

THE PARISH OF
WITNEY



St Mary
the Virgin



Wholeness and Healing Service

The Eucharist

Lent I

Sunday 18 February 2024

10.45am

**We warmly welcome everyone
to Saint Mary's Church
in the Parish of Witney.**

**A particular welcome on this Sunday as we continue our
Lenten journey to the cross and hold a service of healing
and wholeness.**

**In a powerful way, a service such as today's bridges a chasm
that sometimes exists between what we do in worship and
the yearning for healing and wholeness present in our day-
to-day lives. Such services seek honestly to present our
brokenness and suffering before God to receive God's
abiding care, compassion, healing, and reconciliation. As
part of the service you will be offered laying on of hands
after communion. In the Bible this was often a sign of
conferring the gift of God's Spirit. In the New Testament,
Jesus laid his hands on the children and blessed them and he
also healed people by placing his hands on those needing
healing.**

**In addition, you will be invited to receive anointing. Over
and over it has been a sign of God's fullness, blessing, and
holding the one anointed or the person that is brought by
them in their mind. In the ancient world, scented oils were
especially used in celebrations or as a soothing balm for
those who were ill: the act called for God's healing
presence. This reminds us that in the sacraments Christ
continues to 'touch' us in order to heal us.**

**When we hold such a service, we seek Wholeness and
Healing not just for ourselves, but also for others and for
the national and international tragedies that concern us.**

**If you are interested in joining the church please speak to
one of the welcomers afterwards.**

The Gathering

As the sacristy bell sounds all stand for the Lent Prose

Cantor Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sin-ned against thee.

All



Hear us O Lord, have mer-cy up - on us: for we have sin-ned a- gainst_ thee.

Cantor sings a verse, then we respond:

All **Hear us, O Lord, have mercy upon us:
for we have sin-ned against thee.**

We remain standing for the first hymn

Forty days and forty nights
Thou wast fasting in the wild;
Forty days and forty nights
Tempted, and yet undefiled.

Sunbeams scorching all the day;
Chilly dew-drops nightly shed;
Prowling beasts about Thy way;
Stones Thy pillow; earth Thy bed.

Should not we Thy sorrow share
And from worldly joys abstain,
Fasting with unceasing prayer,
Strong with Thee to suffer pain?

Then if Satan, vexing sore,
flesh or spirit should assail,
thou, his vanquisher before,
Grant we may not faint nor fail.

So shall we have peace divine:
Holier gladness ours shall be;
Round us, too, shall angels shine,
Such as ministered to Thee.

Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
Ever constant by Thy side;
That with Thee we may appear
At the eternal Eastertide.

Words: G.H. Smitten, 1822-1870
Music: AUS DER TIEFE, 'M.H' in *Nurnbergisches Gesangbuch* 1676

The Greeting

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

All **Amen.**

From the Creator who gives gifts of healing by the one Spirit,
Grace and peace be with you *1 Cor 12.9*

All **and also with you.**

God of Life,

All **you are as near to us as our breath.**

Touch our eyes

All **that we may see you;**

Open our ears

All **that we may hear your voice;**

Enter our hearts

All **that we may know your love.**

Grace our souls and bodies with your presence,
All that we might feel your strength and your healing touch.
Come, God of breath and wholeness,
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Adapted from Timothy J. Crouch, O.S.L.,
The Book of Offices and Services,
Order of Saint Luke Publications, 1994.

The service is introduced and we give thanks for the Church's ministry of wholeness and healing.

The Penitential Rite

Let us open our lives
to God's searching gaze;
All **God of Mercy and Compassion,**
We acknowledge that we are not all
that we would like to be; we carry wounds and regrets,
some of which are of our own design,
and some of which we have received from others.
We acknowledge our failings,
our bitternesses and our hatreds, and ask you to heal us.

Silence as each one makes confession.

