

The Parish of Berkswich  
in the Church of England Diocese of Lichfield

**Sung Eucharist for**  
8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity



Welcome to our worship this morning. Sections in each of our buildings are reserved for those who wish to maintain strict social distancing.

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Wake up! Look lively! Be aware! The Lord is here!

The gathering



**Hymn 404:**  
**[Living God, your Word has called us](#)**

**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**

God calls us to serve others, yet so often we merely serve ourselves.

Heavenly Father, you give us the honour of service, yet we ransack the earth to our own ends.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy**

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the model of service, yet we your disciples lord it over others.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, you would daily transform us, yet we resist your call to change.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Words of forgiveness**

May the Father of all mercies cleanse you from your sins, and restore you in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Gloria**



**Glory, glory to God,  
glory to God in the highest heav'ns.  
Peace, peace, peace on the earth;  
peace to God's people, all people on  
earth.**

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

**Glory, glory to God,  
glory to God in the highest heav'ns.  
Peace, peace, peace on the earth;  
peace to God's people, all people on earth.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Lord Jesus Christ,  
only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy, mercy on us.

**Have mercy, mercy on us.**

You are seated at the right hand,  
at the right hand of the Father:  
receive, Lord, receive our prayer.

**Receive, Lord, receive our prayer.**

*5 bar organ interlude*

**Glory, glory to God,  
glory to God in the highest heav'ns.**

**Peace, peace, peace on the earth;  
peace to God's people, all people on earth.**

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, glory of God, the Glory of God the  
Father.

**Glory, glory to God,  
glory to God in the highest heav'ns.**

**Peace, peace, peace on the earth;  
peace to God's people, all people on earth.**

Amen,

**Amen!**

### **The Collect for the day**

Let us pray

*Silence is kept*

Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the works of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, 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 Isaiah 1.1, 10-20**

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

*Isaiah's message is shocking for Jerusalem, which he likens to Sodom and Gomorrah – infamous as godless places. The people's worship*



*is utterly repugnant to God, who will not listen to their prayers because their "hands are full of blood". Their destiny is to be crushed by the Assyrians, but there's a chance of salvation if they turn and repent.*

The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt-offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats. When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more; bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation— I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them. When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**God the Lord, the King Almighty,  
calls the earth from east to west:  
shining out from Zion's splendor,  
city loveliest and best,  
comes our God! He breaks the silence,  
robed in burning majesty:  
"Gather all my cov'nant people,  
bound by sacrifice to me."**

**"Hear me testify against you:  
listen, Israel, as I speak.  
I do not require your off'rings,  
sacrifice I do not seek.  
Mountain birds and meadow creatures,  
cattle on a thousand hills,  
all the beasts are my possession,  
moving as their maker wills."**

**Lies increase and evil prospers;  
God is silent while men say,  
"He has gone, let us forget him,"  
thinking he is false as they.  
But his word will judge or save us:  
let us come before his throne,  
giving thanks, receiving mercy,  
God's salvation now made known.**

*Christopher M Idle (1938-)*

### **Second reading Hebrews 11.1-3, 8-16**

#### **A reading from the letter to the Hebrews**

*Living by faith is required any time we cannot see the full picture. The heroes of Hebrews 11 were heroes of faith because they persevered even when they couldn't see the way ahead. They were obedient, even though they were ridiculed. In the same way, Jesus calls us to serve him even though he cannot be seen directly.*

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he

set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, 'as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.' All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel reading**



**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.  
You have the words of eternal life.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

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

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.** 12.32-40

*Being ready for Jesus isn't primarily about the "second coming", but about living in God's presence. Luke was writing to the leaders of*

society, telling them to learn from their slaves and serve. This is how Christ models ministry.

'Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 'Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. 'But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Homily**

### Affirmation of faith



With our Christian siblings throughout the world, let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**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.**

### Prayers of Intercession

As we rejoice in Christ the servant, we pray that God opens our eyes to see how we can serve others.

*At the end of each bidding the following response is used*



Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer**

*At the end, on behalf of us all, the intercessor gathers our individual prayers together into one, by saying on our behalf*

Christ our servant, open our eyes and teach us to serve, so that we may be more like you each day.

**Amen**

## The liturgy of the sacrament

### The Peace



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

The servant king is here among us. Let us be ready to serve him in every way he meets us.

