

St Bartholomew:

The Eucharist

with

Spiritual Communion

(Order One – Eucharistic Prayer B)

In Time of Pandemic

INTROIT HYMN

1. Saints of God! Lo, Jesu's people
Age to age your glory tell;
In His name for us ye labored,
Now in bless eternal dwell.
2. Twelve poor men, by Christ anointed,
Braved the rich, the wise, the great,
All the world counts dear rejecting,
Rapt in their apostolate.
3. Thus the earth their death-wounds purchased,
Hallowed by the blood therefrom,
On her bosom bore the nations,
Laved, illumined—Christendom.
4. On this feast, almighty Father,
May we praise Thee with the Son,
Evermore His love confessing,
Who from Both with Both is One.

Saints of God! Lo, Jesus' people
Athelstan Riley (1906)

SUSSEX

Traditional English melody by an unknown composer

Adapted Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872 – 1958).

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THE COLLECT

COLLECT FOR ST BARTHOLOMEW

Almighty and everlasting God,
who gave to your apostle Bartholomew grace
truly to believe and to preach your word:
grant that your Church
may love that word which he believed
and may faithfully preach and receive the same;
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. **Amen.**



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

A Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah

⁸Bring forth the people who are blind, yet have eyes,
who are deaf, yet have ears!

⁹Let all the nations gather together,
and let the peoples assemble.

Who among them declared this,
and foretold to us the former things?

Let them bring their witnesses to justify them,
and let them hear and say, 'It is true.'

¹⁰You are my witnesses, says the LORD,
and my servant whom I have chosen,
so that you may know and believe me
and understand that I am he.

Before me no god was formed,
nor shall there be any after me.

¹¹I, I am the LORD,
and besides me there is no saviour.

¹²I declared and saved and proclaimed,
when there was no strange god among you;
and you are my witnesses, says the LORD.

¹³I am God, and also henceforth I am He;
there is no one who can deliver from my hand;
I work and who can hinder it?

Isaiah 43.8-13

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

¹²Many signs and wonders were done among the people
through the apostles.

And they were all together in Solomon's Portico.

¹³None of the rest dared to join them,
but the people held them in high esteem.

¹⁴Yet more than ever believers were added to the Lord,
great numbers of both men and women,

¹⁵so that they even carried out the sick into the streets,
and laid them on cots and mats,
in order that Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he came by.

¹⁶A great number of people would also gather from
the towns around Jerusalem,
bringing the sick and those tormented by unclean spirits,
and they were all cured.

Acts 5.12-16

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN CAPTAINS OF THE SAINTLY BAND

- 1 Captains of the saintly band,
lights who lighten ev'ry land,
princes who with Jesus dwell,
judges of his Israel.
- 2 On the nations sunk in night
ye have shed the Gospel light;
sin and error flee away;
truth reveals the promised day.
- 3 Not by warrior's spear and sword,
not by art of human word,
preaching but the Cross of shame,
rebel hearts for Christ ye tame.
- 4 Earth, that long in sin and pain
groaned in Satan's deadly chain,
now to serve its God is free
in the law of liberty.
- 5 Distant lands with one acclaim
tell the honour of your name,
who, wherever man has trod,
teach the mysteries of God.
- 6 Glory to the Three in One
while eternal ages run,
who from deepest shades of night
called us to his glorious light.

Captains of the saintly band
Latin Title: *Caelestis aulae principes*
Tr: H. W. Baker
Jean-Baptiste de Santeul
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University College
Henry John Gauntlett (1805 – 1876).
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GOSPEL READING

Alleluia, alleluia.

I do not call you servants but friends,
because I have made known to you
everything that I have heard from my Father.

John 15.15

Alleluia.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *St Luke*. (✠)

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴A dispute also arose among the twelve
as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest.

²⁵But Jesus said to them,
‘The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them;
and those in authority over them are called benefactors.

²⁶But not so with you;
rather the greatest among you must become like the youngest,
and the leader like one who serves.

²⁷For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves?
Is it not the one at the table?
But I am among you as one who serves.

²⁸You are those who have stood by me in my trials;

²⁹and I confer on you,

just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom,

³⁰so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom,
and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.’

