



The Parish of Boxmoor

St John's Boxmoor,
St Stephen's Chaulden & St Francis' Hammerfield



THE PARISH EUCHARIST on ASH WEDNESDAY 2021

The Final Hymn

Christian, dost thou see them
on the holy ground,
how the troops of Midian
prowl and prowl around?
Christian, up and smite them,
counting gain but loss;
smite them by the merit
of the holy cross.

Christian, dost thou feel them,
how they work within,
striving, tempting, luring,
goading into sin?
Christian, never tremble;
never be down-cast;
smite them by the virtue
of the Lenten fast.

Christian, dost thou hear them,
how they speak thee fair?
'Always fast and vigil?
always watch and prayer?'
Christian, answer boldly,
'While I breathe, I pray:'
peace shall follow battle,
night shall end in day.

'Well I know thy trouble,
O my servant true;
thou art very weary,—
I was weary too;
but that toil shall make thee
some day all mine own,—
and the end of sorrow
shall be near my throne.'

Gute Bäume bringen 65 NEH

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

The Voluntary

***Our worship has ended; let our service begin.
Thanks be to God!***

Please use the following words to make your Spiritual Communion.

A Prayer to receive Spiritual Communion

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every Altar of thy Church
where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated,
I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving.
I present to you my soul and body
with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you.
And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart.
I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul.
Let nothing ever separate you from me.
May I live and die in your love. Amen.

The Anthem

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness: and forgive me all my sin.
For I acknowledge my faults: and my sin is ever before me.

*Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810–76)
Psalm 51: 2–3*

The Prayer after Communion

You have opened to us
the Scriptures, O Christ,
and you have made yourself known
in the breaking of the bread.
Abide with us, we pray,
that, blessed by your royal presence,
we may walk with you
all the days of our life,
and at its end behold you
in the glory of the eternal Trinity,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

Living God,
Draw us deeper into your love;
Jesus our Lord,
send us to care and serve;
Holy Spirit,
make us heralds of good news.
Stir us, strengthen us,
teach and inspire us
to live your love
with generosity and joy,
imagination and courage;
for the sake of your world
and in the name of Jesus. Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

The Blessing

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,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Welcome to St John's for this on-line Service.

Whether this is your first time you have joined us virtually for this on-line Service at St John's, or you are a regular member of the congregation, you are most welcome as we give thanks to God for the new life with have in him through the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ, and in the power and comfort of his Holy Spirit. In faith and confidence we come before the God of love in assurance of his forgiveness and ask for his blessing on our lives.

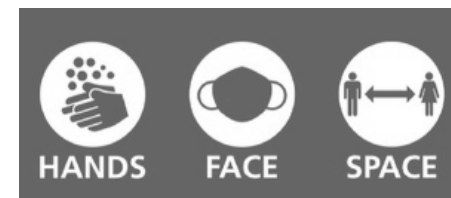
During these days of uncertainty, anxiety, and, for many, darkness we pray that the light of the risen Christ may bring peace, comfort, reassurance, and guidance. Although we are not able to gather together as a worshipping community at present we can still pray for each other, our community, the needs of the world and those in particular need.

You might like to light a candle before the Service and place it on a table to remind you of the light of the risen Christ shining among us.

We hope you will be able to join in with the Hymns and everything that is in **bold** type.

The recording of today's Service can be found at <https://stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk/suspended-services-resources>

The posture directions in this order of service are optional. Please stand, sit, or kneel as you prefer. A collection is normally received during the service. Due to the restrictions this is not possible. You might like to set aside your gift and bring it when the restrictions have lifted, or send-in/electronically transfer your offering. UK tax payers are encouraged to complete a GiftAid form which can be found on website.



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THE GATHERING

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 Hymn: Forty days and forty nights

Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.

Sunbeams scorching all the day;
chilly dew-drops nightly shed;
prowling beasts about thy way;
stones thy pillow, earth thy bed.

Shall not we thy sorrows share,
and from earthly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer,
glad with thee to suffer pain?

And if Satan, vexing sore,
flesh or spirit should assail,
thou, his vanquisher before,
grant we may not faint nor fail.

So shall we have peace divine;
holier gladness ours shall be;
round us too shall angels shine,
such as ministered to thee.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by thy side;
that with thee we may appear
at th'eternal Eastertide.

Aus der Tiefe 67 NEH

The President invites the people to the keeping of Lent, saying:

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
since early days Christians have observed with great devotion
the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection
and prepared for this by a season of penitence and fasting.
By carefully keeping these days,
Christians take to heart the call to repentance
and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel,
and so grow in faith and in devotion to our Lord.
I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church,
to the observance of a holy Lent,
by self-examination and repentance;
by prayer, fasting, and self-denial;
and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

Let us then pray for grace to keep Lent faithfully.

Silence is kept for a time.

All say

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour has 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.**

Let us pray with confidence as our
Saviour has taught us:

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Every time we eat this bread or drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The Giving of Communion

Jesus 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.**

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you, and his blood
which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that Christ
died for you, and feed on him in your
hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

The Choir sings

Agnus Dei

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;

Who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;

He broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father;
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
you hate nothing that you have made
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:
create and make in us new and contrite hearts
that we, worthily lamenting our sins
and acknowledging our wretchedness,
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,
perfect remission and forgiveness;
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

The Old Testament Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Joel.