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.*

**Hymn 340:**  
**Jerusalem the Golden**

**Offertory Prayer**

Gracious God, accept the offering of your Church, the hearts of your people joined together as one in praise and thanksgiving, in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen**

**The Eucharistic Prayer**

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.**

God of blessing, we thank you always for making us in your image to serve the peace of all creation. You shared your name with our mothers and fathers: Sarah and Abraham, who left their home and became a blessing to all nations; Moses and Miriam, who went through sea and wilderness to the place of revelation; Deborah and Samson, who gave hope and justice to a people ruled by fear; Ruth and Jonah, who went to foreign soil and found a God who loves the stranger. From our ancestors in faith came Jesus, the son of promise to fulfil the law, embody your love and draw all people to himself. He accepted death to break its fearful hold; he was raised to life to share it in abundance; he comes again to break the bread and pour the wine of hope. Therefore, with all the people whose story you have shaped, with women and men of faith in every part of the world we glory in your generous love and sing in praise of you:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of pow'r and God of might:  
heaven and earth, heaven and earth  
are full of your glory,  
your pow'r and might.  
Hosanna, hosanna,  
hosanna in the highest heavn's.  
Hosanna, hosanna,  
hosanna in the highest heavn's.**

**Blessed, blessed is he who comes,  
Blessed, blessed is he who comes;  
blessed is he, blessed is he  
who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna,  
hosanna in the highest heavn's.  
Hosanna, hosanna,  
hosanna in the highest heavn's.**

*The priest then continues the prayer, recalling the words and actions of Jesus at the Last Supper during which we sing the Memorial Acclamation – a response to what has been proclaimed in the Eucharistic prayer*

Praise to you Lord Jesus.

**Dying you destroyed our death,  
Rising you restored our life,  
Lord Jesus come in glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna,  
hosanna in the highest heav'ns!**

*At the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer, we assent to the prayer by saying...*

**Amen!**

**The Lord's Prayer**

Joining our voices with the whole company of heaven, as our Saviour taught us, so 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**

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**

*The priest breaks the consecrated bread as we  
sing the Agnus Dei.*

**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 your peace.**

**Lamb of God you take away  
the sin of the world grant us your peace.**

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*As those in church receive, we sing this hymn*

**Hymn 610:**  
**Soul of my Saviour**

**Prayer after communion**

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamour and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever. **Amen**

**The dismissal**



**Hymn 247:**  
**Great is thy faithfulness**

**The Blessing**

May you be dressed for action and always alert to serve. May you be ready for Christ however he comes to you. 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.**

### Key Contacts...

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*Fr Graham's usual day off is Monday*

**The Parish Office is situated behind Holy Trinity Church and is closed at the current time**

Please send all items for next week's News from the Pews to Sue on [ssnhatten@gmail.com](mailto:ssnhatten@gmail.com) (or 661767) by the end of Wednesday

### THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

**HT** = Holy Trinity Church  
**ST** = St Thomas's Church **AS** = All Saints Church  
**V** = Vicarage **CH** = Community Hall **OL** = Online

#### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August – Eighth Sunday after Trinity

0845 Sung Eucharist AS  
1045 Sung Eucharist HT and OL

#### Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August

#### Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August

1000 Drop In HT

#### Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August

1000 Private Prayer AS

#### Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> August

1000 Private Prayer ST  
1030 Sung Eucharist ST

#### Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August

#### Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August - The transfiguration of Our Lord

#### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August – Ninth Sunday after Trinity

0845 Sung Eucharist AS  
1045 Sung Eucharist HT and OL

### Daily Bible Readings

<b>Monday</b>	Psalms 26,28,29 Jeremiah 31:23-25.27-39 James 2: 1-13
<b>Tuesday</b>	Psalms 33 Jeremiah 32:1-15 James 2: 14-end
<b>Wed</b>	Psalms 119:33-56 Jeremiah 33:1-13 James 3
<b>Thursday</b>	Psalms 39,40 Jeremiah 33:14-18 James 4:1-12
<b>Friday</b>	Psalms 35 Jeremiah 35 James 4:13-5:6
<b>Saturday</b>	Psalms 45,46 Jeremiah 36:1-18 James 5:7-end

