

St Mark's Church



A Service of Holy Communion
for Lent and Passiontide

Sunday 16 March 2014

Welcome Introduction

Opening Verse of Scripture

Philippians 2:9

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father

Leader: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

All: **And also with you**

Hymn

We give immortal praise, 18 Tune Crofts

Confession

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: 'The first commandment is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength." The second is this, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself." There is no other commandment greater than these.' 'I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.'

Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Let us pray.

Lord, you are steadfast in your love and infinite in your mercy; you welcome sinners and invite them to be your guests.

We confess our sins, trusting in you to forgive us.

We have yielded to temptation and sinned:

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

We have turned from our neighbours in their need:

Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy.**

We have resisted your word in our hearts:

Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and keep us in life eternal. **Amen.**

-Silence-

Prayer

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Offering

Thank you to those who have presented their gifts by standing order, through the bank. If you are a tax payer please use Gift Aid envelopes to enable us reclaim tax. After the offering is collected it may be brought forward with the bread and wine. The people stand as it is presented and sing.

**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 Ministry of the Word

The Collect Prayer

Merciful Lord, grant your people grace to withstand the temptations of the world, the flesh and the devil, and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

You may follow the readings in Partnership News

Hymn

Come let us with our Lord arise, 575 Tune Sussex Carol

Sermon

The Reverend Wendy Evans Wood

Affirmation of Faith
The Apostles Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

And ending with:

**Eternal God, through the self-offering of your Son you have filled
our lives with your presence. Help us in our sufferings and trials
and strengthen us in our weakness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Peace

In Christ, God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on
earth or in heaven, by making peace through his blood which was shed
on the cross.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Hymn
Author of faith eternal Word, 662

The Lord's Supper

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 our thanks and praise.

Blessing and praise belong to you, gracious and eternal God.

Through your living Word you created all things, the majesty of the heavens and the glory of the earth. In your wisdom and goodness you have made all people in your image and likeness.

Therefore with saints and angels and with all creation we lift up our voices to proclaim the glory of your name:

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.

Holy and gracious God, we give you thanks and praise that in the fullness of time you gave your only Son to share our human nature and to be tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin; to set his face resolutely towards Jerusalem and to be lifted high upon the cross, that he might draw all creation to himself.

When the hour of his glory came, and loving his own to the end, he sat with them at supper, took bread and, after giving thanks to you, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take eat. This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

In the same way he took the cup after supper, saying, 'Drink from this, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

In obedience to his command we recall his suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension, and we look for his coming in glory.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us the body and blood of Christ.

In union with Christ's offering for us, we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice. Unite us in love and peace with all your people until, with the whole company of heaven, we are brought into the presence of your eternal glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. Amen.

As our Saviour taught his disciples, we pray: *(Sung)*

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

The cup we take is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Christ is the true Vine.

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

Christ is the Bread of Life.

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 say together:

Lord, we come to your table, trusting in your mercy and not in any goodness of our own.

We were not worthy even to gather up the crumbs under your table, but it is your nature always to have mercy, and on that we depend.

So feed us with the body and blood of Jesus Christ, your Son, that we may for ever live in him and he in us. Amen.

Come to this sacred table,

not because you must hut because you may;

not to declare that you are righteous, but that you desire to be true disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ:

not because you are strong, but because you are weak;

not because you have any claim on heaven's rewards, but because in your frailty and sin

we stand in constant need of heaven's mercy and help.

Final Prayer and Dismissal

Gracious God, we thank you that you have nourished us with the bread of life and with the cup of salvation. May we who have received this sacrament be strengthened in your service; we who have sung your praises live in your glory; and we who have known the greatness of your love see you face to face in your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

Love divine, 262 Tune Blaenwern

Blessing

The God of all grace who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, make us perfect, confirming and strengthening us; and to him be the power for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us, now and always. **Amen.**

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

Why Holy Communion ? John Wesley, a founder of Methodism, said that it was the duty of Christians to receive Holy Communion as often as possible. He believed it should be a constant practice and he took the sacraments several times each week. He said that Christians were obliged to receive the signs of Christ's body and blood in remembrance of his death, until the end of the world. For him, taking the communion was a converting ordinance, leading us into deeper faith,

‘The Father there revealed his Son,
him in the broken bread made known.’

He noted that this command was given by Jesus when he was just laying down his life for our sakes. They are, therefore, as it were, his dying words to all his followers. How could we refuse the dying wish of our Lord Jesus ?

Information about Communion

Communion is now received and you will be invited forward. At the distribution the minister will say words of administration to which the communicant may reply, **AMEN**.

If you would like communion brought to you, please remain in your seat and inform the communion steward.

All are welcome, to receive the bread and wine, but if for any reason you do not wish to receive, then please bring this order of service with you and hold it in your hand. The minister will then know not to offer the sacrament to you and will say a prayer of blessing instead.

Children at Communion. Children are welcome to take communion. The Ministers will be pleased to speak with children and adults about growing our appreciation of the sacrament.

Confirmation. You do not have to be confirmed to take communion in our church.

If you would like gluten free bread. Please advise the minister at the administration.

If you wish to partake only of the bread, take the chalice or glass as it is presented and then give it back without drinking.

You are welcome to intinct, by holding the wafer and dipping the tip of the wafer into the chalice. Please ensure that you dip only the tip of the wafer, you must not allow your fingers to touch the wine.

Prayer for Christian Healing

In our services of Holy Communion everybody is offered the opportunity to receive a prayer for Christian healing. If you wish to receive this prayer please cross your arms over your chest when you come forward to receive the bread and the wine. Before administering the bread and wine the minister will pray the following prayer

‘In the name of God and trusting in his might alone, receive Christ’s healing touch to make you whole. May Christ bring you wholeness of body, mind, and spirit, deliver you from every evil, and give you his peace.’