



Saint Matthew's Church
Big Lamp ~ Summerhill Street
Newcastle

Text of the Mass for the Conversion of S Paul 2025

As the priest enters the church, the following is sung:

1. The Shepherd now was smitten;
The wolf was ravening near;
The scattered flock he threatened,
But knew not Whose they were.
In zealous fury seeking
To bind and crucify,
A sudden voice withheld him,
A loud and startling cry.

2. 'Saul! Saul! Why blindly daring
To persecute the Lord?
'Tis Jesus Whom thou hatest
Rebel not at My Word.'
Then forth in prayer he stretcheth
Those hands prepared to slay;
'What wouldst Thou with Thy servant?
My Lord and Master, say.'

3. Christ's foe becomes His soldier,
The wolf destroys no more,
A gentle lamb he enters
The sheepfold by the Door.
O voice of God Almighty,
What wonders it hath wrought!
It rends the lofty cedars,
It bends the haughty thought.

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4. Jesu, our Shepherd, cease not
Thy flock from harm to free,
And, when Thy sheep are wandering,
O lead them back to Thee.
To Father, Son and Spirit,
All glory, praise and might,
Who called us out of darkness
To His own glorious Light.

Words: F Pott & A&M compilers
From the Latin of G de la Brunetiere
Music: Ewing
From S Bede's,
a tune by Alexander Ewing 1853

+ The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
[And with thy spirit.](#)

We were once dead through the trespasses and sins in which we lived, but now we are alive together with Christ. Through Him we have access in one Spirit to the Father, to Whom we humbly confess our sins:

We are often slow to follow the example of Christ: Kyrie eleison.
[Kyrie eleison.](#)

We often fail to be known as Christ's disciples: Christe eleison.
[Christe eleison.](#)

We often fail to walk the way of the Cross: Kyrie eleison.
[Kyrie eleison](#)

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.](#)

I know whom I have believed: I am sure that He, the just Judge, will guard my pledge until the day of judgement. O Lord, You have searched me and known me: You know when I sit and when I rise up. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

I know &c

During the Gloria in excelsis, the Altar, the symbol of God's Presence, may be honoured with incense.

Glory be to God on high.

And in earth peace, goodwill 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, Jesus 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,

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.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, Who caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of Your servant Saint Paul: grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to Your Truth: in and through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, Who is alive and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Ghost, God, throughout all ages, world without end.

[Amen.](#)

A Reading from the Book of the Acts of the Apostles.

Paul said to the people, "I am a Jew, born at Tarsus in Cili'cia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gama'li-el, educated according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as you all are this day. I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, as the high priest and the whole council of elders bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brethren, and I journeyed to Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished. "As I made my journey and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone about me. And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, `Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' And I answered, `Who are you, Lord?' And he said to me, `I am Jesus of Nazareth whom you are persecuting.' Now those who were with me saw the light but did not hear the voice of the one who was speaking to me. And I said, `What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, `Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.' And when I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus. "And one Anani'as, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, came to me, and standing by me said to me, `Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And in that very hour I received my sight and saw him.

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And he said, `The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Just One and to hear a voice from his mouth; for you will be a witness for him to all men of what you have seen and heard. And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

O praise the Lord, all you nations; ♦ praise him, all you peoples.
For great is his steadfast love towards us, ♦ and the faithfulness of
the Lord endures for ever.

The Gospel book is carried to the Lectern:

Alleluia, alleluia! I chose you from the world: to go out and to hear
fruit, fruit that shall last, says the Lord. Alleluia!

*Christ's Presence in the words of the Gospel may be honoured with
incense.*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Jesus showed Himself to the eleven and said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

A homily may follow.

Strengthened by our fellowship with Saint Paul and all the saints, let us make our prayers to the Father:

Father of Light, Whose Son prayed that His followers might be one as He is One with You; we pray for the unity of Your holy Catholic Church: Lord, hear us ... [Lord graciously hear us.](#)

Father of Light, Whose Son prayed for labourers to be sent into His harvest; we pray for all who work for the spread of the Gospel: Lord, hear us ... [Lord graciously hear us.](#)

Father of Light, Whose Son prayed that the faith of His Apostles would not fail; we pray for courage in our Christian service: Lord, hear us ... [Lord graciously hear us.](#)

Father of Light, Whose Son prayed for those persecuted Him: we pray that Your Grace and power may turn the hearts of tyrants to the Law of Love: Lord, hear us ... [Lord graciously hear us.](#)

Father of Light, Whose Son prayed that the Cup of Suffering might be taken from Him: we pray for all who contend with grief, loneliness or anxiety, sickness, neglect or abuse: Lord, hear us ... [Lord graciously hear us.](#)

Father of Light, Whose Son prayed that we may have strength to stand before the Son of Man; we pray for those who have died that they may find a place in Your love and Glory: Lord, hear us ... [Lord graciously hear us.](#)

In union with our Lady, Saint Paul, Saint Matthew, Saint Philip, Saint Augustine and all the saints, we ask that we may be joined together in unity of spirit and doctrine and so be made a holy temple acceptable to You; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
[Amen.](#)

Let the Peace of God, which passes all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And with thy spirit.

As the bread and wine are brought to the Altar and prepared for the Mass, the following is sung:

The Grace of God, which was bestowed upon me was not in vain: for His Grace eternally resides in me.

