

Third Sunday of Easter

Service of Holy Communion (teaching the Eucharist)

Sunday 18th April 2021, 10.30am

Welcome to this Teaching Eucharist. This morning we will try and break down our 'usual' Communion service and reflect together on certain aspects of it and why we do what we do.

The Gathering

The Greeting

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

All Amen.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Why we worship and the 'flow' of the liturgy

STRUCTURE

Like a play, book or any narrative, our liturgy (that which we do to and in worship of God) has a structure of four parts:

THE GATHERING – in which we are welcomed confess our sins and receive absolution

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD – in which we here readings from scripture, are taught in a sermon and offer prayers of intercession.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT – in which the gifts of the people are brought up, we hear the great story of salvation, the bread and wine is consecrated and we gather as the Body of Christ to receive His most precious body and blood.

THE DISMISSAL – in which we are sent out.

“In our worship and the liturgy, we are drawn into the life of the One our hearts were made for.”

Musical Meditation: *Be Thou My Vision*

Prayer of Preparation

Reminds us that we are here to worship, not as a social group or simply as friends, but here in God's strength and because of His grace.

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.

Prayers of Penitence

The Summary of the Law reminds us of the key commands on our life:

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:
The first commandment is this:
'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our 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.

We begin our worship by repenting – by coming to God in sorrow for all the times we have sinned, and all the times we have prioritised things other than Him.

As it is the Easter season, a seasonal introduction to confession is used:

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

All 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.

The Absolution

The priest passes absolution: a reminder that we will always be forgiven by God because of His Son Jesus Christ.

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.

All Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

Being forgiven is something that makes us happy – happy enough to sing. So, we sing a special song called the Gloria. When we sing this song, like all songs of praise to God, we join in with the angels' song in heaven. Being forgiven makes us close to God, almost as if we were in heaven ourselves.

**All 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.**

The Collect

There are set 'collects' for each day, often reflecting the Biblical themes. They are a way of collecting us and our thoughts together.

1. It begins with an address to God,
2. Then a truth about God, His nature and what He has done,
3. Then a request,
4. and a reason why we have requested it,
5. before the prayer is concluded.

1. Almighty Father,
2. who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord:
3. give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
4. that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
5. through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

We now come to the second main part of our service. We've gotten ourselves ready to listen to God's word and to reflect upon it.

New Testament Reading – Acts 3. 12-19

In the season of Easter one of our readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles – a book which reveals the life, actions, thoughts and events of the early church.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

¹²When Peter saw this, he said to them: “Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

¹⁷“Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. ¹⁸But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading – Luke 24. 36b-48

Gospel means 'Good News' and Jesus is good news for all of us.

Our gospel this morning continues the resurrection appearances of Jesus. This occurs just after the 'Road to Emmaus' story and the disciples are talking amongst themselves about it.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life.

Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

All: Alleluia.

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you."

³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.

⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

We are not really having a sermon this morning as much of our worship is reflecting together. However, as being 'fed' in the Word is more than just listening to the Bible and is about responding to it – what does this morning's readings say to you?!

The Creed

We've met with God and listened to God in the Bible. Now we have a chance to remind ourselves of what we believe about God. It draws us back together in proclaiming our common faith as a church.

We call this the creed – from the Latin word *credo*, meaning 'I believe and trust'.

There are lots of different ways of saying the creed. This morning we are saying the 'shorter' version – the Apostle's Creed. It includes the essential teaching of the 12 apostles, Jesus' earliest followers and is commonly said at baptisms and at Easter.

Saying the Creed binds Christians together as a believing community, across different traditions and practices. As we say the Creed, we join Christian's past and present, and from all over the world, in proclaiming our common faith.

All I believe in 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,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
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 body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

These are the prayers of the people and are the sum of all our individual thoughts and prayers. Here we bring before God the concerns of the Church, the world, the community and the sick. In our tradition we also pray for those who have died and those who mourn their loss.

Between each petition we use the response:

Lord, in your mercy
All hear our prayer.

And at the end:

Merciful Father,
All accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The next part of the service reminds us that we are all part of God's family - as we gather around God's table. It is not easy being a family or being a community. Sometimes we have to work hard at this. Jesus said that it was important that before we came to God's table together, we should be at peace with one another.

As we have been reconciled to God, so are we reconciled to one another. We do so because of God's peace, and it is His peace we share.

The two disciples told what had happened on the road to Emmaus, and how Jesus had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
All and also with you.

We offer one another a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

What do we have to do before we can eat a meal? We get it ready, set the table and prepare the food. And that's what we're going to do during our hymn.

Like any table setting, there are cups and plates, and napkins. In Church we call them

Chalices and Patens and purificators, but really they are just special versions of how we eat every meal together in our homes. That reminds us that the Communion service is based on a real meal – the last one Jesus had with his very best friends, the people he was closest to, before he died.

