

Welcome to
your Parish Church
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH

Holy Communion

Fifth Sunday of Lent, 26th March 2023 – Passiontide begins

We gather

Music as we gather: Lent prose

*Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sinned against thee.*

1. To thee, Redeemer, on thy throne of glory:
lift we our weeping eyes in holy pleadings:
listen O Jesu, to our supplications.

2. O thou chief Corner-stone, Right Hand of the Father:
Way of Salvation, Gate of Life Celestial:
cleanse thou our sinful souls from all defilement.

3. God, we implore thee, in thy glory seated:
bow down and hearken to thy weeping children:
pity and pardon all our grievous trespasses.

4. Sins oft committed now we lay before thee:
with true contrition, now no more we veil them:
grant us, Redeemer, loving absolution.

5. Innocent, captive, taken unresisting:
falsely accused, and for us sinners sentenced:
save us, we pray thee, Jesu our Redeemer

(arr J H Arnold)

When the song ends we stand to sing:

1. Lord, thy church on earth is seeking
thy renewal from above;

teach us all the art of speaking
with the accent of thy love,
We would heed thy great commission:
"Go now into ev'ry place –
preach, baptise, fulfil my mission,
serve with love and share my grace."

2. Freedom give to those in bondage,
lift the burdens caused by sin.
Give new hope, new strength and courage,
grant release from fears within.
Light for darkness; joy for sorrow;
love for hatred; peace for strife:
these and countless blessings follow
as the Spirit gives new life.

3. In the streets of every city
where the bruised and lonely dwell,
let us show the Saviour's pity,
let us of his mercy tell;
to all lands and peoples bringing
all the richness of thy word,
till the world, thy praises singing
hails thee Christ, Redeemer, Lord.

(words: Hugh Sherlock alt; music: Cyril Vincent Taylor)

Priest: In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you all.

All: And also with you.

WELCOME and NOTICES

We pray: **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 seek forgiveness

CONFESSION

Deacon: We keep silence, then confess our sins in penitence and faith.

God our Father, long-suffering, full of grace and truth, you create us from nothing and give us life. You give you faithful people new life in the waters of baptism. You do not turn your face from us, nor cast us aside. We confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbour. We have wounded your love and marred your image in us. Restore us for the sake of your Son, and bring us to heavenly joy, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

We sing: **Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.**

("Lord, have mercy," tune from Ukraine)

Priest: The God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself, and cleanse you from all your sins, that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We pray THE COLLECT for Passion Sunday

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world; grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; 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**

PSALM 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.
Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord

more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.
It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

OLD TESTAMENT READING [Ezekiel 37:1-14](#)

HYMN

1. Glory be to Jesus who, in bitter pains,
poured for me the life-blood from his sacred veins.
2. Grace and life eternal in that blood I find:
blest be his compassion, infinitely kind.
3. Blest, through endless ages, be the precious stream
which, from endless torment, did the world redeem.
4. There the fainting spirit drinks of life her fill;
there, as in a fountain, laves herself at will.
5. Abel's blood for vengeance pleaded to the skies,
but the blood of Jesus for our pardon cries.
6. Oft as it is sprinkled on our guilty hearts
Satan in confusion terror-struck departs.
7. Oft as earth exulting wafts its praise on high
angel hosts rejoicing, make their glad reply.
8. Lift, then, all your voices, swell the mighty flood;
louder still and louder, praise the precious blood.

(words: 'Viva, viva, Gesù' [18th Century], trans Edward Caswall alt; music: Friedrich Filitz)

In Church, we sit for a dramatic reading of the GOSPEL READING [John 11:1-45](#)

In church, when it is announced, we say:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end:

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

SERMON *in Church is from Nigel Pietroni.*

REFLECTION for those at home:

Mary and Martha are wonderfully different, complementary and influential characters. For Luke (chapter 10) and John to introduce them to us as friends of Jesus shows their significance in the early fellowship. We get more sustained conversation with them than with any of the male disciples. Notably, John 11:2 identifies Mary as "the woman who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair." He has not told this story yet. It comes in Chapter 12 at a dinner celebrating what Jesus is about to do in Chapter 11. This verse tells us that this Mary was someone remembered and identified by that deed in the early church for which he was writing. The large gathering for Lazarus' funeral shows they are community figures in some way. This well known family is not afraid to be associated with Jesus, which is brave and significant if you remember what the Pharisees did to the man whose sight was healed last week.