We then join in the song of mercy, Kyrie Eleison:

Choir/cantor | All
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

3
Choir/cantor | All
Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.

5
Choir/cantor | All
Kv - ri - e e - le - i - son. Kv - ri - e e - le - i - son

May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw *us* to himself,
and cleanse *us* from all *our* sins
that we may behold the glory of his Son,
the crucified and risen One,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Collect

Let us pray:

God of the covenant,
as the forty days of deluge
swept away the world's corruption
and watered new beginnings
of righteousness and life,
so in the saving flood of baptism
your people are washed clean and born again.
Throughout these forty days, we beg you,
unseal for us the wellspring of your grace,
cleanse our hearts of all that is not holy,
and cause your gift of new life to flourish once again.
grant this through Christ, our liberator from sin,
who live and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
holy and mighty God for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

We sit for the first reading, Genesis 9.8-17. At the end

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

We stand to sing. The choir sings first and we repeat:

*Choir Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.*

**All Healer of our every ill, light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.**

You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness,
Spirit of all comfort: fill our hearts. *Refrain*

In the pain and joy beholding,
how your grace is still unfolding,
give us all your vision: God of love. *Refrain*

Give us strength to love each other,
every sister, every brother,
Spirit of all kindness, by our guide. *Refrain*

You who know each thought and feeling,
teach us all your way of healing,
Spirit of compassion: fill each heart. *Refrain*

Words and Music: Marty Haugen
L 427

The Gospel Reading

*We remain standing for the Acclamation which heralds the Gospel,
Mark 1.9-15.*



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The choir sings first and the congregation then joins in.

**All The Lord be with you
and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Mark*.
All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end

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

The Sermon

We sit for the sermon.

The Affirmation of Faith

All **We believe in God,
The Creator of all that we see, and all that we do not see.
We believe in Jesus Christ,
God become flesh;
in death the forgiver of sinners, in rising the healer of the
broken.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
God within us;
Comforter, Strengthener
and Friend.**

John Van De Laar

The Intercessions

The following response is used

God of healing
All **We praise and bless you, Lord.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Peace to you from God our Father who hears our cry.
Peace from his Son Jesus Christ whose death brings healing.
Peace from the Holy Spirit who gives us life and strength.

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

Let us offer one another the sign of peace.

The Offertory Hymn

We stand as the Offertory Hymn is sung and the gifts of bread and wine are placed upon the Altar. The collection is also taken and presented. The bread, wine and money are all gifts from God and our offering of them back to God is a sign of the offering of our lives in the Lord's service.

Healing God, almighty Father,
active throughout history,
ever saving, guiding, working
for your children to be free.
Shepherd, king, inspiring prophets
to foresee your suffering role;
Lord, we raise our prayers and voices;
make us one and make us whole.

Healing Christ, God's Word incarnate,
reconciling each to all,
God's atonement, dying for us,
his full rescue from our Fall.
'Jesus', saviour, healer, victor,
drawing out for us death's sting;
Lord, we bow our hearts in worship,
and united praises bring.

Healing Spirit, Christ-anointing,
raising to new life in him;
help to poor; release to captives;
cure of body; health within.
Life-renewing and empowering
Christ-like service to the lost;
Lord, we pray 'Renew your wonders
as of a New Pentecost!'

Healing Church, called-out and chosen
to enlarge God's kingdom here;
Lord-obeying; Spirit strengthened
to bring God's salvation near.
For creation's reconciling
gifts of love in us release,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
'Make us instruments of peace'.

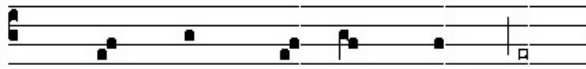
Words: John Richards/Renewal Servicing 1987
Music: HYFRYDOL, R.H. Pritchard, 1811-1887

Let us pray:

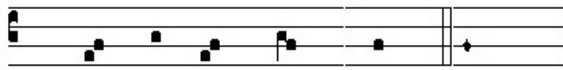
God of healing, as we offer this sacrifice,
we pray that you will bind our wounds and tend our
brokenness, that, sustained by your sacraments, we know you as
the God who heals us, consoles us
and forgives everything within us
which is a hindrance on the way of love.
We pray this in the mighty name of Jesus the Lord.