Here, while the Cherubim within the veil, adore the blest, life-giving Trinity, we in earth's worship echoing their part, hymn the thrice-holy in their company. So let all earthly cares be laid aside, that we may welcome Him Who draweth nigh, the King of Glory entering His courts, girt by the hidden armies of the sky. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The preparation of the Altar continues; incense may be used to honour the place where Christ will become present.

1. We sing the glorious conquest
Before Damascus' gate,
When Saul, the Church's spoiler,
Came breathing threats and hate;
The ravening wolf rushed forward
Full early to the prey;
But lo! The Shepherd met him,
And bound him fast today!

2. O Glory most excelling
That smote across his path!
O Light that pierced and blinded
The zealot in his wrath!
O Voice that spake within him
The calm reproving word!
O Love that sought and held him
The bondman of his Lord.

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3. O Wisdom, ordering all things
In order strong and sweet,
What nobler spoil was ever
Cast at the Victor's feet?
What wiser master-builder
E'er wrought at Thine employ,
Than he, till now so furious
The building to destroy?

4. Lord, teach Thy Church the lesson,
Still in her darkest hour
Of weakness and of danger
To trust Thy hidden power.
Thy grace by ways mysterious
The wrath of man can bind,
And in Thy boldest foeman
Thy chosen saint can find!

Words: John Ellerton 1826 - 93
Music: King's Lynn
English Folk Tune
Collected and arranged by
R Vaughan Williams

At the end:

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory and the victory
and the majesty. All that is in Heaven and earth is Thine:

[All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own do we give Thee.](#)

Almighty God, as we celebrate this holy Eucharist, may Your Spirit fill
us with the light of Faith. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our
Lord.

[Amen.](#)

The priest begins the great prayer of thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

It is meet and right so to do.

It is indeed right and good,

our duty and our joy,

at all times and in all places

to give You thanks and praise,

holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For on this day He called to His service

The blasphemer and persecutor of Your Church.

Saul, who had resisted Your Grace,

Became Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles.

Because he was faithful in his ministry,

You made him an example of patient service

To instruct in the way of eternal life

All those who heard his preaching and believed Your Word.

Now, therefore, he who became Your chosen instrument

For the salvation of the nations,

Has made us also eager to proclaim Your mercy

And sing in union with all the powers of Heaven

The joyful hymn of Your praise:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord most high.

+ Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his Apostles
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

The priest holds up the consecrated Host for the people to see.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them 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.

The priest holds up the chalice of consecrated wine for the people to see.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

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Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with [*N and*] all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
By Whom and with Whom and in Whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

Instructed by saving precepts and taught by divine example, we are bold
to say:

Our Father,
*Who art in Heaven,
hallowed by Thy Name;
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who 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.*

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

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us Thy peace.

The priest holds up the consecrated elements and invites people to receive Holy Communion:

+ Behold the Lamb of God; behold Him, Who takes away the sin of the world; happy are they who are called to His Supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive You; but only say the Word and my soul will be healed.

Truly, I say to you, that those who forsake all and follow Me: shall receive a hundredfold and inherit life eternal.

Holy Communion follows.

1. Hail, Thou Source of every blessing,
Sovereign Father of mankind!
Gentiles now, Thy Grace possessing,
In the courts admission find.

2. Once far off, but now invited,
We approach Thy sacred Throne;
In Thy Covenant united,
Reconciled, redeemed, made one.

3. Now revealed in sacred pages,
Sere the Light of mercy shine,
Myst'ry hid in former ages,
Myst'ry great of love divine.

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4. Hail, Thou universal Saviour!
Gentiles now their offerings bring,
In Thy Temple seek Thy favour,
Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.

Words: C14 anon
Music: Anima Christi
William Mahler 1823 - 77

After Holy Communion:

I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and sacrificed Himself for me.

Let us pray:

Lord God, the Source of Truth and love, keep us faithful to the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Notices may follow.

May Christ Who called Paul to His service and to preach the Good News to the world, strengthen you to witness to His Grace 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.

The Mass is ended. Go in the Peace of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

O, higher than the Cherubim, more glorious than the Seraphim, lead their praises, alleluia! Thou, bearer of the eternal Word, most gracious magnify the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia, (alleluia, alleluia,) alleluia!

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth Your Grace into our hearts, we beseech You O Lord, that as we have known the Incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of an angel, so by His Cross and Passion, we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection; in and through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

[Amen.](#)

1. From Heaven's height Christ spake to call
The Gentiles' great Apostle, Paul,
Whose doctrine, like the thunder, sounds
To the wide world's remotest bounds.

2. O bliss of Paul, beyond all thought,
To paradise, yet living, caught!
He hears the heavenly mysteries there,
Which mortal tongue cannot declare.

3. The Word's good seed abroad he flings;
Straightway a mighty harvest springs,
And fruits of holy deeds supply
God's everlasting granary.

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4. The lamp his burning faith displays
Has filled the world with glorious rays;
That darkness' realm may be o'erthrown,
And Christ may reign, and reign alone.

Words: Peter Damiani
Tr JM Neale 1818 - 66
Music: Gonfalon Royal
Percy Buck 1871 - 1947

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