

The Churches of the Parish of Berkswich

in the Church of England Diocese of Lichfield

Sunday 5th July, 2020

4th Sunday after Trinity

Streamed Eucharist with Act of Spiritual Communion



The gathering

God's nature and mercy are revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. So we come to worship in response to Christ's invitation to walk with him and learn from him.

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of
creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and
salvation:
all ye who hear,
now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration.**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so
wondrously reigneth,
shieldeth thee gently from harm, or when
fainting sustaineth:
hast thou not seen
how thy heart's wishes have been
granted in what he ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work
and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily
attend thee:
ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
if to the end he befriend thee.**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore
him!**

**All that hath life and breath, come now with
praises before him!**

**Let the Amen
sound from his people again:
gladly for aye we adore him!**

*Lobe den Herren
Joachim Neander (1650-1680)
Trans Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)*

The greeting

✠ 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.

The Act of Penitence

Jesus died in weakness and rose in
power that we might receive God's
forgiveness and freedom to live afresh.
Assured of God's forgiveness, we make
our confession.

Where we promise much but deliver
little.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Where we profess to learn but close our
minds.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Where we pray for guidance but go our
own way.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Words of forgiveness

The Lord enrich you with his grace, and nourish
you with his blessing; the Lord defend you in
trouble and keep you from all evil ; the Lord
accept your prayers, and absolve ✠ you from your
offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our
Saviour. **Amen.**

Gloria

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 for the day

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal; grant this, heavenly Father, for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The liturgy of the word

First reading Romans 7:15-25a

A reading from the letter to the Romans

Paul expresses his internal conflict. His decision to obey God's law is continually overthrown by his sinful nature's desires. Only Christ's power, not his own effort, can set him free.

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. I can will what is right, but I cannot do it.

For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh I am a slave to the law of sin.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew✠

Matthew 11.16-19, 25-end

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus laments the spiritual dullness of God's people, but rejoices at those willing to receive him as God's Son and the way to the Father. He invites the oppressed to draw close, promising them rest in his loving presence.

'But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market-places and calling to one another, "We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn." For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, "He has a demon"; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, "Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!" Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.' At that time Jesus said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. 'Come to

me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Affirmation of faith

We proclaim the Church's faith in Jesus Christ.

We believe and declare that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is both divine and human.

God, of the being of the Father,
the only Son from before time began;
human from the being of his mother, born in the world;
fully God and fully human; human in both mind and body.

As God he is equal to the Father, as human he is less than the Father.

Although he is both divine and human he is not two beings but one Christ.

One, not by turning God into flesh, but by taking humanity into God;

truly one, not by mixing humanity with Godhead, but by being one person.

For as mind and body form one human being so the one Christ is both divine and human.

The Word became flesh and lived among us; we have seen his glory, the glory of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

from the Athanasian Creed

Prayers of Intercession

As the Father welcomes us in Jesus, we are privileged and called to bring our cares before God. So let us pray

Lord, hear us

Lord, graciously hear us.

at the end

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The liturgy of the sacrament

The Peace

Jesus, the prince of peace and Lord of all, brings peace to the nations. Let us follow our Lord by sharing this gift with one another.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Prayer

Blessed be God, who feeds the hungry,
who raises the poor, who fills our praise.
Blessed be God forever

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here

His Spirit is with us.

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.

Father, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word, through whom you have created all things; who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour. By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh; as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin, he lived on earth and went about among us; he opened wide his arms for us on the cross; he put an end to death by dying for us; and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life; so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your ✠ Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. ✠

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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. ✠

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

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

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Thomas, St Chad, all the saints to feast at your

table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. ✠ **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray in the words that Jesus taught his disciples:

**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 priest breaks the consecrated bread, saying

Lord, we died with you on the cross.
Now we are raised to new life.
We were buried in your tomb.
Now we share your resurrection.
Live in us,
that we may live in you

AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

As you look on to the consecrated elements - the Body and Blood of Our Lord present in the Bread and Wine, say these words

**In union, dear Father, with Christian
people throughout the world and across
the centuries gathered to make
Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and
receiving the Precious Body and Blood,
I offer you praise and thanksgiving.
Even though I am exiled from tasting
the Bread of Heaven and drinking the
Cup of Life I pray that you will unite me
with all the baptised and with your Son
who gave his life for us.
Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send
your Holy Spirit that I may be filled
with your presence.**

Prayer after communion

Eternal God,
comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken,
you have fed us at the table of life and hope:
teach us the ways of gentleness and peace,
that all the world may acknowledge
the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The dismissal

All creatures of our God and King
lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia, alleluia.

Thou burning sun with golden beam,
thou silver moon with softer gleam,
*O praise him, O praise him,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise him, alleluia.

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
ye lights of evening, find a voice;
O praise him...

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,
make music for thy Lord to hear,
Alleluia, alleluia.

Thou fire so masterful and bright,
that givest us both warmth and light:
O praise him

Let all things their creator bless,
and worship him in humbleness;
O praise him, alleluia.

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
and praise the Spirit, Three in One;
O praise him

*William Henry Draper (1855-1933)
based on Laudato sii, O me signore St Francis of
Assisi's Canticle of the Sun*

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

May the Father who calls you, sustain you in
faith.

May the Son who invites you to walk with him,
be your example.

May the Spirit who fills you with new life, guide
you.

And the blessing of God almighty... ✠

Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Please may we meet again in church soon in
the name of Christ. Amen.**

Copyright acknowledgment (where not already indicated above):

Some material included in this service is copyright: © 1989
National Council of the Churches of Christ, USA

Some material included in this service is copyright: © The
Archbishops' Council 2000

CCLI Streaming licence: 1169112 Copyright licence: 202876