

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.**

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:

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you,
our God. Amen.**

**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**

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

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed; 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 with readings and psalm

Intro: Sunday – 1000 BC, Saul, King David, united monarchy. Now, 150 years later, divided monarchy, north is Israel, south is Judah, Ahab is king in the north and Elijah is a prophet. Kings; some are great kings, others weak, bad, sinful kings, yet the Bible still gives us a range, even the past and the sins of the great leaders are not hidden.

Ahab was a powerful king – he was involved politically, marrying a foreign princess and militarily, fighting wars with neighbours.

There is friction between the king and the man of God – in this passage it concerns the murder of Naboth.

First reading: 1 Kings 21.17-end

¹⁷ Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying: ¹⁸ Go down to meet King Ahab of Israel, who rules in Samaria; he is now in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone to take possession. ¹⁹ You shall say to him, “Thus says the Lord: Have you killed, and also taken possession?” You shall say to him, “Thus says the Lord: In the place where dogs licked up the blood of Naboth, dogs will also lick up your blood.”

²⁰ Ahab said to Elijah, “Have you found me, O my enemy?” He answered, “I have found you. Because you have sold yourself to do what is evil in the sight of the Lord, ²¹ I will bring disaster on you; I will consume you, and will cut off from Ahab every male, bond or free, in Israel; ²² and I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha son of Ahijah, because you have provoked me to anger and have caused Israel to sin. ²³ Also concerning Jezebel the Lord said,

'The dogs shall eat Jezebel within the bounds of Jezreel.' ²⁴ Anyone belonging to Ahab who dies in the city the dogs shall eat; and anyone of his who dies in the open country the birds of the air shall eat."

²⁵ (Indeed, there was no one like Ahab, who sold himself to do what was evil in the sight of the Lord, urged on by his wife Jezebel. ²⁶ He acted most abominably in going after idols, as the Amorites had done, whom the Lord drove out before the Israelites.)

²⁷ When Ahab heard those words, he tore his clothes and put sackcloth over his bare flesh; he fasted, lay in the sackcloth, and went about dejectedly. ²⁸ Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite: ²⁹ "Have you seen how Ahab has humbled himself before me? Because he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the disaster in his days; but in his son's days I will bring the disaster on his house."

This is the Word of the Lord

Psalm 51: 1-9

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
- ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³ For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ Against you, you alone, have I sinned,
and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence
and blameless when you pass judgment.
- ⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty,
a sinner when my mother conceived me.
- ⁶ You desire truth in the inward being;^[a]
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
- ⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
- ⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
- ⁹ Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

The gospel reading

The Lord be with you **And also with you**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Matthew*

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

At the end of the gospel reading

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

A homily may be given

In the first reading, from Kings, we heard strong condemnation of King Ahab, with words spoken through the prophet. Ahab was a strong and powerful king but one that was seen as going from the ways of God. There was the issue around worship of the one God and not others that were around such as Baal. But also what God required in terms of protecting the poor.

In today's reading Naboth had refused to sell his land to the king, who had him murdered.

Under God, leaders, of all kinds, have a higher responsibility to maintain high ideals and standards.

The condemnation of King Ahab in the Bible is strong. He created a climate that encouraged idolatry and violence.

Even though the prophet tried to say what was right, he refused to listen. The theft of Naboth's vineyard was one example of his poor moral behavior.

We can think of all sorts of leaders; of nations, businesses, families,

churches....and the call leaders have to greater responsibility and behavior. Not least because of the effect of a leader's behavior on others.

We see strong leaders in the world today and the effect they have on their followers.

What about the great leaders in the Bible (King David, Moses) – interestingly – we are still told of their failing – and they were great. But always, we are told that God wants us to turn around our lives. God wants to forgive and heal.

The psalm we heard today, 51, is one of the great penitential psalms. It ended; ⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

God is the one who is perfectly forgiving. So how do we become perfect, as our heavenly father is perfect? It may well take a lifetime!

Perhaps, on the way, the call is to love and to do good, not just to nice neighbours and friends, but to seek to do good and to love everyone.

May God strengthen us in our desire to live lives in accordance with his will. Amen.

Let us pray.....

The Intercessions

The Priest introduces the Peace

We are the body of Christ.

In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.

Let us then pursue all that makes for peace

and builds up our common life. The peace of the Lord be always with you **And also with you.**

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

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 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**

Almighty God, good Father to us all,
your face is turned towards your world.
In love you gave us Jesus your Son
to rescue us from sin and death.
Your Word goes out to call us home
to the city where angels sing your praise.
We join with them in heaven's song:
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.

Father of all, we give you thanks
for every gift that comes from heaven.
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty
clean. This is his story.
This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed he came to table with his
friends to celebrate the freedom of your people.
This is his story.
This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine; he took the cup, gave it and said: This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me. This is our story.
This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free. Defying death he rose again and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world. This is our story.
This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Send your Spirit on us now that by these gifts we may feed on Christ with opened eyes and hearts on fire. May we and all who share this food offer ourselves to live for you and be welcomed at your feast in heaven where all creation worships you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:
Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Priest introduces the Lord's Prayer.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
.....
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.

**Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

All say the Agnus Dei:

**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.**

The invitation to communion:

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The Body of Christ, broken for us all

The Blood of Christ, shed for us all

The post-communion prayers

Eternal Father,
we thank you for nourishing us
with these heavenly gifts:
may our communion strengthen us in faith, build us up in
hope, and make us grow in love;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. 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.*

**The Lord be with you And also with you
May the Father from whom every family
in earth and heaven receives its name
strengthen you with his Spirit in your inner being,
so that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith;
and the blessingAmen.**

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