

**Christ Church Holy Communion: 9.30am 26th February, the
First Sunday of Lent**

Welcome and gathering worship

Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Psalm 32, vv10a,11.

The Lord be with you; **and also with you.**

This is the day that the Lord has made; **We will rejoice and be glad in it**

Flames – *We pray for our children and their leaders as they go out.*

Hymn: Great is thy faithfulness

We prepare our hearts and confess our sins

Verses from Psalm 32:

While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord”, and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. You are a hiding-place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord, who has prepared good things for those who love him.

We keep a time of quiet reflection.

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.

Prayer 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.**

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Song: What gift of grace is Jesus, my redeemer

Collect prayer for today

Heavenly Father, your Son battled with the powers of darkness, and grew closer to you in the desert: help us to use these days to grow in wisdom and prayer that we may witness to your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

New Testament Reading

Romans 5:12-19

This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Reading

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

Matthew 4:1-11

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

Sermon

Our belief

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

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

The Peace

To crown all things there must be love. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

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

Offertory Hymn: Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away

The Communion

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.**

Why is it right to give thanks and praise? Listen, and we will hear.

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 sun and moon and star-lit sky, everything that gives us light, light for our eyes, our hearts, our minds.

You made us all, each wonderfully different, to join with the angels to give you 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. Hosanna in the highest.

We thank you, loving Father, because, when we turned away, you sent Jesus, your Son. He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

Why do we share this bread and wine? Listen, and we will hear.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life. As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit, and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.

How do we follow Jesus Christ? Listen, and we will hear.

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms. 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.

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.**

We share bread and wine together

During the sharing of communion there will be an opportunity for prayer for healing. If you would like prayer or a simple blessing then please move to the 'prayer place' to the left of the Holy Table where people are ready to pray with you.

Prayer after communion

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Notices

Closing hymn: Here in the presence of Christ I stand

The Blessing

God the Holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ, Amen