Offertory hymn – *How sweet the name of Jesus sounds*

All How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
and drives away our fear.

Jesus! my shepherd, brother, friend,
my prophet, priest, and king,
my Lord, my life, my way, my end,
accept the praise I bring.

Till then I would your love proclaim
with ev'ry fleeting breath;
and may the music of thy name
refresh my soul in death.

Eucharistic Prayer

Now everything is ready, but at the moment the bread and wine are just ordinary bread and wine. I am now going to say a special prayer – it's a long prayer with a long name: 'Eucharistic prayer'. 'Eucharist' is a Greek word that meaning 'thank you'.

This prayer is our chance to thank God for all that he gives us and has done for us, and especially for the gift of Jesus. And for the bread and wine, through which we remember him, and receive him in our lives. There are different versions of these prayers in the Church of England, and when we introduce our new service books we can talk about them in more detail and reflect on what you think happens to the bread and the wine during it.

To begin with we have a short dialogue (the Sursum Corda). This is a reminder that even though the priest will say most of the prayer, we are all involved in it.

The Lord is here.

All God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Eucharistic prayer begins with the story of God's work, often speaking of creation and the fall and how in Christ, God has saved and redeemed us. This is an extended preface for Easter:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter
to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.
For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.
And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory.

We say what's known as the Sanctus, Latin for 'holy'. We join in the prayer of the angels in heaven before we say the prayer of consecration.

**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.**

We now remember the Last Supper but before, we invoke the power of the Holy Spirit – this is called the Epiclesis'.

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit, (watch for the hand gesture)
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 friends
and, taking bread, he praised you. (taking the bread)
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. (lifting up high)

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. (taking the chalice)
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.
So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

(lifting up high)

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

Our prayer concludes with reminding us why we share in Communion.

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 all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever. (as a culmination of the prayer the bread and wine is lifted high)

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As followers of Jesus about to receive his special gift, we recall the prayer that he taught his friends:

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be 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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The consecrated bread is broken reminding us of our uniqueness and yet unity in Christ.

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.

Agnus Dei

We say the Agnus Dei (Latin for Lamb of God) to remind us of God's constant forgiveness and calling us back to him.

All Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*Instructions are given for those who are wishing to receive communion or a blessing.
After which we say together:*

All Jesus,
I believe that you are present in our communion.
Whether I am here physically or virtually,
I love you above all things,
and I desire to receive you into my soul.
Come, I pray, spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you as if you were already there
and unite myself wholly to you.
Never permit me to be separated from you.
Amen.

Prayer after Communion

The two prayers after communion takes everything we have received and offers it back to God, asking him to strengthen every part of our lives that we may live and work in His service and for His glory.

Living God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

All Amen.

All **Almighty God,**
we thank you for feeding us
with the body 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.

Notices

Worship Song – *Come, people of the risen King*

(performed by Sara, Esther, Mike & Claire, Lyn & Richard)

Come, people of the risen King,
Who delight to bring Him praise.
Come, all and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace.
From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him,
Where steady arms of mercy reach
To gather children in.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!

Come, those whose joy is morning sun
And those weeping through the night.
Come, those who tell of battles won,
And those struggling in the fight.
For His perfect love will never change,
And His mercies never cease,
But follow us through all our days
With the certain hope of peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!

Come, young and old from every land,
Men and women of the faith.
Come, those with full or empty hands,
Find the riches of His grace.
Over all the world, His people sing,
Shore to shore we hear them call
The Truth that cries through every age;
'Our God is all in all'.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice, O Church of Christ, rejoice!

The Dismissal

As we have received Communion or God's blessing we meet with God and it's impossible to meet God without being changed

When we go out from church, we're not the same people who came in. But we also go out with a job to do – to live our lives for God, to show his love in the way we treat others, and to tell others of God's love for everyone.

A prayer is offered asking God to help us and be with us in all that lies ahead, ending with a prayer for God's blessing:

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ
has given us the victory,
give you joy and peace in your faith;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

We are given a final request to go out and continue our worship and service in the world:

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

“We are sent into the worldly city as ambassadors of another city, to live and act as citizens of God's Kingdom.”

**Please join us on Zoom for our
Book of Common Prayer Evening Prayer**

Sunday 18th April at 6pm.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/77376895562>

Meeting ID: 773 7689 5562

Password: BCPEP

Virtual Drinks at the Vicarage

Thursdays from 7.30-8.30pm

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85320806978>

Meeting ID: 853 2080 6978

Passcode: vicarage

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England,
material from which is included here, is copyright.
© The Archbishops' Council 2000 and published by Church House Publishing.