

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**

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

**Almighty God,
you have broken the tyranny of sin
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts
whereby we call you Father:
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,**

that we and all creation may be brought
to the glorious liberty of the children of God; 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

First reading: Amos 3:1-8, 4:11-12

Hear this word that the Lord has spoken against you, O people of Israel,
against the whole family that I brought up out of the land of Egypt:

²You only have I known of all the families of the earth;
therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities.

³Do two walk together unless they have made an appointment?

⁴Does a lion roar in the forest, when it has no prey?

Does a young lion cry out from its den, if it has caught nothing?

⁵Does a bird fall into a snare on the earth, when there is no trap for it?

Does a snare spring up from the ground, when it has taken nothing?

⁶Is a trumpet blown in a city, and the people are not afraid?

Does disaster befall a city, unless the Lord has done it?

⁷Surely the Lord God does nothing, without revealing his secret
to his servants the prophets.

⁸The lion has roared; who will not fear?

The Lord God has spoken; who can but prophesy?

¹¹I overthrew some of you, as when God overthrew Sodom and
Gomorrah, and you were like a brand snatched from the fire;
yet you did not return to me, says the Lord.

¹²Therefore thus I will do to you, O Israel;

because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel!

This is the Word of the Lord

Psalm 5: 8-end

Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies;
make your way straight before me.

⁹For there is no truth in their mouths; their hearts are destruction;
their throats are open graves; they flatter with their tongues.

¹⁰Make them bear their guilt, O God; let them fall by their own counsels;
because of their many transgressions cast them out,
for they have rebelled against you.

¹¹But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy.

Spread your protection over them,
so that those who love your name may exult in you.

¹² For you bless the righteous, O Lord;
you cover them with favor as with a shield.

The gospel reading

The Lord be with you **And also with you**
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew (8:23-27) **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²³ And when Jesus got into the boat, his disciples followed him. ²⁴ A windstorm arose on the sea, so great that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but he was asleep. ²⁵ And they went and woke him up, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" ²⁶ And he said to them, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?" Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a dead calm. ²⁷ They were amazed, saying, "What sort of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?"

At the end of the gospel reading

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

A homily may be given

What have a good wine, a good cheese and a good whisky got in common? They have all passed through a time of lockdown where nothing appears to have been going on. But when the time is right, they emerge full of flavour, matured, the quality products they were intended to be.

We Christians too have passed through a time of lockdown where we have been restricted and nothing, it would seem, has been happening. But we too shall find when we emerge that we too have matured and become more fit for purpose. The Holy Spirit will have been coursing through us and among us; building us up to shine with the compassion of God and to share his beauty and peace with the friendless and isolated, the excluded and disadvantaged.

The prophet Amos, over 700 years before the time of Jesus, felt friendless and alone; definitely in a bad place. He belonged to the Southern Kingdom of Judah but he was in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Around him he could see corruption and immorality, injustice

and oppression. He could see Israel's enemies amassed on their borders waiting to invade and destroy. He called on the people of the north to change their ways, telling them that nothing good would come out of such mindless and self-centred behaviour. Nobody listened. They told him to go back where he came from and do his prophesying there.

Fast forward to the time of Jesus. He could see all that was wrong around him. 'You won't get good crops if you plant weeds, he said'. 'Sow good seed'. In the early church that became, 'Become Christ-like; put on Christ like a garment'.

Jesus must have crossed the Sea of Galilee many times, taking the opportunity to have a rest while his sailor disciples got on with the job they knew best – guiding the ship to its destination. On the Sea of Galilee it is not unusual for the wind to change direction in the afternoon. If it does a violent storm can suddenly erupt. Today's Gospel reading described a day when exactly that happened. The disciples, experienced sailors as they were, began to fear for their lives. They alerted Jesus.

What happened next was remembered, told, and retold in the early church. There too Christians feared for their lives as they gathered to worship in secret knowing that at any moment they could be betrayed and arrested. The early Christians too needed reassurance and courage. They would have treasured this story; and told it to each other often.

I don't think the storm suddenly abated but that was how it was remembered. I think the disciples felt safe when they knew that Jesus was actively with them. Then they watched him lie down and go back to sleep. They found they could trust him then too, as he trusted their navigational skills. This story helped the early church to feel safe and strong in the bad places they were in.

I think the experience of Amos and of the disciples on the Sea of Galilee had an important message. However alone we feel, however much pain and suffering there is around us, we must not lose sight of whose we are. God has chosen us. He will always be with us sharing our good times and with us in our times of challenge. Amos became able to keep his high moral standards. He knew that living unselfishly and with a concern for others is what creates a generous world order where all

life can flourish.

The storm on the Sea was another bad place to be. But trusting Jesus, knowing he is always with us is what matters. It was a time of apparent lockdown and nothingness. Yet inwardly they were growing towards maturity; becoming better able to be the Jesus people in the world; to take the initiative and reach out generously to welcome the stranger; to stand in other people's shoes and understand their needs; to build communities of compassion and hope; to see the hand of God working among all those of goodwill in all faiths.

May our time of lockdown come to be seen as a time of increasing maturity and growth in Christ-likeness. We may not have been able to **go** to church but in our newly discovered togetherness we have found our calling to **be** the church. That is even more important. We are called to enjoy and share the harmony of heaven. Beauty for brokenness, hope for despair...Bread for the children, justice, joy, peace, Sunrise to sunset your kingdom increase.

Let us pray.....

The Intercessions

The Priest introduces the Peace

God is love and those who live in love live in God
and God lives in them..

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
Priest
All

We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

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

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining and whose power we cannot comprehend: show us your glory as far as we can grasp it, and shield us from knowing more than we can bear until we may look upon you without fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Faithful God,
in baptism you have adopted us as your children,
made us members of the body of Christ
and chosen us as inheritors of your kingdom:
we thank you that in this Eucharist
you renew your promises within us,
empower us by your Spirit to witness and to serve,
and send us out as disciples of your Son,
Jesus 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 blessing**Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ Thanks be to God