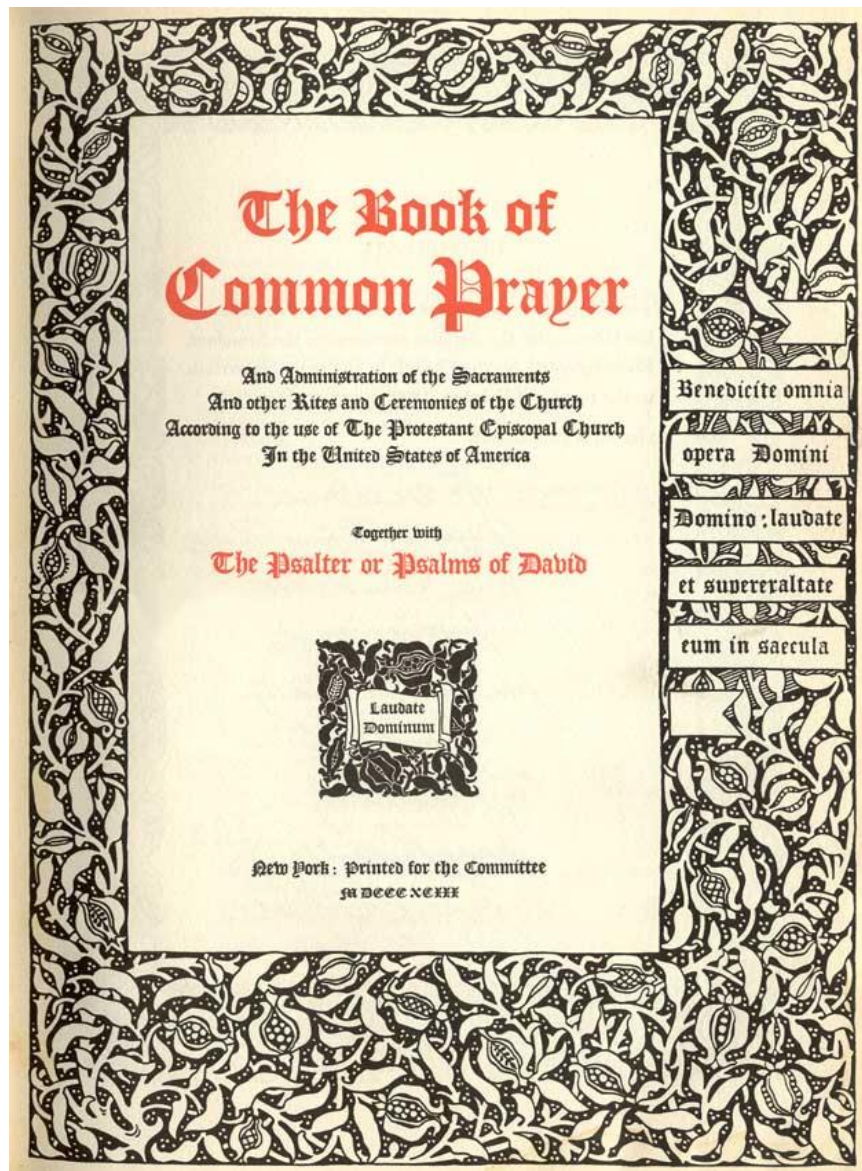




Draycote &
Leam Valley
Benefice

Draycote and Leam Valley Benefice
Holy Communion service according to the
Book of Common Prayer (BCP)



Where we meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at God's hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul.

Welcome to our service of BCP Communion. You are very welcome here. Whether you are familiar with this service or not we hope that this service sheet will help you to join in and feel part of this service, which has been used by Christians across the whole world for over 500 years. Please join in where you feel able and do not be afraid of getting it wrong; the great thing about the BCP is its theology. The words contained in it are very clear that we are forgiven for our errors!

Please join in with the **words in bold**. The words in *red italics* tell you where people traditionally stand/sit down and when something not written on this sheet is taking place. The footnotes tell you a little bit about why certain things are where they are, especially where they differ from more modern liturgies with which you may be familiar.

Places for hymns are not highlighted in this sheet. If the service includes hymns the Priest will announce them at the point where we sing.

Please feel free to take this service sheet home with you if you would like to ponder on the words in it.

We sit as the service begins with the Priest saying the Lord's Prayer¹:

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 them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil. Amen:

ALMIGHTY God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name: through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said²:

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.

This is the first commandment and the second is like unto it, namely this:

Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

There is none other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

¹ Our service starts with the Lord's prayer because it is recorded in the Bible as the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. Thomas Cranmer (the man who wrote the BCP) was very passionate about the Bible and the fact that God speaks through it. It is no coincidence that the first words of the service are taken directly from the Bible. As we proceed through the service, we will see that the majority of it is direct quotations from the Bible.

² Here we have another direct quote from the Bible. Again, these are direct words from Jesus and contain the call that he puts on our lives. This reminds us that being a Christian is as much about the way that we behave outside Church as it is about the way that we worship in Church.

Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.

Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY God, whose kingdom is everlasting, and power infinite: have mercy upon the whole church, and so rule the heart of thy chosen servant Charles, our King³ and Governor: that he (knowing whose minister he is) may above all things seek thy honour and glory: and that we and all his subjects (duly considering whose authority he hath) may faithfully serve, honour, and humbly obey him, in thee, and for thee, according to thy blessed word and ordinance: Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

The Priest reads the collect for the day, followed by the Epistle reading

We all stand for our Gospel Reading

After the Gospel is announced, we all say: Glory be to Thee, O Lord

At the end of the Gospel, we all say: Praise be to Thee, O Christ

We remain standing to say the Creed together

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible: And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of his father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the father, By whom all things were made: Who for us men, and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man, And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, And the third day he arose again according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one Catholick⁴ and Apostolick Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the

³ The BCP was a product of its time and at the time of writing this was a very political prayer. Today our political situation and constitution looks very different, but this remains a good template for how to pray for those in authority over us.

⁴The word 'Catholick' is not a reference to the 'Roman Catholic Church' it means 'universal'. The Creed is saying that we believe in one church made up of all Christians, it's an expression of Christian unity.

remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

We sit for the sermon

After the sermon the minister returns to prepare the table and begin the offertory, saying;

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

The offertory collection is collected while the table is prepared by the minister

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church militant here in earth⁵.

Almighty and ever living God, who by thy holy Apostle hast taught us to make prayers and supplications, and to give thanks, for all men. We humbly beseech thee most mercifully to *accept [our alms and oblations and* to receive]* these our prayers, which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the universal church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: And grant, that all they who do confess thy holy name, may agree in the truth of thy holy word, and live in unity and godly love.

We beseech thee also to save and defend all Christian Kings, Princes, and Governors, and specially thy servant, Charles our King, that under him we may be Godly and quietly governed: and grant unto his whole council, and to all that are put in authority under him, that they may truly and impartially minister justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion and virtue.

Give grace (O heavenly father) to all Bishops and Curates, that they may both by their life and doctrine set forth thy true and lively word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments: and to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, that with meek heart and due reverence they may hear and receive thy holy word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

And we most humbly beseech thee of thy goodness (O Lord) to comfort and succour all them, who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. And we also bless Thy holy Name for all Thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear; beseeching Thee to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of Thy heavenly

⁵ If you are unfamiliar with the BCP it may feel slightly strange to have the same intercessions every week rather than prayers written each week to pray for current and changing events. When the BCP was written people were used to worshipping in Latin and the congregation was not used to being able to follow the words that were being said. By keeping them the same each week they became familiar and people were able to follow them and pray along with the priest.

*If there are no alms or oblations (i.e., the collection) these words are omitted

kingdom: Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only mediator and advocate.

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

ALMIGHTY GOD⁶, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, Judge of all men, we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time, most grievously have committed, by thought, word and deed, against thy Divine Majesty, Provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful father; For thy son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee in newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him; Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn to him⁷: Come unto me all that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

So God loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Hear also what Saint Paul saith: This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

Hear also what Saint John saith: If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins.

⁶ If you are familiar with more modern liturgies, you may have noticed that the confession happens much later in the BCP service. Before Cranmer wrote the BCP it wasn't customary to have a confession as part of the old service of Mass. Cranmer and the other reformers felt it really important that we confess our sins and be assured of our forgiveness before we take communion. That is why he placed it here, right before we move into the Eucharistic prayer.

⁷ Here we have more verses of scripture before we move into the Eucharistic prayer, these are a reminder from Cranmer that the service we are partaking in is based on the truths revealed to us through scripture.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks to our Lord God.

It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name; evermore praising thee, and saying:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory: Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Amen

We do not presume to come to this thy Table (O merciful Lord) trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies, We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore (gracious Lord) so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death, until his coming again: Hear us, (O merciful Father), we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion⁸, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood: who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake 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. Likewise after supper he took the Cup; and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all⁹ of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me. Amen.

⁸ The words of this prayer are very precise. There was much debate during the reformation about what happened to the bread and the wine during communion. Cranmer makes his views very clear here. For our purposes though, whilst the theology of communion is important, the most important thing is that the bread and wine that we receive at communion is a powerful reminder that Jesus died for us. By taking it we are showing our allegiance to him and taking our place as members of his family.

⁹ This is another powerful statement in its historical context. Before the BCP only the Priest took the wine. In this section the priest offers it to all Christians present, showing that all of communion is for all of Gods people.

The congregation proceed to the altar to receive the bread and wine. If you would rather have a blessing, please let the priest know and they will be very happy to bless you.

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 them that 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

O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy humble servants entirely desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant, that by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee, that all we, who are partakers of this holy Communion, may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction. And although we be unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any Sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

We stand for the Gloria

GLORY be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us: Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us: Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; Thou only, (O Christ,) with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The peace of GOD, which passeth 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 Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

