

Opening Hymn: The Church's one foundation

The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation
by water and the word:
from heaven he came and sought her
to be his holy Bride;
with his own blood he bought her,
and for her life he died.

Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.

Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses
with every grace endued.

Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

Aurelia 484ii NEH

The Collects

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
through the same 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 New Testament Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

This is the word of the Lord.

Acts 8: 26–39

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation: In the Lord I'll be ever thankful

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice!

Look to God, do not be afraid; Lift up your voices the Lord is near. Lift up your voices the Lord is near.

You are my salvation; I trust in you, I shall not be afraid, you are my strength; you are my song.

Taize Community

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After Jesus had been raised from the dead, the eleven remaining disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

St Matthew 28: 16–end

Praise to you, O Christ.

Processional Hymn: Come down O love divine

Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path
illuming.

Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with
loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till he become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

Down Ampney 137 NEH

Offertory Hymn: In Christ alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine—
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand:
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Anthem: Sicut cervus

Sicut cervus desiderat ad fontes aquarum:
ita desiderat anima mea ad te Deus.

*As the deer longs for the water brooks:
so longs my soul for you, O God.*

*Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c 1525–94)
Psalm 42: 1*

Communion Hymn: I heard the voice of Jesus say

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, thou weary one, lay down
thy head upon my breast:'
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting-place,
and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one;
stoop down, and drink, and live:'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright:'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till travelling days are done.

Kingsfold 376 NEH

Dismissal: Shine, Jesus, shine

Lord, the light of your love is shining
in the midst of the darkness, shining
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us
set us free by the truth you now bring us
shine on me [*clap, clap*], shine on me [*clap, clap*];

*Shine, Jesus, shine fill this land with the Father's glory
blaze, Spirit, blaze set our hearts on fire
flow, river, flow flood the nations with grace and mercy
send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light.*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence
from the shadows into your radiance
by the blood I may enter your brightness
search me, try me, consume all my darkness
shine on me [*clap, clap*], shine on me [*clap, clap*];

As we gaze on your kingly brightness
so our faces display your likeness
ever changing from glory to glory
mirrored here may our lives tell your story
shine on me [*clap, clap*], shine on me [*clap, clap*];

Shine, Jesus, Shine 719 AM