

**A Service
to Reaffirm
Commitment
to
Christian Ministry**



with
The Bishop of
St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

Maundy Thursday
9 April 2020
11.00 am

The reaffirmation of Commitment to Christian ministry

Welcome to the Bishop's Oratory at Park Road for today's service to renew our commitment in Christian ministry.

In normal times, today's service, marking the beginning of the great Easter Triduum, has two particular elements in the context of the Eucharist: the reaffirmation of commitment to Christian ministry, and the consecration of the three holy oils (the oil for the sick, the oil of catechumens, and the oil of chrism). Unfortunately this year, as we follow national guidelines to prevent the spread of COVID-19, it will not be possible to consecrate the holy oils for distribution across parishes – this will happen later in the year at a service of thanksgiving when we plan to mark the end of the pandemic crisis and commit ourselves afresh to continuing ministry across our county and diocese.

The Reaffirmation of Commitment in Christian ministry

Easter has traditionally been the time when Christians are baptized and confirmed into the Body of Christ, and all Christians renew their own baptismal allegiance to Christ. Bishops and priests, deacons, Readers and Licensed Lay Ministers, will be encouraging such commitment amongst the people they serve. Today, in preparation for Easter, they will renew their commitment to dedicate themselves afresh to the service of Christ and his people.

¶ The Order of Service

The Bishop gives

The Greeting

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

All O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

All I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my soul shall exult in my God.

All Peace be with you
and also with you.

Act of Penitence

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, he has anointed me.
For the times we have failed to bring
the oil of gladness to others, Lord have mercy.

All **Lord have mercy.**

He has sent me to bring good news,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.
For the times we have been slow
to proclaim God's mercy and goodness, Christ have mercy.

All **Christ have mercy.**

That they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord.
For the times we have not been
rooted and grounded in Christ, Lord have mercy.

All **Lord have mercy.**

The Absolution

Bishop The Lord enrich you with his grace,
and nourish you with his blessing;
the Lord defend you in trouble
and keep you from all evil;
the Lord accept your prayers,
and absolve you ✠ from your offences,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

Psalmody

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me bless his holy name.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits;**

Who forgives all your sins
and heals all your infirmities;

**Who redeems your life from the Pit
and crowns you with faithful love and compassion;**

Who satisfies you with good things,
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

**The Lord has established his throne in heaven,
and his kingdom has dominion over all.**

Bless the Lord, you angels of his,
you mighty ones who do his bidding
and hearken to the voice of his word.

**Bless the Lord, all you his hosts,
you ministers of his who do his will.**

Bless the Lord, all you works of his,
in all places of his dominion;
bless the Lord, O my soul.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Psalm 103.1-5, 19-22

Anna Brueck Seeley reads

The New Testament Reading

A reading from the Letter to James.

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.

James 5.13-16, NRSV

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Canticle

**All I have given you as a light to the nations,
and I have called you in righteousness.**

Thus says God, who created the heavens,
who fashioned the earth and all that dwells in it;

**Who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it,**

'I am the Lord and I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

**'I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind,**

'To bring out the captives from the dungeon,
from the prison, those who sit in darkness.

**All I have given you as a light to the nations,
and I have called you in righteousness.**

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Isaiah 42.5-8, CW

Luke Brueck Seeley reads

The Gospel Reading

A reading from the gospel of Luke.

When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.’

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, ‘Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’

Luke 4.16-21, NRSV

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

The Address

The Right Reverend Martin Seeley
Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

A time of quiet with music for reflection follows.

The Reaffirmation of Commitment to Ministry

The Bishop invites everyone present to reaffirm their commitment to Christ:

My brothers and sisters, at his Last Supper, our Lord Jesus Christ gave his disciples a new commandment, that they should love one another, and he prayed that they might be one. He gave them an everlasting sign of his own love, in the sacrament of bread and wine. He consecrated himself to his Father's service, to be the high priest of the New Covenant. I invite you now to dedicate yourselves afresh to his service, as stewards of the mysteries of God and ministers of his grace.

Luke Brueck Seeley addresses the Bishops, saying

At your ordination as Bishop you received the gift of the Spirit, that you might lead the Church in mission, and send out ministers in Christ's name; that you might promote its unity, uphold its discipline, and guard its faith; and that you might teach and govern the people committed to your charge. Will you continue faithfully in this ministry, watching over Christ's own flock, and building them up in the unity of the Spirit and the bond of peace?