In terms of character, Martha is intellectually sharp, practical, yet with a strong sense of justice. She talks theology with Jesus even in grief. Mary is passionate, perhaps more so, as shown in her extravagant gesture of anointing. She also sits at Jesus feet absorbing his teaching. Culturally, this is the posture of a disciple learning from their teacher, and quite probably expecting to become a teacher. Both sisters are angry that Jesus was not there in time, before Lazarus died. Both firmly believe he could have healed their brother.

Reflect on where you would place yourself as a disciple: at the intellectual, ideas end or the passion and feeling end of a spectrum? Of course, we can be a mixture, like these two women.

Reflect on who has influenced your faith and taught you. Give thanks for them. Perhaps give thanks to them if they are still around.

You might bring to mind the times you have wanted to push back at God, hurt that he has not done something for you, or for someone you love. Perhaps admiring Mary and Martha's tenacity in grief, how have you held on to faith through that time?

Picture Jesus attending that funeral and, surrounded by so many bewildered people trying to make community and support one another, trying to hold on to faith, finding himself crying. Surely that moment is remembered to hallow every funeral, to honour every crumb of faith enduring sorrow, and to say any grief you bear at the moment moves God to tears with you.

We affirm our faith

THE APOSTLES' CREED

We stand and at home, if able, we turn to look in the direction of Church, to affirm our faith in God, revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS are offered for those at home, and led in Church by Rowland Cotterill:

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

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith. We remember today the message of the angel to Mary – celebrated yesterday on the Feast of the Annunciation – and her frightened and happy acceptance of the message; we thank you for ‘filling the starving with good things’, and for your ‘fruitful love which extends from age to age’. And we turn our thoughts today towards the fulfilment of our Lenten worship in the celebration of your Son’s Passion...’Thirty years among us dwelling, His appointed time fulfilled,

Born for this, he meets his Passion, For that this he freely willed...’ We ask that you may ‘bring life to our mortal bodies through the Spirit living in us.’

Strengthen David, and Tariro, and all your Church, in the service of Christ, that those who confess your name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord in your mercy.....

We pray, Lord, for those who work in our schools and colleges and universities – in policy-making and in daily duties in our transport systems – in the police service – in the broadcast media – in the Home Office – in the administration of immigration – in the administration of our courts and our Houses of Parliament. For us all, we pray for courage – for commitment to justice – for mutual trust and encouragement – for spontaneity and creativity – for kindness. – We pray for the safety and protection of those who worship in our city’s mosques. – We pray for those throughout the world whose choices, whose ambitions, and whose fears shape the wars in Ukraine and Yemen and the tensions around Taiwan. A prayer from Christian Aid: ‘O Lord, be living bread to those who are hungry – be their true home to those who are displaced – be open arms of acceptance to all who fear – and turn our hearts and minds to your ways of peace.’

Give wisdom to all in authority; and direct this and every nation in the ways of justice and of peace; that we may honour one another, and seek the common good.

Lord, in your mercy.....

We ask for your guidance as we consider the gifts we offer, in money and in other ways, to our church and its community in Kings Heath. We pray for the people who visit our church building while it is open, on Saturdays and at other times. We ask your blessing on all the different kinds of worship and reflection which we offer to you and share with each other. We thank you for the wonderful gifts, of wisdom and insight, of humbleness and kindness, of enthusiasm and Christian confidence, shared with us here for so long by Mike Cheesbrough. - We thank you for sun and for rain, for the flowers that have appeared on the earth, and for the time of the singing of birds. ‘Forgive us for the madness that abuses the earth, and give us the wisdom to cherish and share, with daring and delight, the gifts of our fragile planet.’

Give grace to us, our families and friends, and to all our neighbours,
that we may serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.

Lord in your mercy...

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. remembering
especially Alan Wilson, Brian Clucas, Lynn Busfield, Sheila Prain and Iain Galloway.
give them courage and hope in their troubles;
and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy.....

Hear us as we remember those who have died in the faith of Christ. Among them we
remember Kit Inchley, Mike Cheesbrough, Dalton Yvonne Hunt, Carol Sewell,
Michael Murray, Douglas Fear, 'Des' John Wright and Margaret Watson.

According to your promises, grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

Lord in your mercy....

Rejoicing in the fellowship of [*N and of*] all your saints, we commend ourselves and
the whole creation to your unfailing love.

