



HOLY COMMUNION (LENT)

A very warm welcome to St Mark's, especially if you are new today. Please do fill in an electronic welcome card on the church website (if you fill in a welcome card then we can let you know more about the life of the church and how you can get involved). We are a church of all ages – so whether you're young or old or somewhere in between we hope that you'll feel welcomed and included in the service today.

Lent, an old English word meaning 'lengthen' (as it is when the days begin to grow longer), is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, and lasts 40 days (excluding Sundays). By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. It is a time for self-examination, penitence, self-denial, study, and preparation for Easter. Lent is a period when we reflect upon our own mortality, and our need for God's grace and mercy, as we hear the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ."

As you prepare for this service today you might like to pray the Jesus Prayer - 'Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

The Greeting

The Lord our redeemer be with you
and also with you.

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of our days and years,
we set this time apart for you.
Form us in the likeness of Christ
so that our lives may glorify you. Amen.

Hymn

Confession and Forgiveness

These responses are used:

Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

We are assured of God's forgiveness.

The Collect (Special Prayer of the Day)

The First Reading

At the end the reader may say....
This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
Your word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path.
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
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.

Sermon

Creed (Declaration of Faith)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life
everlasting. Amen.

Prayers

This or another response may be used...

Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

The Peace

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

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.

Lord of all life, you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.

You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

You give us your love, even when things go wrong.

Jesus knew hurt and pain.

Through him you wipe away our tears,
and fill us with your peace.

You made us all, each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels and sing your praise:

**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].**

*The minister recalls the Last Supper, concluding with
these words...*

And now with all your saints we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

As the bread is broken, the choir may sing:

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.

Giving of Communion (choir served first)

*Any baptized person, wherever you are on your
journey, is welcome to receive communion – we
would love you to join us.*

Prayer After Communion

**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.**

Hymn

The Blessing

Closing Prayer

Go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God**