



## **Welcome to Parish Communion**



**Sundays during Lent  
8am**

## **Introduction**

The Parish Eucharist is the central act of worship for the parish of Saint Paul and St Stephen's Gloucester. 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.

Eucharist (also known as Communion), means thanksgiving. It is what Jesus did when he took bread and wine and gave thanks over them in the event we know as the Last Supper. From those simple actions, Christians have developed many ways in which we can use them for worship. Jesus also commanded us to do this to proclaim both to ourselves, the parish and the wider world what his life, death and resurrection mean. At the heart of this service, we express our communion with God whose love for all creation is revealed in Jesus. We make this act both for ourselves and for those among whom we live and work.

Purple is the colour traditionally associated with the season of Lent, a time of personal reflection, thought and preparation.

*You may like to use this prayer to assist you in your preparations for worship.*

### ***A Prayer of Thomas Aquinas***

*Almighty and everlasting God,  
we approach the sacrament of your only-begotten Son,  
our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*As sick, we come to the physician of life;  
as unclean, to the fountain of mercy;  
as blind, to the light of eternal splendour;  
as needy, to the Lord of heaven and earth;  
as naked to the King of Glory. Amen.*

## **WE GATHER**

*Words of welcome or introduction may be said. We then spend a moment in silence.*

### **The Greeting**

We meet 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.**

### **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**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.'

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself'.

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**Amen. Lord have mercy.**

**Lord God,**

**we have sinned against you;**

**we have done evil in your sight.**

**We are sorry and repent.**

**Have mercy on us according to your love.**

**Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from  
our sin.**

**Renew a right spirit within us**

**and restore us to the joy of your salvation,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*The president then says:*

May almighty God have mercy on you,

forgive you your sins,

and bring you to everlasting life. **Amen.**

## **The Collect**

*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 more readings from scripture, at the end of which the reader says:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Reading**

*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 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 president may introduce the Peace with a suitable sentence,  
and then says:*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*A greeting of peace is exchanged.*

*A hymn or song is sung.*

*The Collection is brought to the altar.*

*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 President may say a special prayer as we come to give thanks which ends:*

**Blessed be God Forever.**

### **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.**



*The President says one of the special prefaces for Lent.*

*(Ash Wednesday until 4th Sunday of Lent)*

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:

*or*

*(Lent 5 until the Wednesday of Holy Week)*

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

For as the time of his passion and resurrection draws near  
the whole world is called to acknowledge his hidden majesty.

The power of the life-giving cross  
reveals the judgement that has come upon the world  
and the triumph of Christ crucified.

He is the victim who dies no more,  
the Lamb once slain, who lives for ever,  
our advocate in heaven to plead our cause,  
exalting us there to join with angels and archangels,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**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.**

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.

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

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 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  
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 say:*

**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.**

## **Giving of Communion**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

*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.*

## **After Communion**

*The President says the Post Communion Prayer and then we all say 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.**

*The Notices for the week are given.*

## **WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD**

*This or another Blessing is said*

*(Ash Wednesday to Lent 5)*

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.

*or*

*(Lent 5 to Wednesday of Holy Week)*

Christ crucified draw you to himself,  
to find in him a sure ground for faith,  
a firm support for hope,  
and the assurance of sins forgiven;  
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.

**Thanks be to God.**

*or*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

***Please leave this service booklet in  
church for the use of others.***

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