St. Luke 22.24-30

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: St Bartholomew

Holy Scripture tells us very little about St Bartholomew, whose feast falls on 24th August (tomorrow), but we celebrate today on the nearest Sunday. He is named once explicitly in each of the three synoptic Gospels, as among the disciples whom Jesus called and later commissioned as Apostles. In Acts, he is said to have been among the witnesses of Jesus’ Ascension,
and afterwards with those in Jerusalem who *continued, with one accord, in prayer and supplication.*

We may be able to identify Bartholomew— with the disciple named Nathaniel in John’s Gospel (Mathew, Mark, and Luke do not mention Nathaniel, and John does not mention Bartholomew).

If that is so, we know that upon calling him, our Lord declared of him:
“Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!” which, in turn, elicited from him a profession of Jesus as the Son of God and the King of Israel¹.

Later tradition had it that Bartholomew travelled to India to preach and that he left the Gospel according to Matthew with them. Some believe that Bartholomew brought Christianity to Armenia, and that it was there that he was martyred by being flayed alive and crucified upside down. Hence in iconography, St Bartholomew is depicted holding scripture, which he preached, in one hand; and in the other hand, a knife, and sometimes his own skin, which was the manner of his martyrdom for his faith.

In today’s Gospel, the scene is that of the disciples reclining at a table in Jerusalem, and discord erupting:

¹ John 1:47-49

²⁴A dispute also arose among the twelve
as to which one of them was to be regarded as the greatest.. ²

The strife amongst the disciples prefigures the chaos, shortly to ensue, when Jesus would be betrayed, suffer and die on the cross.

In contrast in first chapter of the Book of Acts, after Jesus had appeared to them in his resurrected body and then ascended into heaven; we find them continuing *with one accord in prayer and supplication*³, as I mentioned a moment ago. The disciples, it seems, have learned from Jesus how to pray, and they are acting with a unity of spirit.

And by Chapter 5, as we heard, commissioned by Jesus and inspired by and of the Holy Spirit, they are continuing Jesus' mission and ministry. I suppose in many ways the Acts of the Apostles is about the deep and profound conversion of disciples (learners) into apostles (envoys) for Jesus and his mission, and that has led to us all being here today.

Prayer, taking responsibility for one another, self-emptying, and humility— these occur together somehow, and the Good News has spread to the four corners of the world.

One question before us today, on this feast of St Bartholomew, is whether we are prepared to follow that Apostle's example. He who was open to divine grace, and, by the power of that grace working within him, knew himself to be under the mercy of God. He was thus able to believe and preach the Gospel.

St Bartholomew did not shrink from the hard and gritty work of prayer and all that it would demand of him. I can only imagine that this was possible, because he had come to a saving knowledge of his own spiritual poverty. He truly believed the Gospel he preached, and truly preached the Gospel he believed.

*There is sprung up a light for the righteous,
and joyful gladness for such as are true-hearted,*
says the Psalmist.

May it be so for us also. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Encouraged by our fellowship with all the saints,
let us make our prayers to the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Father, your Son called men and women to leave the past behind them and to follow him as his disciples in the way of the cross. Look with mercy upon those whom he calls today, marks with the cross and makes his disciples within the Church ...

Silence

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Your Son told his disciples not to be afraid and at Easter breathed on them his gift of peace. Look with mercy upon the world into which he sent them out, and give it that peace for which it longs ...

Silence

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Your Son formed around him a company who were no longer servants but friends, and he called all those who obeyed him his brother and sister and mother. Look with mercy upon our families and our friends and upon the communities in which we share ...

² Luke 22:24

³ Acts 1:14

Silence

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Your Son sent out disciples to preach and heal the sick. Look with mercy on all those who yearn to hear the good news of salvation, and renew among your people the gifts of healing ...

Silence

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Your Son promised to those who followed him that they would sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel and would share the banquet of the kingdom. According to your promise, look with mercy on those who have walked with Christ in this life and now have passed through death ...

Silence

Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Almighty God,
Grant that your Church
may faithfully hold and make known
the faith that has come to us through the apostles,
that with them and all your saints
we may inherit the glories of eternal life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERTORY HYMN God we praise you, God we bless you.

