

Entrance Hymn

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| 1. Lord, thy word abideth,
and our footsteps guideth;
who its truth believeth
light and joy receiveth. | 4. Who can tell the pleasure,
who recount the treasure,
by thy word imparted
to the simple-hearted? |
| 2. When our foes are near us,
then thy word doth cheer us,
word of consolation,
message of salvation. | 5. Word of mercy, giving
succour to the living;
word of life, supplying
comfort to the dying. |
| 3. When the storms are o'er us,
and dark clouds before us,
then its light directeth,
and our way protecteth. | 6. O that we, discerning
its most holy learning,
Lord, may love and fear thee,
evermore be near thee. |

Collect

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

New Testament Reading: Romans 8.26–39

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. *This is the Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm 128

How abundant is your goodness, O Lord. **How abundant is your goodness, O Lord.** Blessed are all those who fear the Lord, and walk in his ways. You shall eat the fruit of the toil of your hands; it shall go well with you, and happy shall you be. **How abundant is your goodness, O Lord.** Your wife within your house shall be like a fruitful vine; your children round your table, like fresh olive branches. Thus shall the one be blest who fears the Lord. **How abundant is your goodness, O Lord.** The Lord from out of Zion bless you, that you may see Jerusalem in prosperity all the days of your life. May you see your children's children, and may there be peace upon Israel. **How abundant is your goodness, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 13. 31–33, 44–52

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'



‘The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

‘Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

‘Have you understood all this?’ They answered, ‘Yes.’ And he said to them, ‘Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.’

The Offertory Hymn

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its most holy learning,
Lord, may love and fear thee,
evermore be near thee. |

Post Communion Prayer

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever.

Amen

The Sending Hymn

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| 1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you;
allelu, alleluia.
<i>Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, allelu, alleluia.</i> | but by ev'ry word
that proceeds from the mouth of God;
allelu, alleluia. |
| 2. You shall not live by bread alone, | 3. Ask and it shall be given unto you,
seek and ye shall find;
knock, and it shall be opened unto you;
allelu, alleluia. |

Notices:

- There will be no Eucharist this Wednesday. The Midweek Eucharist will resume in September.
- Our food and clothing banks are closed on Wednesdays until 9th September. However, the food bank will be open before the service (10-10.30 am) on Sunday 2nd and 30th August.
- How your Italian tax return can make a difference to this church: if you wish your 8/1000 (*otto per mille*) to be donated to the Church of England in Italy, when you present your Certificazione Unica tax form sign your name in the Associazione “Chiesa d’Inghilterra” in Italia box.

