

A service of Renewal of Commitment to Ministry

Maundy Thursday, 9 April 2020

The Gathering

The Bishop says

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Jesus Christ has made us a kingdom of priests
to serve his God and Father.
Glory and kingship be his for ever and ever.

Peace be with you.
And also with you.

Words of welcome from Bishop Rose – approx. 150-200 words, reflecting on current context and significance of this act of worship.

Prayers of Penitence

Christ himself carried up our sins in his body to the tree,
so that, free from sins,
we might live for righteousness;
by his wounds we have been healed.

1 Peter 2.24

Let us confess our sins.

All say

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault.

We are truly sorry 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 grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

God, the Father of mercies,
has reconciled the world to himself
through the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ,
not counting our trespasses against us,
but sending his Holy Spirit
to shed abroad his love among us.
By the ministry of reconciliation
entrusted by Christ to his Church,
receive his pardon and peace
to stand before him in his strength alone,
this day and evermore.

Amen.

The Collect

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,
who anointed your Son Jesus Christ
with the Holy Spirit and with power
to bring to the world the blessings of your kingdom:
anoint your Church with the same Holy Spirit,
that we who share in his suffering and his victory
may bear witness to the gospel of salvation;
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

Old Testament Reading *1 Samuel 3:1-10*

The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions.

² One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. ³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the LORD called Samuel.

Samuel answered, 'Here I am.' ⁵ And he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me.' But Eli said, 'I did not call; go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down.

⁶ Again the LORD called, 'Samuel!' And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me.'

'My son,' Eli said, 'I did not call; go back and lie down.'

⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.

⁸ A third time the LORD called, 'Samuel!' And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am; you called me.'

Then Eli realised that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹ So Eli told Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰ The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, 'Samuel! Samuel!'

Then Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading *Luke 7:36-50*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁶ When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. ³⁷ A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. ³⁸ As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, 'If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is – that she is a sinner.'

⁴⁰ Jesus answered him, 'Simon, I have something to tell you.'

'Tell me, teacher,' he said.

⁴¹ 'Two people owed money to a certain money-lender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?'

⁴³ Simon replied, 'I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.'

'You have judged correctly,' Jesus said.

⁴⁴ Then he turned towards the woman and said to Simon, 'Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. ⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven – as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.'

⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to her, 'Your sins are forgiven.'

⁴⁹ The other guests began to say among themselves, 'Who is this who even forgives sins?'

⁵⁰ Jesus said to the woman, 'Your faith has saved you; go in peace.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

The Renewal of Commitment to Ministry

The Bishop says

My brothers and sisters, Christ has many services to be done. Some are easy, others are difficult; some bring honour, others bring reproach; some conform to our natural inclinations and material interests, others are contrary to both. In

some, we may please Christ and please ourselves, in others we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. Yet the power to do all these things is given in Christ who strengthens us.

Let us pray.

God our Father, in our baptism you made us witnesses to the death and resurrection of your Son. Send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, as we take upon us the yoke of your obedience. Make us instruments of your peace, and doers of your perfect will.

Ministers:

**God our Father,
in the name of Christ and in the power of your Spirit,
we commit ourselves to you and one another,
to live, work, and pray as one body in Christ,
to trust each other as fellow workers in your Church,
and to give with body, mind, and spirit
to the ministries to which you have called us.
Give us vision, give us courage, and give us joy, ourselves
that the world may believe that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to your eternal glory. Amen.**

Bishop May God, who has moved us to make this commitment,
give us grace to keep it to the end;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Prayers

Let us bring to the Father our prayers of intercession
through Christ who gave himself for the life of the world.
For forgiveness for the many times we have denied Jesus,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For grace to seek out those habits of sin which mean
spiritual death,
and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Christian people,
that through the suffering of disunity
there may grow a rich union in Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who make laws, interpret them, and administer them,
that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who have the courage and honesty to work openly for
justice and peace,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation,
that they may find support and encouragement,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or sorrow,
feel that God is far from them,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we, with those who have died in faith,
may find mercy in the day of Christ,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

The Lord's Prayer

As we join our prayers with the Church Universal, so we say,
each in our own language, the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**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.**

The Bishop leads the recommitment

**Heavenly Father,
in this time of enforced exile,
while so many in our world are suffering,
we recommit ourselves
to tend to the needs of those entrusted to our care,
and pray for those whose needs are known only to you.**

**Give us strength to live for you in every moment,
that our 'everyday faith' may rest secure
in your unchanging faithfulness and love.
We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who suffered, died and rose again,
for us and all humanity.
Amen.**

The Dismissal

The Bishop says

Our help is in the name of the Lord
who has made heaven and earth.

Blessed be the name of the Lord
now and for ever. Amen.

The Father, whose glory fills the heavens,
cleanse you by his holiness and send you to proclaim his word. **Amen.**

The Son, who has ascended to the heights,
pour upon you the riches of his grace. **Amen.**

The Holy Spirit, the Comforter,
equip you and strengthen you in your ministry. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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