

## ST PETER'S CHURCH, NOTTINGHAM

**Sung Eucharist**  
**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020**  
**The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity**

Celebrant & Preacher: The Reverend Christopher Harrison  
Readers: Alan Franks, Eileen Sutton  
Intercessions: Liz Marsh

*Welcome to St Peter's Church. If you are a visitor, or are here for the first time, and need help with following the service, please don't hesitate to ask someone near to you.*

*Please maintain social distancing at all times and keep to the one-way system, following the floor markings and avoiding any crowding as you come forward to receive communion.*

*The musical setting this morning is the Mass in four voices by William Byrd (1543-1623).*

*As congregation numbers are severely restricted at the moment, this service is being live streamed, to enable those unable to attend to take part.*

### THE GATHERING

*Please prepare quietly for the service from the time the organist begins to play.*

*Five minutes before the service, the congregation is welcomed and notices are given.  
As the bells strike 10.45am, the organ plays a verse of a hymn. All stand.*

*The celebrant greets the congregation:*

Grace, mercy and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

People of God, we gather with joy to mark the reopening of this church building following several months of closure and we are delighted to be able to resume our worship here. However, our rejoicing is muted as we recall the anguish and hardship endured by many over recent months. Some have lost their lives; others have borne physical pain and mental anguish; yet others have been isolated and lonely; some, for whom home represents danger, have sustained violence and abuse; some groups in our society have suffered disproportionately; many have undergone disruption in education and work; employees and business owners alike have had to adapt to challenging economic conditions. In varying degrees, all of us have had our liberty curtailed for the sake of our nation's health and wellbeing.

As people of faith, we humble ourselves therefore before God as we come together in thanksgiving for all his blessings. Confident in God's steadfast love and endless mercies, which are new every morning, we cast all our anxieties on him, trusting that he cares for his people who are broken by sickness, racked with grief and enveloped by perplexing darkness. We proclaim Christ who himself suffered agony, dereliction and death and abides with his people in his restorative risen power. Here, today, as always, we encounter him as he speaks peace to the fearful, announces forgiveness to sinners and sends out his disciples as heralds of unconquerable hope. In his name and in the power of his Spirit, we commit ourselves anew to this vocation to be ambassadors of his kingdom where love shall reign triumphant.

*All sit as the choir sings:*

Locus iste a Deo factus est,  
inaestimabile sacramentum,  
irreprehensibilis est.

*This place was made by God,  
a priceless sacrament;  
it is irreprehensible.*

*Music: A Bruckner (1824-96)*

*The Paschal Candle is re-lit.*

God of unconquerable life, out of the abyss of death's most cruel night you have raised your Son to the radiant glory of the new creation's dawn. Standing among his lifeless disciples, frozen by fear, he shows them the marks of love in his wounded, glorious body, speaking peace, breathing his Spirit and sending them out to proclaim forgiveness in his name.

Enable us, your people, to live the mystery of Easter, that the light of Christ, rising in glory, may dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds, for he is the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, to whom all time belongs, and all ages; to him be glory and power, through every age and forever.

**Amen.**

**GLORIA**

*Said by all*

*All stand*

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.**

**Amen.**

**THE COLLECT**

*A special prayer for the day*

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; 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**

*All sit*

*Listening to and reflecting on Scripture*

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

*St Paul urges the Christians in Rome not to be judgemental towards one another*

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honour of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honour of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

*Romans 14.1-12*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 103.1-12

*sung by the choir*

Praise the Lord, O my soul : and all that is within me praise his holy Name.

Praise the Lord, O my soul : and forget not all his benefits;

Who forgiveth all thy sin : and healeth all thine infirmities;

Who saveth thy life from destruction : and crowneth thee with mercy and loving-kindness;

Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things : making thee young and lusty as an eagle.

The Lord executeth righteousness and judgement :

for all them that are oppressed with wrong.

He shewed his ways unto Moses : his works unto the children of Israel.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy : long-suffering, and of great goodness.

He will not alway be chiding : neither keepeth he his anger for ever.

He hath not dealt with us after our sins : nor rewarded us according to our wickednesses.

For look how high the heaven is in comparison of the earth :

so great is his mercy also toward them that fear him.

Look how wide also the east is from the west : so far hath he set our sins from us.

## GOSPEL READING

*All stand*

*Choir* Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Speak Lord, for your servant is listening.  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus teaches the disciples about forgiveness*

Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything."

And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you."

But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

*Matthew 18.21-35*

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

*An organ fanfare is sounded to acclaim the gospel*

SERMON

*All sit*

THE CREED

*All stand*

*The Church's declaration of faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit*

Let us now declare our faith in God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*All sit/kneel*

Lord, in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

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

## THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

### THE PEACE

*All stand*

We are the body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

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

*In accordance with current Church of England guidance, please do not share the Peace by means of a handshake or any other form of physical contact.*

*A short organ interlude is played as the altar is prepared.*

### THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*The bread and wine are blessed, so that they may become for us the body and blood of Christ*

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.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word, through whom you have created all things; who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour. By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh; as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin, he lived on earth and went about among us; he opened wide his arms for us on the cross; he put an end to death by dying for us; and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life; so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

*The choir sings the Sanctus, ancient words describing the worship of the saints in heaven*

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.

Pleni sunt cæli et terra gloria tua.

Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini.

Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy*

*Lord God of hosts,*

*heaven and earth are full of thy glory.*

*Glory be to thee, O Lord, most high.*

*Blessed who comes in name of Lord.*

*Hosanna in highest.*

*All sit/kneel*

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again!**

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 forever and ever. Amen.**

*Silence is kept.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

**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 celebrant breaks the consecrated 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.**

*The choir sings the Agnus Dei, as the celebrant takes Communion:*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

**We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you; take this in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*All Christians are welcome to receive Communion; alternatively, do come forward for a blessing. After the choir has taken Communion, those seated in the rear pews are asked to come to the altar first, followed by those in front of them, in order to avoid crowding as people return to their pews.*

*We receive communion standing, not kneeling; do maintain social distancing as you approach the altar, using the floor markings. Please pick up a wafer from the tray on the dais, taking care not to touch any other wafers as you do so. You are asked to wait until the person in front of you has received communion before you approach the tray of wafers; use the north aisle in order to return to your seat, following the one-way system.*

*The celebrant (standing behind the altar) says these or similar words as each communicant approaches the bread:*

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life.

*Words of blessing are used for those who choose to receive a blessing.*

## COMMUNION MOTET

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Music: Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord God, the source of truth and love, keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, united in prayer and the breaking of bread, and one in joy and simplicity of heart, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

*All stand*

## THE BLESSING

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; 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.

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Chorale Improvisation on Nun Danket

*S. Karg-Elert (1877-1933)*