



The Anglican Church of
St Augustine of Canterbury

A Meditation on the Eucharist

Opening

Leader

On the night before he died, Jesus gathered his friends for one last supper together. He washed their feet. He fed them with bread and wine. He told them everything he wanted them to know. And he gave them new commandments. That they love one another as he loved them. And that they continue in the breaking of the bread and the prayers; that they do this in memory of Jesus.

During this time when we are physically separated from one another and we cannot gather to break the bread and share in the prayers, many of us find we are missing this ritual and this promise that Christ comes to us and is fully present in the sacrament. So we are using this set of scripture stories, music, and prayers, to remember the special meals Jesus shared with the disciples, to recall the Eucharist, and how Jesus promises to be with us in the breaking of the bread.

Reading — 1 Corinthians 11.23-26

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Leader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn 63 vss 1,3,5

Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup

Leader And so, to remember, the people gather and pray as they break bread.

Leader The Lord be with you.
All **And also with you.**
Leader Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**
Leader Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**
Question *Why is it right to give thanks and praise?*
Answer *Listen, and we will hear.*

Leader Lord of all life, you created the universe, where all living things reflect your glory. You give us this great and beautiful earth, to discover and to cherish. You give us happy times and things to celebrate. In these we taste your kingdom, a feast for all your children. You made us all, each wonderfully different, to join with the angels and sing your praise:

All **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.

Leader We thank you, loving Father, because, when we turned away, you sent Jesus, your Son. He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live. Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

Question *Why do we share this bread and wine?*
Answer *Listen, and we will hear.*

Leader On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.' After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate Jesus' love, his death, and his risen life. As we meditate on these gifts, send your Holy Spirit, and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Question *How do we follow Jesus Christ?*

Answer *Listen, and we will hear.*

Leader Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with St. Augustine of Canterbury and all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever.

All **Amen**

(Prayer Two, Common Worship, Church of England)

Hymn 48 vss 1,2,4

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Reading — Luke 24.13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into

his glory?’ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!’ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Leader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
People Thanks be to God

Hymn 746

The Disciples Knew the Lord Jesus

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The Church of St Augustine of Canterbury

1847 Bayview Ave Toronto ON M4G 3E4

416 485 2656 / saintaugustine.ca

office@saintaugustine.ca

Incumbent Priest	The Rev’d Megan Jull - megan@saintaugustine.ca
Honorary Assistant	The Venerable Alan T. Perry
Music Director	Marcus Reinkeluers - music@saintaugustine.ca
Parish Administrator	Alison Barnett - office@saintaugustine.ca
Wardens	James McLean, Jane Tearne