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness! Like blackness spread upon the mountains a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him, a grain-offering and a drink-offering for the Lord, your God? Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly; gather the people. Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the vestibule and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, ‘Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, “Where is their God?”’

Joel 2: 1–2, 12–17

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The New Testament Reading

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For the Lord says, 'At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.' See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

2 Corinthians 5: 20b—6: 10

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left

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 to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son.

For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart.

Through study of your holy word

you open our eyes to your presence in the world

and free our hands to welcome others

into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds

we bless you for your mercy

and join with saints and angels

for ever praising you and singing:

**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.



Auditui meo dabis gaudium et lætitiā,
et exultabunt ossa humiliata.
Averte faciem tuam a peccatis meis, et
omnes iniquitates meas dele.
Cor mundum crea in me, Deus, et
spiritum rectum innova in visceribus
meis.

*You will give joy and happiness as I listen,
and bones that have been humbled
will rejoice.
Turn your face from my sins, and destroy
all my wrong-doing.
Create a clean heart within me, God, and
renew an upright spirit within me.*

*Gregorio Allegri (1582–1652)
Psalm 51: 1–10*

Absolution

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 LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

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

The Preparation of the Table

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now united on this table in bread and wine
so, Lord, may your whole Church
soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth
into your kingdom.
Amen.



alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, sir.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.'

St John 8: 1–11

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

The Sermon

THE LITURGY OF PENITENCE

The Litany of Penitence

Let us now call to mind our sins and the infinite mercy of God.

God the Father,
have mercy on us.

God the Son,
have mercy on us.

God the Holy Ghost,
have mercy on us.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity,
have mercy on us.

From all evil and mischief; from pride, vanity and hypocrisy;
from envy, hatred and malice; and from all evil intent,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From sloth, worldliness, and love of money;
from hardness of heart and contempt for your word and your laws,
Good Lord, deliver us.

From sins of body and mind;
from the deceits of the world, the flesh, and the devil,
Good Lord, deliver us.

In all times of sorrow; in all times of joy;
in the hour of death, and at the day of judgement,
Good Lord, deliver us.

By the mystery of your holy incarnation;
by your birth, childhood, and obedience;
by your baptism, fasting, and temptation,
Good Lord, deliver us.

By your ministry in word and work;
by your mighty acts of power;
and by your preaching of the kingdom,
Good Lord, deliver us.

By your agony and trial; by your cross and passion;
and by your precious death and burial,
Good Lord, deliver us.

By your mighty resurrection; by your glorious ascension;
and by the sending to us of your Holy Spirit,
Good Lord, deliver us.

Give us true repentance;
forgive us our sins of negligence and ignorance and our deliberate sins;
and grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit
to amend our lives according to your holy word.
**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

Silence is kept for a time.

The Confession:

Make our hearts clean, O God;
and renew a right spirit within us.

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us, forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

The Blessing of the Ashes:

God our Father,
you create us from the dust of the earth:
Bless these ashes
and grant that they may be for us
a sign of our penitence and a symbol of our mortality;
for it is by your grace alone that we receive eternal life
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Imposition of Ashes:

As a sign of the spirit of penitence
with which we shall keep this season of Lent, in preparation for Easter,
I invite you to reflect upon the nature of these ashes from which we are made
and unto which we shall return.
Think, if you will, upon the gift of Christ's cross and the forgiveness he brings;
recall your sins, and pray for grace to amend your errors.

Anthem:

Miserere mei, Deus, secundum magnam
misericordiam tuam; et secundum
multitudinem miserationum tuarum,
dele iniquitatem meam.

Amplius lava me ab iniquitate mea, et a
peccato meo munda me.

Quoniam iniquitatem meam ego
cognosco, et peccatum meum contra
me est semper.

Tibi soli peccavi, et malum coram te feci;
ut justificeris in sermonibus tuis, et
vincas cum iudicaris.

Ecce enim in iniquitatibus conceptus
sum, et in peccatis concepit me mater
mea.

Ecce enim veritatem dilexisti; incerta et
occulta sapientiæ tuæ manifestasti
mihi.

Asperges me hyssopo, et mundabor;
lavabis me, et super nivem dealbabor.

*Have mercy on me, God, in accordance
with your great mercy; and in
accordance with the greatness of your
pity, destroy my wrong-doing.*

*Furthermore, wash me of my wrong-
doing and cleanse me of my sin.*

*For I acknowledge my wrong-doing and
my sin continually stands against me.*

*I have sinned against you alone, and I
have done wrong in your presence; so
that you might be justified in your
words and might conquer when you
judge.*

*For behold, I was born into wrong-doing
and my mother conceived me amid
sin.*

*For behold, you have esteemed the truth;
you have revealed to me the unknown
secrets of your wisdom.*

*You will anoint me with hyssop, and I
shall be clean; you will wash me, and I
shall be whiter than snow.*