A service of the Word

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic this service will be available online on our YouTube channel (visit youtube.com and search for Holy Sepulchre Northampton). Subscribe to the channel to receive notifications when new videos are uploaded.

You are invited to join with the words in bold.

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Greeting

We meet in the name of God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

Invitation to Confession

Human sin disfigures the whole creation,
which groans with eager longing for God’s redemption.
We confess our sin in penitence and faith.

Silence is kept.

Lord God, our maker and our redeemer,
this is your world and we are your people:
come among us and save us.

We have wilfully misused your gifts of creation;
Lord, be merciful:
**forgive us our sin.**

We have seen the ill-treatment of others
and have not gone to their aid;
Lord, be merciful:
**forgive us our sin.**

We have condoned evil and dishonesty
and failed to strive for justice;
Lord, be merciful:
**forgive us our sin.**
We have heard the good news of Christ, but have failed to share it with others; Lord, be merciful: **forgive us our sin.**

We have not loved you with all our heart, nor our neighbours as ourselves; Lord, be merciful: **forgive us our sin.**

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Gloria

**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.

Collect

God of truth,
help us to keep your law of love
and to walk in ways of wisdom,
that we may find true life
in Jesus Christ your Son.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First reading

A reading from the book of Exodus:

They had journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. Then Moses went up to God; the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, ‘Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.’

So Moses came, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the Lord had commanded him. The people all answered as one: ‘Everything that the Lord has spoken we will do.’

(Exodus 19:2-8a - NRSV)

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.
Psalm

1 O be joyful in the Lord, all the earth; ♦
   serve the Lord with gladness
   and come before his presence with a song.
2 Know that the Lord is God; ♦
   it is he that has made us and we are his;
   we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
3 Enter his gates with thanksgiving
   and his courts with praise; ♦
   give thanks to him and bless his name.
4 For the Lord is gracious; his steadfast love is everlasting, ♦
   and his faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

(Psalm 100 - Common Worship Psalter)

Second reading

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans:

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

(Romans 5:1-8 - NRSV)

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.
Alleluia, alleluia.
Jesus said ‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life; No one comes to the Father except through me.’
Alleluia.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.’

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: ‘Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, “The kingdom of heaven has come near.” Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

(Matthew 9:35-10:8 - NRSV)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.
Let us declare our faith in God, 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

After each petition the following response may be used:

Lord of Hosts  
we put our trust in you.

The intercessions conclude with:

The Lord’s Prayer

Seeking the salvation of the world, 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 Peace

God calls us to peace: 
in God’s justice is our peace. 
Christ calls us to be God’s people: 
in Christ is our peace. 
The peace of the Lord be always with you. 
and also with you.

Blessing & Dismissal

Now may the blessing of God the Father, 
who made from one every nation that occupies the earth; 
of God the Son who bought us for God 
from every tribe and language and people and nation; 
and of God the Spirit who brings us together in unity, 
be with us and remain with us always. 
Amen.

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