

HOLY COMMUNION – ORDINARY TIME

Welcome

Today we gather for the service of Holy Communion. It is sometimes known as 'The Lord's Supper,' 'The Eucharist,' or simply as 'Mass' but whatever name is used it is the central act of worship for the Christian Community.

If you are a visitor here today we hope you feel at home. The **stewards** wearing rainbow lanyards, will be happy to help you. Please introduce yourself. If you receive **communion** in any church you are welcome to receive the bread and wine here. If you need a **gluten free wafer** or wish to receive communion in your seat please let one of the stewards know.

Our services are usually **live streamed**, so those at home can worship with us. If you wish to ensure you are not seen on camera please sit on the right hand side of the church as you enter, please ask a steward if you are unsure. The cameras do not film people coming up for communion.

Children are always welcome in church and we understand that they do not always find it easy to be quiet! Please move around as you need to with them and if toddlers need a wander that is fine as long as they remain under your supervision. Church buildings are great places to explore but please be mindful of uneven floors, sharp edges and candles. Most weeks during term time Children's Church takes place in **Fearon Hall** and families re-join us in the church building in time for communion.

We are part of the **Inclusive Church** network and as such we seek to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality. We believe in a Church which welcomes and serves all people in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.

We are a work in progress and welcome anyone who wishes to journey with us.

Who's Who in Worship?

Lots of people take part in a communion service. Some people perform a role that requires official recognition from the wider church but mostly these are tasks that any member of the church can take a turn at.

President

The communion service is presided over by a priest. A priest is someone who has been ordained by the Bishop and has a particular role to preach, teach and care for people. In the service s/he will be wearing a coloured chasuble and stole that reflect the season.

Deacon

A deacon is ordained by the Bishop and plays a significant part in the life of the church. Often deacons are also ordained as priest. In the service the deacon wears a coloured stole across the shoulder. The traditional Deacon's role may be carried out by a Lay Reader or Lay Assistant.

(See below.)

Lay Reader

Lay Readers have a preaching, teaching and pastoral ministry and are licensed by the Bishop to serve in our church. When robed they wear a blue preaching scarf but sometimes they might preach in their ordinary clothes.

Lay Assistant

A member of the church who helps lead the service. They wear a white alb. Often they are people who are exploring a vocation to preaching or ordained ministry.

Server

Wearing white robes, these are members of the congregation who carry the processional candles and cross and assist with the communion vessels.

Reader

The person who reads aloud the scripture from the lectern.

Intercessor

Someone who prepares and delivers prayers reflecting the theme of the service.

Communion Assistant

Members of the congregation who administer the chalice. Normally they will not be robed.

Then there are musicians, singers, Children's Church leaders, stewards and hospitality team members and YOU! We worship God together as the body of Christ.

If you would like to find out more about taking part in a Sunday service or if you feel God may be calling you to one of the ministries authorised by the Bishop, please speak to one of the clergy team or stewards after the service or email:

churchwardens@allsaintsloughborough.org.uk

Before the service begins there is an informal welcome. Once the service starts please join in with the words in **bold type**. The parts in **red** are instructions or an indication of what is happening. You will find throughout the service there are notes to stand, sit or kneel. **These are invitations not commands**, so please do whatever helps you to worship.

The Gathering

The choir may sing an Introit a piece of choral music reflecting the theme of the service or the music group may play a song that similarly leads us into worship.

Processional Hymn

All stand to sing the hymn as the music begins and the servers and ministers process.

The Greeting

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father

and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you.
and also with you.

Additional words of welcome from the president may be given and the theme of the service introduced.

Prayers of Penitence

The deacon or lay assistant invites us to confess our sins using this prayer or with other words and the responses that follow. You may wish to kneel.

**Most merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned in thought, word
and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy
forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and
direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and
walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

OR

Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy

Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

The president says words of forgiveness in a prayer of absolution. All respond:

Amen

Gloria in Excelsis *by Margaret Rizza*

We stand to sing this ancient hymn of praise together using either this setting with the choir or the one opposite with the music group.

Glory glory to God
Glory to God in the highest
Peace to his people on earth (repeat)
Lord God, heavenly King
Almighty God and Father
We worship You, we give You praise
We praise You for Your glory
Glory glory to God
Glory to God in the highest
Peace to his people
Peace to his people on earth
Lord Jesus Christ, holy son of the Father

Lord God, lamb of God
You take away the sin of the world
Have mercy oh Lord
For You are seated at the right hand of the Father
Receive our prayer (repeat 2x's)
You oh Lord are the Holy One
You are Lord of the Lords
You alone are the Lord
You are Lord of the most high
Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit
In the glory, the glory, the glory of God the Father
Amen amen amen (repeat)

The Collect

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'let us pray'. All remain standing for the period of silence and the collect - the special prayer for the day - and all respond.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

We sit to listen to one or two readings appointed for the day taken from the Christian scriptures, the Bible. Usually this will be one reading from the Old Testament or Hebrew Scriptures as it is also called, and then the second from the New Testament which is mostly made up of letters sent to some of the earliest churches.

