

The Churches of the Parish of Berkswich

in the Church of England Diocese of Lichfield

Live-streamed Eucharist for The Blessed Virgin Mary



Br Mickey McGrath OSFS

We rejoice to sing in church again. If you are in church, unless exempt please continue to wear a mask when moving around the building or singing hymns. Sections in each of our buildings are reserved for those who wish to maintain strict social distancing – please respect those who have done so. Those at home, please do continue to sing loudly, you will still be muted!

The gathering

Today we honour the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ. We give thanks for her love of God and for her courage in accepting her role as an essential part of God's plan of salvation for all the people of the earth.

**Sing we of the blessed Mother
who received the angel's word,
and obedient to his summons
bore in love the infant Lord;
sing we of the joys of Mary
at whose breast the child was fed
who is Son of God eternal
and the everlasting bread.**

**Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,
of the sword that pierced her through,
when beneath the cross of Jesus
she his weight of suffering knew,**

**looked upon her Son and Saviour
reigning high on Calvary's tree,
saw the price of man's redemption
paid to set the sinner free.**

**Sing again the joys of Mary
when she saw the risen Lord,
and in prayer with Christ's apostles,
waited on his promised word:
from on high the blazing glory
of the Spirit's presence came,
heavenly breath of God's own being,
manifest through wind and flame.**

**Sing the chiefest joy of Mary
when on earth her work was done,
and the Lord of all creation
brought her to his heavenly home:
Virgin Mother, Mary blessed,
raised on high and crowned with grace,
may your Son, the world's redeemer,
grant us all to see his face.**

George B Timms (1910-1997)

The greeting

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

The Lord of glory be with you.
And also with you

The Act of Penitence

We have done what was wrong in the Lord's sight and chosen what displeased him. Yet as a mother comforts her child, so shall the Lord himself comfort us. So let us come to him who knows our every deed and thought.

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of Peace: Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary: Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh and splendour of the Father; Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Words of forgiveness

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon✠ and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Gloria

Our virtual choir sing the Gloria. Often referred to as "the angelic hymn," the gloria was first intoned by the angels from heaven for the birth of Christ on earth. The Gloria is a true hymn. Its opening burst of praise overflows into a series of joyful cries addressed to the Father: "we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory." The hymn goes on to implore the mercy of the Son, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. In singing the Gloria, the church relives the experience of Saint Stephen who, "full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God" (Acts 7:55). Gazing on Christ, the Church praises him: "You alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High." The final lines of the Gloria soar into the blinding mystery of the Trinity: "Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father." The hymn ends where it began: in the heavens.

The Collect for the day

Let us pray

Silence is kept

Almighty God, who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary and chose her to be the mother of your only Son: grant that we who are redeemed by his blood may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom; 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.**

The liturgy of the word

First reading Revelation 11.19-12.6-10
A reading from the Revelation of John

A prophecy in which a woman gives birth to a child and a voice rejoices over the defeat of Satan.

Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple; and there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and heavy hail. A great portent appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pangs, in the agony of giving birth. Then another portent appeared in heaven: a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. Then the dragon stood before the woman who was about to bear a child, so that he might devour her child as soon as it was born. And she gave birth to a son, a male child, who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron. But her child was snatched away and taken to God and to his throne; and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, so that there she can be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, proclaiming, 'Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Messiah, for the accuser of our comrades has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading

The virtual choir sing the 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.

1.46-55

Mary praises God, setting her experience at the annunciation into the context of the history of God's dealings with Abraham and his descendants.

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

Affirmation of faith

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

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

As we pray to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we say with Mary:

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.

Holy is your name.

At the end of each bidding the following response is used

Lord, have mercy on those who fear you.

Holy is your name.

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

Almighty and everlasting God, your handmaid Mary magnified your name and rejoiced in your saving love: trusting in that same love, we ask all these our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 sacrament

The Peace

The Lord of glory be with you.

And also with you

Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour." Let us too rejoice in the love and peace of God.

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

God our Father, your handmaid Mary fed your Son at her virgin breast. Nourish us at this table with the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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.

It is indeed right and good, our duty and our salvation, almighty Father, ever-living God, to proclaim the wonders you have worked in all your saints, and on the feast of Mary, ever blessed, to echo her praise of your loving kindness. For you have truly done great things and holy is your name, and your mercy is on those who fear you in every generation. When you looked with favour on your lowly servant you

remembered your promise of mercy and gave the world through her your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Through him the hosts of heaven adore you and rejoice in your presence for ever. May our voices join with theirs in the triumphant hymn of praise:

Our Virtual Choir will sing the Sanctus, the Holy, Holy, Holy, an integral part of the Eucharistic Prayer in both the Eastern and Western churches from before the year 400 A.D, and the conclusion of the Preface.

Its text is composed of two parts, both inspired in Scripture and highlighting two juxtaposing aspects of God – the first part focuses on the awe and surpassing wonder before the divine majesty, and in the second, the humility of Jesus, God made man.

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

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

Amen!

The Lord's Prayer

Let us offer our prayers to God with grateful and trusting hearts as we say together.

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 our virtual choir sing the Agnus Dei, underlining the reality of Jesus the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.

An act of Spiritual Communion

Those at home, as they look on to the consecrated elements - the Body and Blood of Our Lord present in the Bread and Wine, are invited to say

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.

As those in church receive, our virtual choir will sing Ave Verum Corpus

Prayer after communion

God most high, whose handmaid bore the Word made flesh: we thank you that in this sacrament of our redemption you visit us with your Holy Spirit and overshadow us by your power; strengthen us to walk with Mary the joyful path of obedience and so to bring forth the fruits of holiness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The dismissal

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his Word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has
done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to
flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his Word!
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and forevermore!

Timothy Dudley Smith (1926-)

The Blessing

The Lord of glory be with you.
And also with you

May the love of the Holy Family surround you.
May the joy that was Mary's refresh you. May the
faithfulness that was Joseph's encourage you.
May the peace of the Christ-child fill your lives.
And the blessing of God almighty, the
✠ Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be
among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Blessed is she who had faith that the Lord's
promise would be fulfilled.
All generations shall call her blessed.
So tenderly has he looked upon his servant.
All generations shall call her blessed.
Blessed is she among women and blessed is the
fruit of her womb.
All generations shall call her blessed.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit. Holy is his name.
All generations shall call her blessed.

Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let
it be to me according to your word.

Luke 1:38

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

*Equipped to go out into our world, we leave in
silence*

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