

## Synod Sermon

The Synod sermon was delivered by Bishop W G Hilliard on 24 November 1958.

**Text - "And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them." (Luke 24:15).**

We have been called together to discharge a very heavy responsibility and to carry out a tremendously important task, and it is most appropriate that we should seek to prepare ourselves for it in this eminently relevant Service of the Holy Communion.

In one of our hymns, we have already sung -

"Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;  
Here faith can touch and handle things unseen;  
Here would I grasp with firmer hand Thy grace,  
And all my weariness upon Thee lean.

I have no help but Thine, nor do I need  
Another arm save Thine to lean upon;  
It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;  
My strength is in Thy might, Thy might alone.

See, the feast of love is spread,  
Drink the wine, and break the bread:  
Sweet memorials - till the Lord  
Call us round His heavenly board;  
Some from earth, from glory some,  
Sever'd only till He come."

What we are about to do in our Synod has an interest for the whole communion to which we belong, and indeed, to the Holy Catholic Church of God.

There are, of course, other aspects of this sacred Service; I invite your attention to just one more. It is a call to rededication, an opportunity to offer and present unto God ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy and living sacrifice. How could it be otherwise? As we realise His presence and remember all that He is and all that He has done for us, what can we do but from hearts that are full, exclaim with St Paul, "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

"When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were an offering far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all."

As we feed upon the sacred food in the holy fellowship of all the saints of God, how otherwise can we employ the life and strength that He has given than in His happy service and in that inspiring company.

In that spirit of utter dedication, let us proceed to our task, seeking above all things the glory of God, the welfare of His Church, and the doing of His will. And when the corporate choice has been announced, let us not fail to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace and, as a zealous and united body, pledge our loyalty to the new Archbishop, helping him to lead us along the path that his Master and ours would have us tread with steadfast steps.

"On, to the bounds of the waste;  
On, to the City of God."