All **Amen.**

Sursum Corda



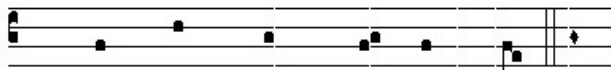
The Lord be with you



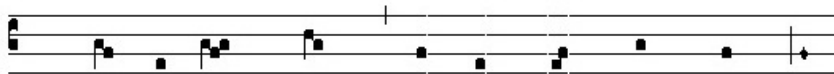
And al-so with you.



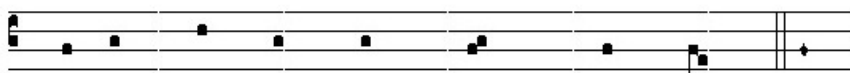
Lift up your hearts.



We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Gracious God, source and sustenance of life, redeeming presence to the pain and brokenness of our world, Holy Spirit, who enlivens and inebriates all that exists, we beseech your healing power upon us and upon all we pray for today.

Down through the ages, you rescue us from darkness.
You light up our ways with wise and holy people.
You restore our lost fortunes and you revive our dwindling hope.

For all you bring to our lives, and for all we seek amid pain and suffering, we acclaim your love and greatness, and we join with all creation to sing our hymn of praise:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
4 Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high-est.
6 Bles-sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Source of our health and wholeness, healer of body, mind and spirit, we bring before you the darkness of our world, and the pain and suffering of your people.

We seek to be healed and made whole; we seek to be reconciled and united; we seek peace in our hearts and in our world.

We ask you to awaken anew in our hearts the empowering grace of your abundant Spirit, who infuses these gifts of bread and wine ✠ with the transforming energy of life, to nourish and sustain us in our time of need.

That same bread, Jesus took and broke, to restore the unity of our broken world. Jesus blessed you, God of healing and hope, then, Jesus shared the bread with those at table saying:

Take this all of you, eat and drink:

This is my body which will be given up for you.

Then offering the cup of libation, poured out for the liberation of all, Jesus gave thanks and shared the cup in a spirit of mutual solidarity saying:

Take this all of you and drink from it; This is the cup of my life-blood, the life of the new and everlasting covenant. In prophetic solidarity, it is poured out for you and for all.

Sustain one another in the power of sacred memory -

All Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

As we gather around this Eucharistic table, we recall God's blessing and love from ages past, and we celebrate anew the gift of life which we share among us at this Eucharistic feast.

May the Spirit of life and wholeness, who transforms the gifts we present, transform us, too, that we may be refreshed in our inner being and be empowered to bring mercy, love and healing to those whose lives we touch.

The bread we break and the cup we share are symbols of our world of abundance where all are invited to partake of the fullness of life. But that life we often impede by our greed and selfishness, and by our exploitation of other people.

So grant, that in union with all peoples, living and dead, we may strive to create a world where suffering and pain are diminished, where justice and peace are restored, and where all people can live in health and wholeness, united in acclaiming the God of life, whose abundance is offered to each and to all, until the Kingdom arrives in the fullness of time.

This prayer we make in the name of our healing and nurturing God, through, with and in whom we offer these gifts, sources of life, love and goodness, now and forever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Empowered by the Holy Spirit,
let us join with all God's people as 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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Priest breaks the consecrated host

We break this bread to share our unity with the one who brings
healing and wholeness

All **Though we are many, we are one creation,
because we all share in the love of the creator.**



All This is a place of safety, this is a time of comfort.
These are gifts to nourish and heal:
Here and now the God who made the universe waits to embrace us;
here and now we come to feel God's healing touch again.
With all that we are; parts that are whole,
and parts that are broken;
parts that are well, and parts that are sick;
parts that are joyful, and parts that are in pain;
With all that we are, we come to be renewed and made whole, O God, for You are gracious, merciful and kind,
And we long to find our rest in You.

We break the bread for the whole world. We invite all who seek God and are drawn to Christ, and all who walk the way of faith to come forward and receive the body and blood of Christ as directed by the Sidesperson. Or you are warmly invited to come forward for a blessing – please carry this booklet and bow your head. Gluten free wafers are available on request.