### Welcome!

**Welcome to you all** as we continue to try and meet at this unusual time in the history of our nation and world. We hope that you will join with us in prayer and worship, either in church, or via Zoom, Facebook or YouTube (details <https://www.berkswich.org.uk/worshipping-from-home.html>)

**Sign up** for our weekly email newsletter, or see older issues here <https://us17.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=5991be44ea1b9738d6262c1e2&id=a28b74cddb>

**If you wish** to make a donation towards the life and work of the Parish, there is an opportunity to do so during the service. Please consider joining the Giving Direct scheme (<https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/finance/financegiftaid/financegivingdirect/>) or make a one-off donation via JustGiving (<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/berkswichparish>)

**You can follow us on Facebook! To sign up for our weekly email newsletter, please email Fr Graham ([graham.adamson@berkswich.org.uk](mailto:graham.adamson@berkswich.org.uk))**

**For the world...** Loving God we hold before you all who suffer food poverty because of drought, regional conflict and the lack of grain leaving Ukraine. In this world where your abundance is sufficient for all your people we lament the misuse of your bounty, the building of new barns rather than the equitable distribution of resources and pray that the hearts and minds of all of us who have so much will be turned to the teaching of your Son. (Luke 12: 18, 33)

**For the church...** Heavenly Father, as you called the bishops of the Anglican Communion to join together in prayerful reflection and fellowship, we pray that you will bless them as they return to their many dioceses. May your whole Church witness to your love through our care for your world and all parts of your creation, sharing in mission and evangelism and working for peace and justice in accordance with your holy will.

**For our community...** Let us pray for those in our community who have opened their homes to refugees from Ukraine. As the length of stay increases we pray for the economic and social challenges that hosts face. Let us pray too for the borough council officers who are providing support, especially where initial sponsorships have broken down or family circumstances have changed.

**For those known to us, near and far...**  
**... who suffer in body, mind or spirit:** Alistair, Sally, Brenda, Carolyn, Martin, Janet, Sarah, Charlie, Robert, Justine, Remi and family, M, Liz, Sheila, J, Archie, Simon, Joy and Chris, Alex, Joe, Baby Jesse.

**.... for the recently departed:** John Mountfort; Audrey Lomas; Ashley Smith; Margaret Ellis; Sheila Jones; Jim Beard; Norman White; Betty Shoemark; Pat Lockley; Audrey Fell; Sidney Bury; Gerald Knight; Derek Toussaint; John Moss; Eileen Taylor; Ethel Barass.

*+ May they rest in peace and rise in glory*

**In thanksgiving to God for...** the joyful spirit that the Commonwealth Games have brought to the West Midlands

*Is there any news you'd like to join with the congregation in giving thanks to God for? Let us know and we'll add it.*

**Are you puzzling over how issues of ethics and politics impact on your faith? Digging Deeper** - The next talk will take place on the second Sunday in September, in Holy Trinity.

**Prayer requests** - please send to david.clark@berkswich.org.uk or call 07999 596590

**Mothers' Union Afternoon Tea** on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August at St Thomas' starting at 2 pm. Admittance is £5 per person and for this you will receive a full afternoon tea of delicious, homemade assorted cakes and sandwiches and, of course, unlimited cups of tea. To add to the fun, there will be a bring-and-buy table, raffle, MU sales table, plus various other attractions. Berkswich Mothers' Union have supported Staffordshire Women's Aid for many years and monies raised from the afternoon tea will purchase single bedding and towels to replenish refuge stocks. The refuge currently has 39 single beds, with additional cots and Moses baskets.

**Date for the diary** - on Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> August (bank-holiday weekend), we hope to hold a Parish Eucharist followed by a Bring and Share lunch – details to follow. Please do join us as we gather together to break bread and spend time as a church family.

**School Bibles.** Thank you to everyone who contributed to the cost of these. Every Year 6 pupil was presented with a quality Youth Bible at the end of term. If you would still like to contribute to the cost of these, please contact Judith Rennard on 663755.

**Working Party** – Can you spare any time to help refresh and redecorate the Community Hall Meeting Room? If you can help, please could you let Beryl know your availability. Thank you.

**Cake Box** – a cake carrier was left behind in the tea tent at the Parish Fete. It has a transparent lid, and holds about 30 small cakes. If it's yours, please contact Anne Parkes on 661546.