

The Blessing

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. **Amen.**

Dismissal

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

Welcome

*A churchwarden welcomes us*

Opening Hymn

Forty days and forty nights  
Thou wast fasting in the wild;  
Forty days and forty nights  
Tempted, and yet undefiled.

Sunbeams scorching all the day;  
Chilly dew-drops nightly shed;  
Prowling beasts about Thy way;  
Stones thy pillow; earth Thy bed.

Shall not we thy sorrow share  
And from worldly joys abstain,  
Fasting with unceasing prayer,  
Glad with Thee to suffer pain?

So shall we have peace divine:  
Holier gladness ours shall be;  
Round us, too, shall angels shine,  
Such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,  
Ever constant by thy side;  
That with thee we may appear  
At the eternal Eastertide.

The Greeting

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

The Prayers of Penitence

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart God will not despise. Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

**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 Kyries (sung by the choir)

Lord Have Mercy , Lord Have Mercy  
Christ Have Mercy , Christ Have Mercy  
Lord Have Mercy , Lord Have Mercy

Absolution

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 Collect

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. .

**Amen**

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh

Prayers after Communion

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*We pray together*

**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.**

Notices

Closing hymn

Father, hear the prayer we offer:  
not for ease that prayer shall be,  
but for strength that we may ever  
live our lives courageously.

Not for ever in green pastures  
do we ask our way to be;  
but the steep and rugged pathway  
may we tread rejoicingly.

Not for ever by still waters  
would we idly rest and stay;  
but would smite the living fountains  
from the rocks along our way.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,  
in our wanderings be our guide;  
through endeavour, failure, danger,  
Father, be thou at our side.

The Lord's Prayer (we sit or kneel)

*As our Saviour taught us, so we pray*

**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, a  
s 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**

Breaking of the 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.**

Agnus Dei (sung by the choir)

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 Giving of 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.**

During Communion

Anthem Drop, drop slow tears - Gibbons

that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25

Second Reading: I Peter 3:18-22

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading Mark 1:9-15

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark

**Glory to you, O Lord**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Prayers of Intercession

### The Peace

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.

**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### Taking of the Bread and Wine

With this bread that we bring  
**We shall remember Jesus.**

With this wine that we bring  
**We shall remember Jesus.**

Bread for his body, wine for his blood,  
gifts from God to his table we bring.

**We shall remember Jesus.**

### Eucharistic Prayer E

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,  
almighty God and everlasting Father,  
through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days

you lead us into the desert of repentance

that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline

we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service

you bring us back to your generous heart.

Through study of your holy word

you open our eyes to your presence in the world

and free our hands to welcome others

into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast

with joyful hearts and minds

we bless you for your mercy

and join with saints and angels for ever praising you and singing:

**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 praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,  
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.

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.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.

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.

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

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

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 Mary, the Mother of our Lord,

and 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. **Amen**