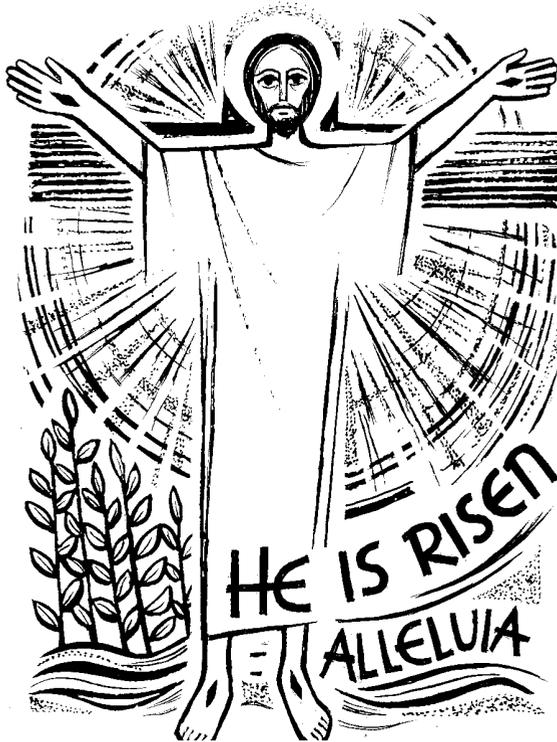




St Paul &
St Stephen
Gloucester



The Easter Season

Introduction

The Parish Eucharist is the central act of worship for the parish of St Paul & St Stephen's. It combines words, music, colour and ritual so that our offering is from the heart, mind, body and senses. Thus the spirit is freed to worship our Creator and through this act of worship, the Holy Spirit renews us.

The word, Eucharist, means thanksgiving. It is one of the words which describes what Jesus did when he took bread and wine and gave thanks over them in the event we know as the Last Supper. Jesus also commanded us to continue to do this as the means by which we proclaim both to ourselves and for our parish and world what his life, death and resurrection mean. At the heart of this service, we express our communion with God whose love for all of creation is revealed in Jesus. We make this act both for ourselves and for those among whom we live and work.

A Prayer by Bishop Peter Nott

*In this Holy Sacrifice, may we be redeemed
by the precious Body and Blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ;
may our lives be made new in him.*

*In this Holy Eucharist, in humble thanksgiving
for the life, suffering and resurrection of our Lord,
may we offer to him, ourselves, our souls and bodies.*

*In this Holy Communion, may we be united in loving fellowship
with our Lord, his saints in heaven,
and our fellow Christians everywhere.*

*In this Holy Communion, may we be one with all humanity;
may we offer the joy and sorrow,
the good and evil of all creation.*

*In this Holy Memorial of the Last Supper,
may we remember with penitence and joy*

*his great love for us sinners;
may we offer to him our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.
In this Holy Mystery, may we abide in him and he in us.*

(The SPCK Book of Christian Prayer no 915 p. 353)

WE GATHER

The Easter Greeting

A Hymn is sung as the Procession enters the church.

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

Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Prayer of Preparation

**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.**

We say sorry

A minister invites us to confess our sins.

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.

**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.

We praise God

We sing the Gloria.

The Collect

We remain standing while we say together the Collect, a prayer that sums up our worship today. It can be found on the front of the newsletter.

WE LISTEN AND RESPOND

Readings

There may be one or two readings from scripture, at the end of which the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

We sing a hymn or song.

Gospel Reading

The Procession is made with the Gospel book.

When the Gospel is announced, the reader says:

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end:

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Please sit.

The Creed

We stand to affirm our faith together

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

We pray for others

Please feel free to sit or kneel.

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

This response may be used:

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

The Intercessions may end with the following...

Merciful Father,

Accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE CELEBRATE

We share 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. Alleluia!

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.
And also with you. Alleluia!

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

A hymn or song is sung.

*The Collection is taken and the gifts of bread, wine and money are brought
to the altar.*

We may also hear from the children as they bring their own offering.

When the offerings are presented, all say:

**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 Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

(Easter 2-6)

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, women and children the image of your glory.

He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of eternal life.

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 is the Lord,
Holy is the Lord God Almighty
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
Holy is the Lord God Almighty
Who was, and is, and is to come,
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**

(to Pentecost)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

For he is our great high priest who has entered once for all into the heavenly sanctuary, evermore to pour upon your Church the grace and comfort of your Holy Spirit.

He is the one who has gone before us,

who calls us to be united in prayer as were his disciples in the upper room

while they awaited his promised gift, the life-giving Spirit of Pentecost.

Therefore all creation yearns with eager longing as angels and archangels sing the endless hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
Holy is the Lord God Almighty
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,
Holy is the Lord God Almighty
Who was, and is, and is to come,**

.....

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ;
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;
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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith.
Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour, glory and power be yours
forever and ever. Amen.**

Please sit or kneel.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour has taught, 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
as 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 for ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The President 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.**

We sing:

**Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord,
Jesus is the Lord God Almighty
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord,
Jesus is the Lord God Almighty
who was and is and is to come
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord.**

Giving of Communion

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

We receive communion. Please come forward to the steps or the side rail if you are able. All are welcome but if you do not wish to receive, please come for a blessing instead. If you are unable to come forward then please do tell one of the stewards and we will bring the bread and wine to you in your seat.

During and after communion, hymns or songs may be sung. We remain seated for these. Feel free to join in, or just to listen.

If you would like someone to pray with you, about anything at all, there will be someone available to do so in the corner of the church by the war memorial during communion.

After Communion

The President says the Post Communion Prayer and then we all say together:

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

The Notices for the week are given.

We stand to sing our final hymn or song.

WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD

Blessing

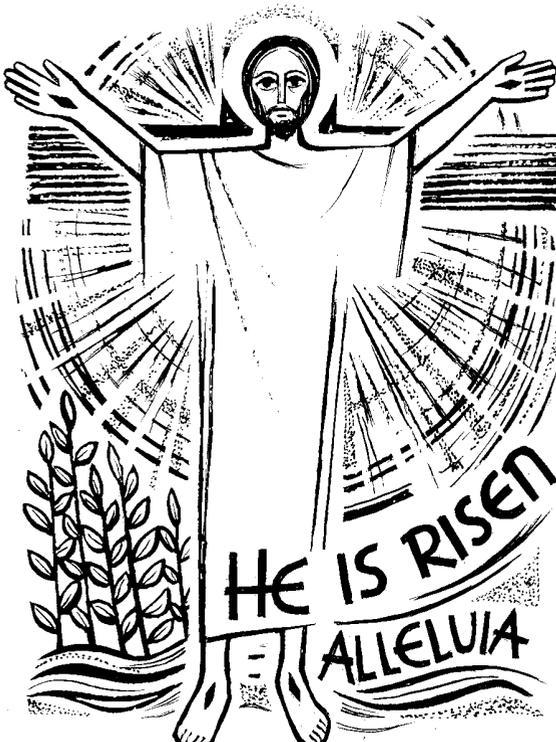
The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,

working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy
Spirit be with you this day and always.

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia!

In the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia, Amen!



***Please leave this Service
Booklet in Church.***

Material included in this service is copyright: © The Archbishops' Council 2000
CCL Licence Number 513132
MRL Licence Number 513149

March 2015