Once you have received communion or a blessing you are invited to move to a station for laying on of hands or anointing. Please make your way to any station as you feel comfortable. We seek Wholeness and Healing not just for ourselves, but also for others and for the national and international tragedies that concern us - you can just as easily come for others as for yourself. There'll be an opportunity to talk or just to hold the situation or person in silence, as you wish.

May the Spirit of the living God
Flow into this beloved child.
Healing where there has been harm,
Strengthening where there is weakness,
and lifting the heart to reflect God's love.
Amen.

The Communion Songs

This is my body, broken for you,
bringing you wholeness, making you free.
Take it and eat it, and when you do,
do it in love for me.

This is my blood, poured out for you,
bringing forgiveness, making you free.
Take it and drink it, and when you do,
do it in love for me.

Back to the Father soon I shall go.
Do not forget me; then you will see
I am still with you, and you will know
you're very close to me.

Filled with my Spirit, how you will grow!
You are my branches; I am the tree.
If you are faithful, others will know
you are alive in me.

Love one another; I have loved you,
and I have shown you how to be free;
serve one another, and when you do,
do it in love for me.

Text J Owens and D Lundy
Music P Jacobs.
LHON 681

David Haas



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Words and Music: David Haas
Laudate 436

The Post Communion Prayer

After a period of silence, we stand with the Priest to pray

**All Heal us, O Lord, and we shall be healed;
save us, and we will be saved,
for the one we praise is you.
Bring complete healing for all our sicknesses,
for you are our faithful and compassionate Healer and
King. Blessed are you, Lord, the healer of the sick.
Amen.**

Refuah Sh'lemah - Prayer for health and healing

The Notices

We sit for the notices

The Blessing

We stand

The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

May God the holy and undivided Trinity
preserve you in body, mind and spirit,
and bring you safe to that heavenly country
where peace and harmony reign;
and the blessing of God almighty,
✠ Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you
and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Touched by Your grace,
All **We take Your grace to the world.**

Healed by Your love,
All **We take Your love to the world.**

Renewed by Your Spirit,
All **We go in the Spirit's power
to be agents of Your healing.
Amen.**

The Recessional Hymn

God of hope and God of healing,
ever turning lives around,
come restore, come re-inspire us,
free the hearts that fear has bound.

Hope-filled God, you keep enlarging
boundaries we try to set;
raise our sights to new horizons,
greater dreams than we dream yet.

Healing God, your breath first formed us.
then, made flesh, our sickness bore,
here we bring ourselves, our loved ones,
heal, make whole, breathe life once more.

Author God, you re-write stories
turn life's losses into gain,
hope is known when life seems hopeless,
health arises from the pain;

so we come with tears and triumphs
asking you to set us free,
hope and healing are your nature,
God of Love and mystery.

God of hope and God of Healing,
ever turning lives around,
come restore, come re-inspire us,
free the hearts that fear has bound.

Words: Rosalind Brown
Music: SUSSEX, English Trad. adapt. R.V. Williams

Let us bless the Lord!
All **Thanks be to God!**

The vast beauty and power and depth of our Christian faith is that the ministry of Wholeness and Healing is:

- Christ-centered - deeply rooted in the person and ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ*
- Scriptural - utilizing the insights offered by Scripture to delve into the Holy Spirit's role in the work of healing*
- Holistic - exploring the interplay and connections between the mental, spiritual, and physical dimensions relating to healing and health*

If you would like to explore wholeness and healing in more depth do please speak to one of the ministry team after the service.

Join Us

Please support Saint Mary's Witney.

Your contributions make possible our ministry in liturgy and worship, community outreach, schools, learning, late night cafe, street pastors, visiting nursing homes and hospitals and other pastoral care. For more information please speak to one of the Ministry Team or Wardens.

Saint Mary's is profoundly grateful to the priests, lay leaders, volunteers, DCC members and friends whose unparalleled energy and determination make thousands of annual services, programmes and events possible. Please visit the parish website and twitter feed to stay in touch.