At the end of each reading the following is said:

Here ends the reading
Thanks be to God.

First Reading

Here ends the reading

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Here ends the reading

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

We stand and sing together **Alleluia** as the Gospel book is carried to the middle of the church and the congregation turns to face the reader. The Gospels are the books of the Bible which contain the stories and words of Jesus hence we stand to show how important they are to us.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *
Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel for the day is proclaimed.

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

We sing **Alleluia** as the gospel is carried back. We sit after the preacher offers an introductory prayer.

Sermon

After the sermon an anthem, song or piece of music may be played or there is a brief pause for reflection and then all stand to declare the faith of the Church either in the words of the Creed or the Affirmation of Faith on page 10.

The Creed

**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 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.**

OR

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**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

All kneel for the prayers, which are led by a member of the congregation, sometimes from the back of the church or from their seat. One of the following responses may be used or another response may be given.

Lord in your mercy
hear our prayer.

or

Lord hear us
Lord graciously hear us

The prayers may conclude with these words:

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

We stand. The president introduces the peace with some appropriate words and then says:

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

Members of the congregation turn to one another and greet their neighbours by saying 'peace be with you' and making a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

During this hymn bread and wine are brought forward and the altar-table is prepared. The offertory plate is presented, symbolic of the financial gifts of the people, and the president gives thanks for these while the deacon or lay assistant is laying up the altar-table.

Taking of the Bread and Wine

When the altar-table is prepared the president offers this prayer.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,
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 set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.
Blessed be God for ever.

The president washes their hands symbolising our desire to come together at the Lord's table with pure hearts and minds.

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.

The president praises God for His mighty acts and all respond by singing one of the two settings below.

The Sanctus *by Margaret Rizza*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest**

**Blessed is he, Oh blessed is he
Who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna in the highest.**

OR

The Sanctus *by James Macmillan*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord
God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest**

**Blessed is he, Oh blessed is he
Who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna in the highest.**

The president recalls the Last Supper and then this acclamation is used.

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

The prayer continues leading into the final words of praise.

... in songs of everlasting praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

OR

... for ever and ever. **Amen**

We kneel or sit and observe a period of silence.

The Lord's Prayer

We say this prayer together, each in whichever language is closest to our hearts.. It may be led by a member of the congregation using one of the global languages that make up our intercultural community.

As our saviour taught us, so we pray

**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

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.**

While the ministers break the remaining consecrated bread and the communion assistants come to the front we sing together the ancient prayer known as the Agnus Dei.

Agnus Dei by Margaret Rizza

**Jesus Lamb of God
Jesus Lamb of God
You take away the sins of the world
Have mercy on us
Jesus Lamb of God
Jesus Lamb of God
You take away the sins of the world
Have mercy on us
Jesus Lamb of God
Jesus Lamb of God
You take away the sins of the world
Grant us Your peace
Grant us Your peace**

OR

Agnus Dei by James Macmillan

**Lamb of God you take away
The sins of the world
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God you take away
The sins of the world
Have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God you take away
The sins of the world**

Grant us peace.

Giving of Communion

The president gives an invitation to communion.

This is the table, not of the Church but of Jesus Christ.
It is made ready for those who love God and who want to love God more.

So come you have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time or ever before.

You who have tried to follow and all of who have failed.

These are the gifts of God for the People of God. Christ invites you to be known and fed here.

Please come forward when directed by the stewards. Christians of any church tradition are welcome to receive the bread and wine including children who have been admitted to communion, here or at another church. Alternatively you can come forward for a prayer of blessing, please indicate if this is your wish by crossing your arms across your chest.

As we share communion the choir or music group may sing an anthem or song and sometimes instrumental music will be played. We all join in singing the communion hymn(s) that follow, the number(s) for which can be found on the notice sheet and on the hymn board at the front of church.

Communion Anthem

Communion Hymn

Prayer after Communion

A brief silence is kept. The president says the post communion prayer for the day before we say the following prayer together:

**We thank you Lord,
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples.
Amen.**

The Dismissal

Notices and publishing of the banns of marriage.

The Blessing

We stand for the president to give the blessing to which all respond.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

As we sing our final hymn the servers and ministers process. Children are welcome to join the procession. Please turn to face the ministers for the dismissal.

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

You are warmly invited to stay for refreshments which are served most weeks after the service.