Bishops By the help of God, I will.

Anna Brueck Seeley addresses the priests and bishops, saying

At your ordination to the priesthood, you took authority to watch over and care for God's people, to absolve and bless them in his name, to proclaim the gospel of salvation, and to minister the sacraments of his New Covenant. Will you continue as faithful stewards of the mysteries of God, preaching the gospel of Christ and ministering his holy sacraments?

The priests and bishops reply, saying

By the help of God, I will.

Anna Brueck Seeley addresses the deacons, priests and bishops.

At your ordination as a deacon, you received the yoke of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. Will you continue faithfully in this ministry, to build up God's people in his truth and serve them in his name?

The deacons, priests and bishops reply, saying

By the help of God, I will.

The Rev'd Jutta Brueck addresses the Readers and Licensed Lay Ministers.

When you were commissioned, you undertook to be faithful in prayer and by word and example to minister to those for whom Christ died. Will you do all that is in your power to witness to God's love for his people?

The Readers and Licensed Lay Ministers reply, saying

By the help of God, I will.

The Bishop addresses everyone, saying

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness and into his marvellous light. Will you be faithful to your baptismal promises, and continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship in the breaking of bread, and will you continue faithfully in the building up of Christ's Church, in the places to which he calls you, building up God's people and serving them in faith and love?

Everyone replies, saying

All By the help of God, I will.

Everyone then prays together, saying

All **God our Father,**
in the name of Christ and in the power of your Spirit,
we commit ourselves to you and one another,
to live, work, and pray as one body in Christ,
to trust each other as fellow workers in your Church,
and to give ourselves with body, mind, and spirit
to the ministries to which you have called us.
Give us vision, give us courage, and give us joy,
that the world may believe that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to your eternal glory. Amen.

Bishop May God, who has moved us to make this commitment,
give us grace to keep it to the end;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Rev'd Jutta Brueck leads

The Prayers of Intercession

Holy God,
you give us gifts that we may work together
in the service of your son.
We pray now, saying
Jesus, Lord of your Church,
All **in you mercy hear us.**

Bless those who lead, that they may be firm in faith
yet humble before you,
Jesus, Lord of your Church,
All **in you mercy hear us.**

Bless those who teach
that they may increase our understanding
and be open to your Word for them.
Jesus, Lord of your Church,
All **in you mercy hear us.**

Bless those who minister healing,
that they may bring wholeness to others,
yet know your healing for themselves.
Jesus, Lord of your Church,

All in your mercy hear us.

Bless those through whom you speak,
that they may proclaim your word in power,
yet open their hearts to your gentle voice.
Jesus, Lord of your Church,

All in your mercy hear us.

Bless the communities in which our churches are set
And all who seek to build up community life,
that all would strive for the common good.
Jesus, Lord of your Church,

All in your mercy hear us.

Bless those who minister to the bereaved and dying,
that they may know in themselves the promise of your
kingdom and life beyond life.
Jesus, Lord of your Church,

All in your mercy hear us.

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure, or
sorrow, feel that God is far from them,
Jesus, Lord of your Church,

All in your mercy hear us.

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross,
Jesus, Lord of your Church,

All in your mercy hear us.

That we, with those who have died in faith,
may find mercy in the day of Christ,
Jesus, Lord of your Church,

All in your mercy hear us.

**All Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

The Collect

Heavenly Father,
who anointed your Son Jesus Christ
with the Holy Spirit and with power
to bring to the world the blessings of your kingdom:
anoint your Church with the same Holy Spirit,
that we who share in his suffering and his victory
may bear witness to the gospel of salvation;
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 Lord's Prayer

Bishop Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

All **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 Blessing and Dismissal

The Father, whose glory fills the heavens,
sanctify you by his holiness
and send you to proclaim his word. **Amen.**

The Son, who has ascended to the heights,
pour upon you the riches of his grace. **Amen.**

The Holy Spirit, the Comforter,
equip you and strengthen you in your ministry. **Amen.**

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

All

Be now in peace loving and serving our Lord.
In the name of Christ.
Amen.
