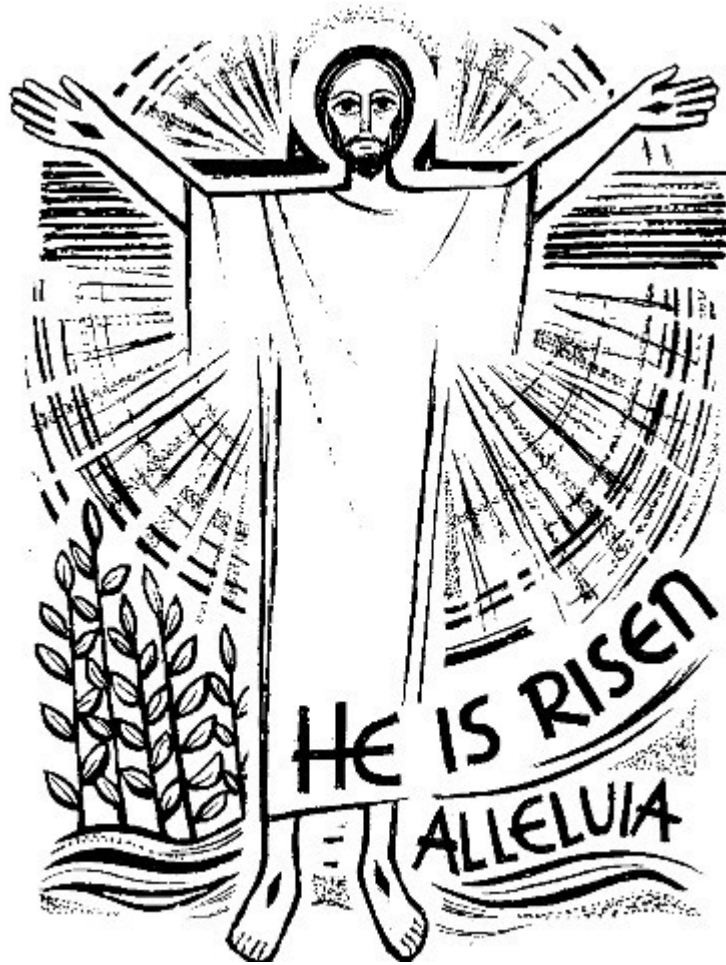




Rotherham
Minster



St Paul's
Masbrough



The Eucharist during Eastertide

10.30am
Sunday 18 April

The Gathering

We meet in the presence of God
**who knows our needs,
hears our cries,
feels our pain,
and heals our wounds.**

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The President welcomes the congregation.

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength,
and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone,
and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Lord, hear us and help us.

The Greeting

Prayer of Preparation

Prayers of Penitence

Silence is kept.

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.

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.**

The Collect

Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.
Silence is kept.

Risen Christ,
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

New Testament Readings

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and

Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

Acts 3.12-19

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life.

Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’

Alleluia.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”

Luke 24.36b-48

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – by Rev. Rachel Young

Getting on with people can sometimes be tricky...(!) We all have our own experiences that we can look back on – there are people we’ve got on with, and then there are those we find more difficult...

Unfortunately, sometimes people fall out because they can’t forgive someone.

You might know someone yourselves, may be friends, neighbours or even in your own family. Sometimes people don't speak for years because of something that happened a long time ago that they can't – or won't - forgive.

But it's also true that life is full of people making up. – most good fiction is based on people misunderstanding each other and, hopefully, making up again by the end (think of any recent film you've seen or book you've read...). When we hear of people making up it makes us feel happy and gives up hope.

Reconciliation based on forgiveness is a powerful force for good. And it's something that springs from the character of God, that we as Christians are given as a gift.

All three of our Bible readings this morning mention forgiveness.

In Acts, we heard Peter witnessing to the crowd of people who had seen him heal a man who had been lame from birth. And he says to them, “repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.” This is happening just after Pentecost, when the disciples were given the Holy Spirit. This gift changed Peter from a rough fisherman into a preacher! His preaching roots the final events of Jesus' life in the history of their ancestors – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – and explains the essence of the good news of Jesus Christ. “Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.”

In the first letter of John, he talks about Jesus when he says: “You know that he was revealed to take away sins.” John is talking about the behaviour of people who know that Jesus has taken away their sin – in other words, offered them forgiveness. And this behaviour is one of trying to live a pure life, a holy life, not committing sins on purpose – not throwing God's forgiveness back in God's face, but living a life in which the result of forgiveness is evident.

