

The Parish Church of All Saints, Peterborough

The Holy Eucharist

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

The Lord be with you and also with you.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Priest introduces the service and welcomes the assembled people of God. He invites the people to repent of their sins using these or other appropriate words:

On Sunday we heard how the disciples recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread when he stayed with the two disciples at Emmaus on the first Easter Day. Today we hear Jesus' words that he is the true bread from heaven, that what Jesus provides gives real and lasting nourishment. And in the first reading today we hear about Stephen and his death making him the first Christian martyr.

Help us to turn from all that is evil, Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Help us to turn to the light of your love. Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Help us to live resurrection lives. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Priest introduces a brief period of silent prayer before saying the Opening Prayer on behalf of the congregation.

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of
his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and
sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in
righteousness and truth; 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.
Amen

The Liturgy of the Word. readings and psalm

Acts 7:51-8:1 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

⁵¹“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. ⁵²Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. ⁵³You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.”

The Stoning of Stephen

⁵⁴When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. ^[a] ⁵⁵But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died. ^[b] **8** ¹And Saul approved of their killing him.

(psalm 31: 1-5, 16)

1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame; ♦
deliver me in your righteousness.

2 Incline your ear to me; ♦

2

make haste to deliver me.

- 3 Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me,
for you are my rock and my stronghold; ♦
guide me, and lead me for your name's sake.
- 4 Take me out of the net
that they have laid secretly for me, ♦
for you are my strength.
- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, ♦
for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.
- 16 'Make your face to shine upon your servant, ♦
and save me for your mercy's sake.'

The gospel reading

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N*
Glory to you, O Lord.

John 6:30-35 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

³⁰ So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?" ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

³² Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.

³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴ They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

³⁵ 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.

A homily may be given .

Lock down has disrupted our usual routines and habits. We may feel out of sorts and more 'at sea' at times. What really gives nourishment and meaning is being discovered again. (There are hungers for faith, motivation,

acceptance, hope)

I have done more home cooking; returning to old favourite recipes and trying new ones. It's nice to have more time and to do something creative and then enjoy the flavours when eating. Being in the house far more than usual highlights many jobs that need doing, even the bbq has been cleaned, but using it will have to wait.

In the Lord's Prayer, we pray, give us this day our daily bread. It means more than our daily meals, as important and satisfying as they are. Jesus means more, he means what he gives to the world in his Word and Sacraments. 'Daily Bread' can mean our daily tie with Him; being quiet, praying, reading a Bible passage, and receiving communion, as we are today. These are the things that feed the heart and soul.

The gospel ends with Jesus saying, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." Jesus promises that a life lived with prayer, faith and closeness to God produces results deep within us. It means that we seek to put love first rather than hate, it means we practice forgiveness rather than revenge.

This is not the way to an easy life. But it is the way to witness to Jesus. This is what the word 'martyr' originally meant. To witness. Thankfully we are unlikely to be called to witness as Stephen did by being killed for his faith, though around the world there are many countries where Christians are martyred still.

We are called to witness to God's love, even at this time of lock down, maybe especially so, and how wonderful that the 100's of thousands who offered to help the NHS are using an app called Good Sam, a nod to the Good Samaritan who showed God's love to a stranger.

In the name.....

The Intercessions

The Priest introduces the Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. The peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ,
our risen high priest; make yourself known
in the breaking of bread. **Amen.**

*The Priest begins the Eucharistic Prayer - the great prayer of
thanksgiving over the bread and wine that recalls all that God has done
for the world.*

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		

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:

**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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,

these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole

world;

rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through 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. Amen.**

The Priest introduces the Lord's Prayer.

**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.**

The Priest breaks the consecrated bread.

**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.**

All say the Agnus Dei:

***Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.***

The invitation to communion:

**Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

**The Body of Christ, broken for us all
The Blood of Christ, shed for us all**

The post-communion prayers

**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. Amen.**

You have opened to us the Scriptures, O Christ,

**and you have made yourself known
in the breaking of the bread.
Abide with us, we pray,
that, blessed by your royal presence,
we may walk with you all the days of our life,
and at its end behold you
in the glory of the eternal Trinity,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Priest blesses the people and dismisses them to go out into the world taking the Good News of Jesus Christ to all those they meet.

**Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**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. Amen.**

**Go in the peace of Christ Alleluia Alleluia
Thanks be to God, Alleluia Alleluia**