



Easthampstead
Parish Church

Lent

Introduction to the season

Since early days Christians have observed with great devotion the time of our Lord's passion and resurrection, preparing for this by a season of penitence and fasting.

As Holy Week approaches, the atmosphere of the season darkens; the readings begin to anticipate the story of Christ's suffering and death, and the reading of the Passion Narrative gives to the Fifth Sunday its name of Passion Sunday.

As together we remember our Lord's forty days and nights in the wilderness, so we reflect on the wilderness experiences we all know, both in the world's suffering and our own. The wilderness is the place of desolation, of temptation, with stumbling blocks along the way. Yet the wilderness can also be a time of growth – as we learn through our difficulties, have time to reflect, and seek to find God's presence in that place.

So may our walk-through Lent with Jesus, lead us to know God's loving presence in all the trials of life

Our website:

www.stmichaelseasthampstead.org.uk



Order of Service

Please stand as ministers, servers and choir process into the church.

OPENING HYMN

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

All Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Please be seated. The presiding minister will begin the service with some words of welcome and any notices are given.

SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.’

The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments

hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

THE PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.

Therefore, let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,
and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

**All 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.**

As a petition for God's forgiveness and in thankfulness for what God has done, is doing and will continue to do, the choir will sing:

**Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy,**

or

**Kýrie, eléison
Kýrie, eléison**

**Christ, have mercy,
Christ, have mercy,**

**Christe, eléison
Christe, eléison**

**Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy.**

**Kýrie, eléison
Kýrie, eléison**

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse you from your sins,
and restore you in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

THE COLLECT PRAYER

The Collect is said and all respond.

All Amen.

THE READING

At the end of the reading the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Please stand.

The Psalm or Canticle will be sung. This can be found on the daily insert.

THE GOSPEL READING

The Gospel will be processed to the centre of the Church. Please remain standing and turn to face the Gospel.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
The Lord is a great God,
O that today you would listen to his voice.
Harden not your hearts.

All ♪ Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

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

All ♪ Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel is read, after which the minister will say

This is the gospel of the Lord.

All ♪ Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

THE CREED

**All 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 for 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.

INTERCESSIONS

This response is used at the end of each prayer.

Lord of compassion,
All in your mercy hear us.

This response may be used after remembering those who have died.

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord,
All and let light perpetual shine upon them.
May they rest in peace,
All and rise in glory.

At the end of the intercessions this response is used.

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

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.

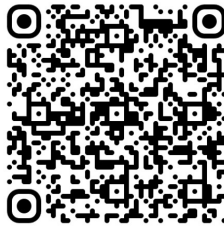
All And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.



OFFERTORY HYMN

During the hymn a collection will be taken. You can make a one off donation or regular contribution through the Parish Giving Scheme. You can access the scheme through the QR code below.



Any amount you can give will make a difference. The gifts of the people are presented during the hymn. The altar will also be prepared, with the gift of bread and wine placed upon it.



PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

God of wisdom,
may the light of your eternal Word,
our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
lead us in holiness and guide us to glory;
we ask this in his name.

All Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Please be seated.

The Lord be with you

All ♪ and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All ♪ We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All ♪ 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 saying:

**All ♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blesséd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All ♪ Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Michael, St Mary Magdalene, and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

All ♪ Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught, so together we pray
**All 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 BREAKING OF BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**All ♪ 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.**

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.
**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Communion is distributed at the Chancel Steps. All who usually receive Communion in their home church are welcome to do so here. If you wish to receive a blessing instead please carry your hymn book. If you are sensitive to gluten, we do have gluten free wafers.

COMMUNION HYMN

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The post-Communion prayer is said and all respond.

All Amen.

**All 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.**

THE DISMISSAL

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.

All Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All ♪ In the name of Christ. Amen.

The ministers, servers and choir will process out of the church.

*Refreshments will be served
in the annexe.*

*Don't forget to turn your
mobile devices back on.*

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