



Holy Trinity Geneva

Eucharist with Spiritual Communion
Wednesday 20th August 2025
St. Bernard of Clairvaux
William and Catherine Booth, Salvation Army Founders
Modern English, Common Worship



The "Unity" tapestry, WCC Geneva

PREPARATION

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Welcome and Introduction

Today we find very different figures from our Christian life and history in the calendar for our commemoration. Rather than give preference to one over another, this week I will try to hold them together, within the embrace of the ecumenical movement, where we are learning to value our fellow Christians of very distinct traditions. We may see that what they hold in common is of greater import, and ultimately of greater influence in our world, than what are often seen as causes of division.

And so we give thanks today for the life and witness of Saint Bernard of Clairvaux (1153), Catherine Booth (1890) and William Booth (1912.)

COLLECT FOR PURITY

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 Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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.

Confession

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.

Absolution

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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.

COLLECT

Let us pray...

O God, whose love is made known to us through the lives of those who follow you most closely, we give thanks today for that love displayed in the life and teaching of Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, and we honour the lives of loving service of Catherine and William Booth in their founding of the Salvation Army. Help us through your grace to be worthy companions of your chosen disciples, drawing inspiration and courage from their holy examples.

This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The First Reading : Proverbs 4. 5 - 9

- ⁵ Get wisdom; get insight: do not forget, nor turn away
from the words of my mouth.
- ⁶ Do not forsake her, and she will keep you;
love her, and she will guard you.
- ⁷ The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom,
and whatever else you get, get insight.
- ⁸ Prize her highly, and she will exalt you;
she will honour you if you embrace her.
- ⁹ She will place on your head a fair garland;
she will bestow on you a beautiful crown.'

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

Psalm 103 vv 1 - 7

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me bless his holy name.
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits;
- 3 Who forgives all your sins
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 Who redeems your life from the Pit
and crowns you with faithful love and compassion;
- 5 Who satisfies you with good things,
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The Lord executes righteousness
and judgement for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses
and his works to the children of Israel.

Alleluia, Alleluia, praise the Lord all those who make keep his word,
praise and magnify the Lord forever. **Alleluia.**

The Gospel : St. John 15. 7 - 11

The holy Gospel is written in the gospel according to St. John
Glory to you O Lord

Jesus says to all who would follow him :

⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish,
and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear
much fruit and become my disciples. ⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have
loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide
in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his
love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and
that your joy may be complete.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Homily : Canon Alan Amos

Summaries :

Bernard was born at Fontaines, near Dijon, in France in the year 1090. He
entered the Benedictine abbey at Cîteaux in 1112, taking with him many of
his young companions, some of whom were his own brothers. He was a leader
of the reform within Benedictinism at this time and in 1115 was sent to

establish a new monastery at a place he named Clairvaux, or 'valley of light'. Though times were hard, he built up the community with his remarkable qualities of leadership. Bernard preached widely and powerfully and proved himself a theologian of renown. Literally hundreds of houses were founded on the Cîteaux or Cistercian system and Bernard's influence on his own generation and beyond was immense. He died on this day in 1153.

Catherine and William Booth

William Booth was born in Nottingham in 1829, the same year as Catherine Mumford was born in Ashbourne, Derbyshire. They were married in 1855. A passionate preacher, William's style was criticized by his fellow Methodists and he left them in 1861, founding his own revivalist mission in Whitechapel four years later. The Christian Mission, as it was known, evolved into the Salvation Army by 1878. Both Catherine and William were famous for preaching and the Salvation Army became a worldwide movement.. It coupled moral fervour with a strong social commitment to the poor. Catherine died on 4 October 1890 and William on this day in 1912.

Prayers of Intercession

As we recall today the life of Saint Bernard, we pray for all who preach the gospel today, that their hearts may be kindled by the love of God and their minds enlightened through the Holy Spirit.

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

As we recall today the work of William and Catherine Booth, we pray for those ministering in areas of poverty and social deprivation, both in the United Kingdom and other countries. In England we pray for Sam Tudor, as he meets the challenges of ministry as curate in the parish of the Manor, Sheffield.

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

Let us remember at this time all those who are suffering from war, praying for those innocent people whose lives are caught up in conflict, in Gaza, Palestine and in Israel, in Ukraine and Russia, remembering those who have died and praying for those who are injured.

We pray that wars may cease, and that peace may be achieved. We pray for peacemakers and for the United Nations and those who represent it.

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

We pray for our church community of Holy Trinity, giving thanks for your many blessings, praying that we may play our part in service to others in the place where we are.

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

We pray for the sick who are known to us, and those caring for them, especially for Beat Ammann, Ann Elter, Diane D'Arcis, Jean Mayer, Beverley Vasiljevic, Mervyn Puleston, Mary Brice, Jann Coppen, Jonathan Bezzola, Sybil Sheppard, Chris Talbot, Joan Tye, Annemarie Hester, André Vivas, Timothy Creffield, , Edith Tanner, Livia Varju, Brenda Hand, Valerie Offord, Phil Thomas, Diana Mason, Robin Bailey, Judi Cianci, Ruth Wyler, Germain, Joyce McNulty, Trevor Thomas, Diana Dickinson, Denise Muhlethaler, Maya Mortimer, Silvio Morson, Anna Porraccin, Valerie Slessor, Frances Boo, Jenny Syrathev, Lorensz Ranasinghe.

Among the faithful departed we pray for Alan Roberts, and we remember the family at this time of mourning.

Rest eternal grant unto him O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon him.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory with the saints.

The Peace

You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you (Isaiah 55.12)

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And with your spirit

The table is prepared.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

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.

Blessed are you, Lord God,
our light and our salvation;
to you be glory and praise for ever!

From the beginning you have created all things
and all your works echo the silent music of your praise.
In the fullness of time you made us in your image,
the crown of all creation.

You give us breath and speech that with angels and archangels
and all the powers of heaven
we may find a voice to sing your praise:

**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.**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord!
As a mother tenderly gathers her children
you embraced a people as your own.
When they turned away and rebelled
your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,
to be the living bread,
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners
and with a love stronger than death
he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends,
and taking bread, he gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take eat: this is my body which is given for you

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
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.

Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us into the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Remember Lord your Church in every land.
Reveal her unity, guard her faith,
and preserve her in peace

Bring us at the last with all your saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;

through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
by him, with him, and in him,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ:
Though we are many, we are one body because we all share in the
one bread.

Agnus Dei

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, give us your peace.

Let us prepare ourselves to make our spiritual communion.

We offer and present to you, Lord our heavenly Father, ourselves, our
souls and bodies, to be a holy and living sacrifice; grant that being
present together in heart and mind at this holy communion we may now
be filled with your heavenly blessing through the redeeming grace of
your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ... [short pause]

Lord Jesus Christ, in outward signs of bread and wine you have made
known your presence among us; as we unite with one another from the
places where we are, may your communion be fulfilled in us now through
the work of the life-giving Holy Spirit. Amen.

Post Communion Prayers

God of truth,
whose Wisdom set her table
and invited us to eat the bread and drink the wine
of the kingdom:
help us to lay aside all foolishness
and to live and walk in the way of insight,
that we may come with Bernard, with Catherine and with
William, to the eternal feast of heaven;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Blessing

Almighty God give us grace
to follow in the steps of Christ with faith, hope and love,
And may the blessing of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be
with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**