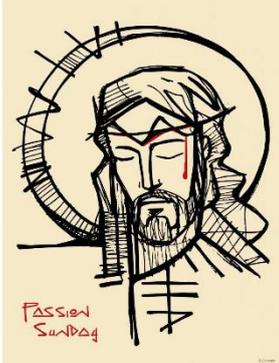


The Churches of the Parish of Berkswich

in the Church of England Diocese of Lichfield

Sunday 29 March, 2020
Passion Sunday

Streamed Eucharist with Act of Spiritual Communion



"I have set my face"

You may want to light a candle before you begin, and have a Bible, cross or crucifix to look at.

You might prepare for this act of worship by listening to some music, or by being still

Preparation

As we prepare to walk with Christ through his passion, let us worship with hearts full of gratitude and trust.

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord is here
His Spirit is with us.

The Act of Penitence

Jesus died that we might live forgiven and free. Let us respond to his call and come to him to be cleansed and renewed.

For when we have allowed the world's opinions to shape our thinking.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

For when we have allowed others' criticisms to silence our speaking.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

For when we have allowed our own desires to limit our loving.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Words of forgiveness

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Special Prayer for this week

God of compassion,
you call us out of the bindings of death on this, our resurrection day:
make us ready to surrender the fear in which we hide to step into your future alive and unashamed;
through Jesus Christ, the life of the world.
Amen.

The Word of the Lord

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37.1-14

The Valley of Dry Bones

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?'

I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

GOSPEL READING: John 11:17, 32-45

Jesus was staying on the far side of the Jordan from Jerusalem and Bethany when he received a message from Mary and Martha saying that their brother Lazarus was ill. Jesus deliberately waited for two more days before setting off for Bethany and when he arrived Lazarus was dead and buried.

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?' Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against

it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me. When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

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

HOMILY

Affirmation of faith

With our Christian brothers and sisters, we affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is
Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

cf Philipians 2.6-11

Prayers of intercession

We pray for our world, especially at this time of anxiety and fear...

We pray for our nation and its well-being...

We pray for neighbours, family and friends and we remember all those self-isolating at the moment...

We pray for all who are sick, worried or anxious, and for those who feel cut off from friends and family...

We pray for those who have died in recent days, and all whom we remember with love and affection....

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

"Above all, clothe yourselves with love... And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts."

The peace of the Lord...

and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

The Offertory Prayer

Jesus, true vine and bread of life,
ever giving yourself that the world might live,
let us share your death and passion:
make us perfect in your love.

Amen.

The Eucharist

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.

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.**

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

Joining with Christians throughout the world, we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

Breaking of the Bread

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**



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.

Post Communion Prayer

Father of lights, from whom comes every good and perfect gift; keep us in the light of Christ, to shine in your world, that all may believe in you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Blessing

**The Lord be with you
And also with you.**

May the Father, who so loved the world that he gave his only Son, bring you by faith to his eternal life.

May Christ, who accepted the cup of sacrifice in obedience to the Father's will, keep you steadfast as you walk with him the way of his cross.

May the Spirit, who strengthens us to suffer with Christ that we may share his glory, set your minds on life and peace.

And the blessing....

Amen.

This is love, not that we loved God,
but that he loved us and sent his Son.

He is the sacrifice for our sins,
that we might live through him.

If God loves us so much

we ought to love one another.

If we love one another

God lives in us.

cf 1 John 4.10-12

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Please God, we can meet together in church again, soon. In the name of Christ. Amen.