





THE PARISH EUCHARIST

Whether you are a visitor for the first time or a regular at St Mary's, we warmly welcome you to this celebration of our Parish Eucharist in the Season of Lent

THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent is a forty day period (excluding Sundays) that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at Easter. Traditionally it is associated with a period of repentance and study, so it is a penitential season. The liturgical colour is purple and the usual adornment of flowers is missing (as with Advent which is also a time for reflection and repentance). The weeks prior to Easter were, in early church times, the period when new Christians were prepared for their baptism which would take place at Easter and a time when those who had been excluded from church would be prepared for reconciliation. This explains why the disciplines of self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study and generous giving which Christians are called to observe with special vigour in Lent became established in this period.

Many people in our culture still think of Lent as a time for giving up something but for Christians it is meant to be very much more than that. There are opportunities to study and so to deepen our understanding of God and our faith. Giving up a pleasure or taking up a new discipline can help to attune us to different rhythms in life rather than simply our own desires. The Sunday readings and preaching themes in Lent focus on key elements of Jesus's ministry that brought him into conflict with the powers and authorities of the time. As his face turned towards Jerusalem so our attention is drawn to the cross. Lent culminates in the dramatic events of Holy Week: Jesus's Last Supper and Good Friday before the light of resurrection appears on Easter Day's horizon.

THE GATHERING

Please stand as the hymn is announced.

THE INTROIT HYMN

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the

Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

The Lord be with you,

All: and also with you.

THE WELCOME

THE PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Priest: Let us pray:

Please sit or kneel.

All: 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.

THE PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Priest: Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

'Hear, O Israel, the lord your God is the only Lord.

You shall love the lord your God with all your heart,

with all your soul, with all your mind

and with all your strength'.

The second is this:

'Love your neighbour as yourself'.

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law

and the prophets.

All: Amen. Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Brothers and sisters,

as we prepare to celebrate the presence of Christ

in word and sacrament

let us call to mind and confess our sins.

We observe a brief silence for personal reflection.

THE KYRIE ELEISON

Priest: We confess to you

our selfishness and lack of love:

fill us with your Spirit.

For each petition the choir or cantor will sing the refrain after which the congregation repeats:



Priest: We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith: fill us with your Spirit.



Priest: We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust: fill us with your Spirit.



THE ABSOLUTION

Priest: May God who loved the world so much that he sent his only Son to be our saviour forgive you your sins, and make you ready to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

THE COLLECT

The unique prayer for the day that is printed on the pewsheet

Priest: Let us pray

The Collect is said and all respond:

Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

At the end of which may be said:

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

THE GRADUAL HYMN

During this hymn the Gospel Book is processed into the middle of the congregation. We turn to face the reader. Please remain standing.

THE GOSPEL READING

Deacon: The Lord be with you;

All: and also with you.

Deacon: Hear the Gospel of our Lord

Jesus Christ according to *N*.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Today's Gospel is read.

The details are printed on the pewsheet.

At the end:

Deacon: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit.

THE SERMON



THE APOSTLES' CREED

Please stand.

Priest: Let us declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth,

I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary
suffered under Pontius Pilate;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the dead, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Please sit or kneel.

These responses may be used:

Intercessor: Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayer.

And at the end:

Intercessor: Merciful Father,

All: accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE ANTHEM

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Please stand.

THE PEACE

The President introduces the peace with the following words or a seasonal alternative may be used.

Priest: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace. The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: and also with you.

Deacon: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

THE OFFERTORY HYMN

During which a collection will be taken for the mission and ministry of our church. Please use the Gift Aid envelopes.

THE PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

The gifts of the people are gathered and presented.

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made.

It will become for us the bread of life.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

Priest: Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

It will become for us our spiritual drink.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

The offertory is presented for a blessing:

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Priest: You are worthy of our thanks and praise,

Lord God of truth,

for by the breath of your mouth

you have spoken your word,

and all things come into being.

You fashioned us in your image

and placed us in the garden of your delight.

Though we chose the path of rebellion

you would not abandon your own.

Again and again you drew us

into your covenant of grace.

You gave your people the law

and taught us by your prophets

to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace.

As we watch for signs of your kingdom on earth,

we echo the song of angels in heaven,

evermore praising you and singing:





Priest: Lord God you are the most holy one, enthroned in splendour and light, yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ, you reveal the power of your love, made perfect in human weakness.

Embracing our humanity, Jesus showed us the way of salvation; loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us; dying for his own, he set us free from the bonds of sin, that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

Ho - san - na,

-san - na,

Ho - san - na__ in

the

high - est.

On the night he gave himself up for us all he took bread and gave you thanks; he broke 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.

In the same way, after supper,
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them saying:
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.

All: Therefore, we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross, we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb, we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high.

Priest: As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption, Father by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; form us into the likeness of Christ and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Look with favour on your people and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts: bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free, and fill your Church with power from on high.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast with St Mary and all your saints at the table in your kingdom, where the new creation is brought to perfection in Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours almighty Father, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Please sit or kneel.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Deacon: As our Saviour taught us so we pray:

All: 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 forever.
Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Priest breaks the consecrated bread.

Priest: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All: Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.















THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

Priest: God's holy gifts for God's holy people

All: Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Most merciful Lord,
Your love compels us to come in.
Our hands were unclean,
our hearts were unprepared;
we were not fit even to eat
the crumbs from under your table.
But you Lord are the God of our salvation,
and share your bread with sinners.
So cleanse and feed us
with the precious body and blood of your Son,
that we may live in him and he in us;
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,
may sit and eat in your kingdom.
Amen.

All communicant Christians, from whatever tradition, are welcome to receive communion or a blessing with words.

The priest and people receive the Eucharist.

Authorised words are said to each communicant:

The body of Christ. The blood of Christ.

The communicant replies each time:

Amen.

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

Silence is kept.

The Post Communion Collect is said.

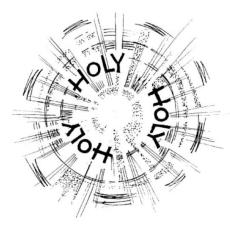
All: Almighty God,
We thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.

Please stand.

THE FINAL HYMN

Please sit.

THE DISMISSAL



THE PARISH NOTICES

THE BLESSING

Priest Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,

to deny yourselves, take up your cross and follow him;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

Deacon: Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: In the name of Christ. Amen.

After the service is over, coffee is served. All are welcome.





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