Jesus. Unlike Jairus, she comes from behind trying to mask her presence. While Jairus is bold enough to ask Jesus to lay his

healing hand on his daughter, this woman lays her hand on Jesus. She takes the initiative for her own healing by stepping forward. She touches the fringe of the Jewish teacher's cloak, refusing to be powerless any longer, she breaks through the social, cultural and religious barriers that have relegated her to isolation.

This woman displays extraordinary faith, and Jesus recognizes it. Unlike the other miracle stories, Jesus does not pronounce any healing words. Instead, he overwhelms her with gentleness. Jesus does not do anything but acknowledge her. He simply calls her "daughter;" and in so doing, he not only gives her the blessing that no one else was willing to give. In seeking the source of the healing, he cites it as being her own faith. Her courage to break through all the barriers, brings her a condition she can barely remember: peace.

All we need to do is to approach Jesus and believe. The power of believing. If you believe that the pill can cure you, it can really help. If you believe that you can really solve a very difficult problem, chances are increased that you can solve it. There is a power to faith. We all know that. We all experience that in our daily lives. We read all kinds of signs that simply say, "Believe."

How does this story apply to our world today?

This story is about Jesus who is the Son of God. That the power of God lived in Him. That the power of God was in Jesus to heal, to restore, to make whole; who had the power over the wind and the waves on Lake Galilee, over disease and death.

Jesus once said, "Only the people who know that they are sick want to see a doctor." And only those people who are spiritually sick really want to see Jesus. Her healing was not the cause of her faith. God healed her.

Do you seek healing of any sort? Just because you have deep faith, that does not mean that you will inevitably experience healing. It just doesn't work that way. Things are done according to the mystery of the will of God and these things are often done beyond our comprehension.

Today, this story is an invitation for you and me to have this simple faith in Christ, the power of God. This story is an invitation to call upon Christ, the power of God, for all our needs. To be healed and to seek wholeness and that sense of peace. **Amen.**

## **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.**

### **THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

*At the end of the prayers:*

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

### **THE PEACE**

We are all one in Christ Jesus.  
 We belong to him through faith,  
 heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

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

### **THE OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**As the grain once scattered in the fields  
 and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside  
 are now reunited on this table in the bread and wine,  
 so, Lord, may your whole church soon be gathered together  
 from the corners of the earth into your kingdom. Amen.**

### **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

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.**

Let us pray

Father, we give you thanks and praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,  
through whom you have created all things;  
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;  
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,  
he lived on earth and went about among us;  
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;  
he put an end to death by dying for us;  
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;  
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious 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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;

he gave it to them, saying:  
 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.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
 his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
 rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
 and looking for his coming in glory,  
 we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
 As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
 we bring before you this bread and this cup  
 and we thank you for counting us worthy  
 to stand in your presence and serve you.  
 Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
 and gather into one in your kingdom  
 all who share this one bread and one cup,  
 so that we, in the company of [N and] all the saints,  
 may praise and glorify you for ever,  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
 for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

**Our Father, which art in heaven,  
 hallowed be thy name;  
 thy kingdom come;  
 thy will be done ;  
 in 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.**

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

**Therefore let us keep the feast**

**(consume)**

### **THE PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION**

Eternal God,  
comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken,  
you have fed us at the table of life and hope:  
teach us the ways of gentleness and peace,  
that all the world may acknowledge  
the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us in this physical and spiritual  
sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly  
banquet prepared for all peoples. Amen.**

### **THE FINAL HYMN**

#### **THE 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.**