Merciful Father.....accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus
Christ, **Amen.**

We stand for THE PEACE

Deacon: St Paul says "to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace."
The peace of the Lord be always with you. (Romans 8:6b)

All: And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

HYMN *during which the Table is prepared* [Lift high the Cross](#)

*Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name!*

1. Come, Christians, follow where our Saviour trod,

o'er death victorious, Christ the Son of God.

2. Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
the hosts of God in joyful praise combine:

3. For thy blest Cross which doth for all atone,
creation's praises rise before thy throne:

4. So let the world proclaim with one accord
the praises of our ever-living Lord.

(words: George William Kitchin & Michael Robert Newbolt alt; music: Sydney Hugo Nicholson)

We celebrate God's faithfulness

We stand, if able, for the Eucharistic Prayer

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: 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.

Extravagant God, you poured out your life in your covenant with your chosen people and you poured out your lifeblood in the ministry and death of your Son Jesus Christ. You meet our meanness with your grace, our scarcity with your abundance and our suspicion with your generous trust. And so we give you thanks, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise.

All: 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.

Sharing God, in Jesus you attended a meal to celebrate Lazarus' resurrection, and so we gather today to celebrate your resurrection, in faith that even now you are preparing a feast to celebrate our

resurrection with you. Sanctify us that even as our flesh and blood decays, our hearts are made ready that we may meet you face to face. Send down your Holy Spirit, that this bread of sustenance and wine of joy may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Who, at supper with his disciples took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

A bell is rung.

After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples 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."

A bell is rung.

Deacon: Great is the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Abundant God, when we know the price of everything and the value of nothing, may this meal remind us of the limitless joy you take in us. When we are full of criticism of others and hatred of ourselves, may this sacrifice show us the goodness you see in us all. Bless all our touching, that we may touch your gifts and one another as if we were touching your body and blood. Bless all our desire, that in every craving and longing we may discover a deeper yearning for you. Renew the hearts of all your people, that your whole church, seeking together the justice of your kingdom, may discover in the stranger the gifts that only come for you, through whom and with whom and in whom, comes all honour and glory, Father Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.¹

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Deacon: 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 as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

¹ This last part of the prayer about touch and the earlier phrase about how "our flesh and blood decays" responds to Romans 8:6-11 which is one of the other readings offered for today.

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

Priest: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All: Though we are many, we are one body.
For we all share in one bread.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you. Eat in remembrance that he died for you and feed on him in your hearts with thanksgiving.

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world: grant us peace.

We pause to remember all who pray at home, then share the bread and wine, now for us the body and blood of Christ. All are welcome to receive. If you prefer not to share the common cup, receiving just the bread is as much communion as receiving both. If you prefer not to receive but would value a prayer of blessing do come forward and simply keep your hands by your sides. We will pray for you.

For the sake of those with gluten intolerance, please do not dip your wafer in the wine.

SONG *after Communion* [Unless a grain of wheat](#)

*Unless a grain of wheat shall fall upon the ground and die,
it remains but a single grain, a grain with no life.*

1. If we have died with him, then we shall live with him;
if we hold firm, we shall reign with him.
2. If anyone serves me then they must follow me;
wherever I am my servants will be.
3. Make your home in me as I make mine in you;
those who remain in me bear much fruit.
4. If you remain in me and word lives in you;
then you will be my disciples.
5. Those who love me are loved by my Father;

we shall be with them and dwell in them.

6. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you;
peace which the worlds cannot give is my gift.

(words & music: Bernadette Farrell)

We are sent out

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with your Word *[and with the body and blood of Christ]*. Strengthen us in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

THE BLESSING *In Church the priest declares God's blessing. At home we pray:*

May Christ crucified draw *us* 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 *us* and remain with *us* always.

Amen.

HYMN [There's a wideness in God's mercy](#)

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in his justice, which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heav'n;
there is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement
giv'n.

2. But we make his love too narrow by false limits of our own;
and we magnify his strictness with a zeal he will not own.
There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed,
there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.

3. For the love of God is broader than the scope of human mind,
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more simple, we should take him at his word;
and our hearts would find assurance in the promise of the Lord.

(words: Frederick William Faber alt; music: from the 'Paderborn Gesangbuch' [1765])

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ, Amen.



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Service this evening, 6.30pm

Making Room for God – worship brimming with music and praise.