

# THE EUCHARIST ('THANKSGIVING') ON THE SUNDAYS OF LENT ONLINE

## INTRODUCTION TO THE SEASON

Lent may originally have followed Epiphany, just as Jesus' sojourn in the wilderness followed immediately on his baptism, but it soon became firmly attached to Easter, as the principal occasion for baptism and for the reconciliation of those who had been excluded from the Church's fellowship for apostasy or serious faults. This history explains the characteristic notes of Lent – self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter, to which almsgiving has traditionally been added.

As the candidates for baptism were instructed in Christian faith, and as penitents prepared themselves, through fasting and penance, to be readmitted to communion, the whole Christian community was invited to join them in the process of study and repentance, the extension of which over forty days would remind them of the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness, being tested by Satan.

The calculation of the forty days has varied considerably in Christian history. It is now usual in the West to count them continuously to the end of Holy Week (not including Sundays), so beginning Lent on the sixth Wednesday before Easter, Ash Wednesday. Churches are kept bare of flowers and decoration. *Gloria in excelsis* is not used. The Fourth Sunday of Lent (*Laetare* or Refreshment Sunday) was allowed as a day of relief from the rigour of Lent, and the Feast of the Annunciation almost always falls in Lent; these breaks from austerity are the background to the modern observance of Mothering Sunday on the Fourth Sunday of Lent.

As Holy Week approaches, the atmosphere of the season darkens; the readings begin to anticipate the story of Christ's suffering and death, and the reading of the Passion Narrative gave to the Fifth Sunday its name of Passion Sunday. There are many devotional exercises which may be used in Lent and Holy Week outside the set liturgy. The Stations of the Cross, made popular in the West by the Franciscans after they were granted custody of the Christian sites in the Holy Land, are the best known.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

*All say the words in bold type*

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 priest welcomes and greets the people.*

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. Let us confess our sins remembering before God the times when we have fallen from temptation into sin.

Wash away all my iniquity  
and cleanse me from my sin: Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Against you, you only have I sinned  
and done what is evil in your sight: Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me: Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

*The priest pronounces God's forgiveness (Absolution)  
to which all respond: **Amen.***

## THE COLLECT

*The priest says the Opening Prayer (which 'collects' together the theme of the day)*

*All respond: **Amen.***

**SCRIPTURE READING**  
*from the Old or New Testament*

This is the Word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

*A moment of silence is kept*

**THE GOSPEL READING**

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice,  
Harden not your hearts.

*Cf Psalm 95.3, 8.*

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Lord be with you

**and also with you**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Silence is kept.*

**THE SERMON**

## THE NICENE CREED

*A universal statement of the Christian faith. It is called 'Nicene' because it was originally adopted in the city of Nicaea (present day Iznik, Turkey) by the First Council of Nicaea in 325 AD.*

**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.**

## THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord, hear us.  
**Lord, graciously hear us.**

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

*The Intercessions conclude:*

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## THE PEACE

Since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has given us access to his grace.

*Romans 5.1,2*

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

## THE OFFERTORY

There are details at the end of this booklet about how to make a donation to the mission and ministry of the church during Lockdown and also about setting up regular giving.

## PREPARATION OF THE TABLE & TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

*The Berakah (blessing) prayers are said.*

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made,  
it will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.

Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands,  
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

God of mercy and compassion,  
your Word calls us home to faith and love.  
accept all we offer you this day;  
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.**

*After the Preface, all say:*

**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.**

*The Eucharistic Prayer continues.*

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died  
Christ is risen  
Christ will come again.**

*The prayer continues.*

*All respond boldly: **Amen!***

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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**

**We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.  
Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

### **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 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.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray

*The priest says the prayer and all respond: **Amen.***

**Almighty God,  
We thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit,  
to live and work to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

## THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,  
to deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
come upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## VIRTUAL COLLECTION PLATE



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