



St Paul &  
St Stephen  
Gloucester

*Welcome to Parish  
Communion*



*Sundays before Lent & After Trinity  
8am*

## **Introduction**

The Parish Eucharist is the central act of worship for the parish of Saint Paul & Saint 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 continue to do this to proclaim to ourselves, the parish and 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 of creation is revealed in Jesus. We make this act both for ourselves and for those among whom we live and work.

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

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies.

We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.

But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. 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**

*A minister invites us to confess our sins.*

**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.**

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 say together:*

**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 Collect**

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

### **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**

*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.**

### **Talk/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.*

*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.*

*The Collection is taken and 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.**

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,  
at all times and in all places  
to give you thanks and praise,  
holy Father, heavenly King,  
almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

For he is your living **Word**

through him you have created all things from the beginning,  
and formed us in your own image.

Through him you have freed us from the slavery of sin,  
giving him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross;  
you raised him from the dead  
and exalted him to your right hand on high.

Through him you have sent upon us your holy and life-giving Spirit,  
and made us a people for your own possession.

*(a special preface may be said here)*

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
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.

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.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*We sit to say together the prayer that Jesus taught us:*

**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.*

## **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 GO OUT INTO THE WORLD**

*This or another Blessing is said*

The peace of God,  
which passes all understanding,  
keep your hearts and minds  
in the knowledge and love of God,  
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;  
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 peace to love and serve the Lord  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

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

February 2015