- 1 God, we praise you! God, we bless you!
God, we name you sov'reign Lord!
Mighty King whom angels worship,
Father, by your Church adored:
All creation shows your glory,
Heav'n and earth draw near your throne,
Singing "Holy, holy, holy,"
Lord of hosts and God alone!
- 2 True apostles, faithful prophets,
Saints who set their world ablaze,
Martyrs, once unknown, unheeded,
Join one growing song of praise,
While your Church on earth confesses
One majestic Trinity:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
God, our hope eternally.
- 3 Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
Everlasting Son of God,
Humble was your virgin mother,
Hard the lonely path you trod:
By your cross is sin defeated,
Hell confronted face to face,
Heaven opened to believers,
Sinners justified by grace.

4 Christ, at God's right hand victorious,
You will judge the world you made;
Lord, in mercy help your servants
For whose freedom you have paid:
Raise us up from dust to glory,
Guard us from all sin today;
King enthroned above all praises,
Save your people, God, we pray.

God, we praise you, God, we bless you!
Christopher Idle (b. 1938)
Based on Te Deum laudamus (A Song of the Church)
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BLAENWERN

a traditional Welsh melody
William Penfro Rowlands (1860 – 1937).
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PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE

Father, accept all we bring before you this day.
Guide us with your love and feed us at your table
as you nourish the faith of the Church
by the preaching of your apostles.
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN Disposer Supreme

- 1 Disposer supreme, and Judge of the earth,
who chooseth for thine the meek and the poor;
to frail earthen vessels, and things of no worth,
entrusting thy riches which ay shall endure;
- 2 Those vessels soon fail, though full of thy light,
and at thy decree are broken and gone;
thence brightly appeareth thy truth in its might,
as through the clouds riven the lightnings have shone.
- 3 Like clouds are they borne to do thy great will,
and swift as the winds about the world go:
the Word with his wisdom their spirits doth fill;
they thunder, they lighten, the waters o'erflow.
- 4 Their sound goeth forth, 'Christ Jesus the Lord!'
then Satan doth fear, his citadels fall;
as when the dread trumpets went forth at thy word,
and one long blast shattered the Canaanite's wall.
- 5 O loud be their trump, and stirring their sound,
to rouse us, O Lord, from slumber of sin:

the lights thou hast kindled in darkness around,
O may they awaken our spirits within.

- 6 All honour and praise, dominion and might,
to God, Three in One, eternally be,
who round us hath shed his own marvellous light,
and called us from darkness his glory to see.

Disposer Supreme, and Judge of the earth

Latin Title: *Supreme, quales, Arbitr*

Translator: Isaac Williams

Jean-Baptiste de Santeul

HANOVER

William Croft (1678 – 1727)

Arranger: Richard Mark Stephen Irwin (b. 1955)

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Silence is kept.

Almighty God,

who on the day of Pentecost

sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles

with the wind from heaven and in tongues of flame,

filling them with joy and boldness to preach the gospel:

by the power of the same Spirit

strengthen us to witness to your truth

and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE DISMISSAL

HYMN In the day of our thanksgiving.

- 1 In our day of thanksgiving one psalm let us offer
for the saints who before us have found their reward;
when the shadow of death fell upon them, we sorrowed,
but now we rejoice that they rest in the Lord.
- 2 In the morning of life, and at noon, and at even,
he called them away from our worship below;
but not till his love, at the font and the altar,
supplied them with grace for the way they should go.
- 3 These stones that have echoed their praises are holy,
and dear is the ground where their feet have once trod;
yet here they confessed they were strangers and pilgrims,
and still they were seeking the city of God.
- 4 Sing praise, then, for all who here sought and here found him,
whose journey is ended, whose perils are past;
they believed in the light; and its glory is round them,
where the clouds of earth's sorrows are lifted at last.

In our day of thanksgiving
John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811 – 1875)
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WAS LEBET

Anon. from the Hymnal: Rheinhardt Manuscript,
Published Üttingen (1678 – 1727)
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BLESSING

God give you grace to follow his saints
in faith and hope and love;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

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