And in Luke's gospel, we heard the risen Jesus reminding his disciples that “repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations.” That was the reason for his suffering and resurrection. This was what he died for. This scene in Luke happened just after Jesus' resurrection. It was one of his risen appearances to his bewildered disciples – who were joyful and yet still wondering what was going on. Jesus explains to them, once again, what his life, death and resurrection were all about. And the heart of it is that “repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations.”

God wants to know us personally. God wants us to relate to him, to worship, to talk to him, to live a life based on our faith in Jesus. As one commentator says about this passage, “At the heart of being a Christian is the personal turning away from sin, and celebrating God's forgiveness.”

“How many times should I forgive my brother?” Jesus was once asked. “Seven?” He said, “Not seven, nor seventy-times seven...”

God asks us to forgive because he first forgives us. I often think those lines in the Lord prayer are quite difficult to live out: 'Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.' It's like a circle – we can know forgiveness from God, and we can then forgive others; and because we forgive others, God forgives us.

Do we know ourselves forgiven by and reconciled to God?

If not, today is as good a time as any to turn to God, say sorry and receive forgiveness. A service of Holy Communion – when we remember what Jesus gave up for us, so that repentance and forgiveness of sins can be proclaimed to all nations – is an ideal setting to receive God's forgiveness and reconciliation. We only have to ask.

And what does that feel like, to be forgiven?

It's like a light going on inside us...that lights up all the dark corners inside us.

Or like being a swept room, in which everything is revealed.

It's like being made clean – holy. We can start again.

And when we do know God's forgiveness, what then?

The actions we take next can happen, I suggest, in two areas of our lives: in our private life, and in our community. And they both influence each other.

First, in our private lives.

It is sometimes hard to forgive.

Corrie Ten Boom was a Dutch Jew who spent some time in the Nazi concentration camps in World War 2. She writes of a situation she found herself in after the war, face to face with one of the German guards who had held her in the camp. He was asking for her forgiveness. Her first reaction was to pray (!), and she asked God for strength. Strength to forgive. She didn't feel it, but *as* she stretched out her hand to shake his, she was given the strength by God to forgive her guard. In *doing* it, she was able to forgive. Perhaps we might experience that, too. If there's someone we're finding it very hard to forgive, perhaps we might find that God gives us help as we do it.

And secondly, in the communities in which we live.

People who know God's forgiveness who then live with others can be transforming. If we allow them to, our relationships with those we meet can bring hope and reconciliation; by us keeping a 'short account' – trying to conduct our relationships openly and honestly, saying sorry as soon as we can, and offering forgiveness to others without hesitation. It goes without saying that one community group, the church, should be demonstrating what this means in practise, all the time... because we're the community which is trying to live more like Jesus. But other communities we live in can also be transformed – our friendship groups, our family, people we spend leisure time with, and so on.

God offers us forgiveness and reconciliation. We can offer forgiveness to each other, because we are forgiven by God. We can start again, and move forward into renewed relationships. When we are reconciled with God, our private lives, our communities and the wider world can be transformed.

As we participate in this service of Holy Communion, we can be reconciled with God here and now. We can offer forgiveness to each other as we exchange the peace. May God help us to know, deep down, his forgiveness as a foundation of our lives of faith; and may God help us to offer it to others. Amen.

The Creed

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

Please sit.

This response may be said
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Please stand.

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples
and said, 'Peace be with you.'
Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We offer one another an acknowledgment of peace. Please do not shake hands!

Preparation of the Table

Creator of all,
you wash away our sins,
you give us new birth by the Spirit,
and redeem us in the blood of Christ.
As we celebrate the resurrection,
renew your gift of life within us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord.
Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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.

The President praises God for his mighty acts and all say
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.

The President recalls the Last Supper.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:
**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

The Prayer continues and ends with

...for ever and 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.**

Breaking of Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

**Lord, our hearts hunger for you;
give us this bread always.**

We listen to or say together the Agnus Dei:

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.

Giving of Communion

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Please stay seated until you are invited to come to the communion rail to receive either the bread or a blessing. If you would like a blessing, please bring this booklet with you. If you would like a gluten free wafer, please ask for one when you come to the ministrant.

Prayer after Communion

Living God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Amen.

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Notices are read.

The Dismissal

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

God the Father,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.
Amen.

God the Son,
who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.
Amen.

God the Holy Spirit,
who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.
Amen.

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

We are raised to new life with Christ.
Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Organ Voluntary

Find our **Weekly Newsletter** online
at: <https://rotherhamminster.co.uk/news>
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