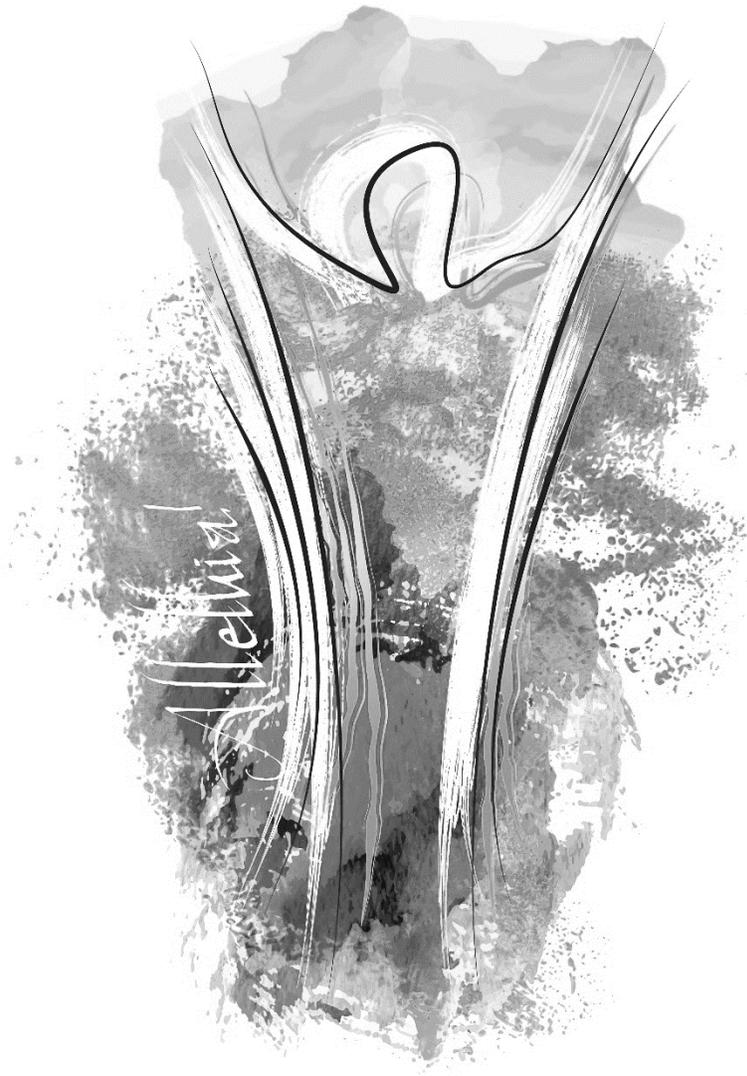


**THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST. MICHAEL
ALNWICK**



SERVICE OF THE WORD

A Service of the Word

Just as at the eucharist we gather around the table to be fed by Christ's body and blood, so in this service we gather to be fed by his word. We join in prayer and praise. We hear God speak to us through Scripture and preaching. We join with the church around the world, and the whole of heaven, in worship of God through the Holy Spirit and in praise of his Son.

As you prepare to join in this act of worship you might like to spend some time offering your thoughts and burdens, your thanksgivings and your worries to God. Open your heart to him and allow your cares to be left in his trustworthy hands. As you do so, remember that God is present as we gather together in worship. He is here and our duty and our joy is to offer praise, and to receive his gifts of grace, however they are bestowed. May you know that grace this day.

*Look upon us, O Lord,
and let all the darkness of our souls vanish
before the bright beams of your radiance.
Fill us with holy love, and open to us the treasures of your wisdom.
We seek your face, turn your face towards us and show us your glory.
Then shall our longing be satisfied,
and our peace shall be perfect.*

(A prayer of St Augustine)

Preparation

Welcome

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

and also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

God of our days and years,
we set this time apart for you.
Come among us with saving power
to free our praise,
inspire our prayer
and shape our lives
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(or)

We come from scattered lives to meet with God.

Let us recognize his presence with us.

Silence is kept and music may be played as we gather ourselves in worship.

Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal:
have mercy on us.

Eternal God, source of all blessing,
help us to worship you with all our heart and mind and strength;
for you alone are God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

The Spirit of the Lord fills the world with grace
and knows our every word and deed.

Let us then open our hearts to the Lord
and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

(or)

St Paul says

'Be imitators of God;

love as Christ loved;

do not grieve the Holy Spirit;

put away all anger and bitterness, all slander and malice.'

So let us confess our sins to God who forgives us in Christ.

cf Ephesians 4.30 - 5.1

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

(or with suitable sentences)

Kyrie Eleison

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

The president says

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse *you* from *your* sins,
and restore *you* in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Praise

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord.

For Jesus is Lord of all creation.

We worship and adore you.

Jesus made his home among us.

We worship and adore you.

Jesus died to set us free.

We worship and adore you.

Jesus was raised to life again.

We worship and adore you.

Jesus reigns in glory now.

We worship and adore you.

We worship and adore you with angels and archangels
and all the company of heaven, saying:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

(or)

Venite – a Song of Triumph

- 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord; ◆
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our salvation.
- 2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving ◆
and be glad in him with psalms.
- 3 For the Lord is a great God ◆
and a great king above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth ◆
and the heights of the mountains are his also.
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it, ◆
and his hands have moulded the dry land.
- 6 Come, let us worship and bow down ◆
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
- 7 For he is our God; ◆
we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

**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.**

The Collect

*The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray'
or a more specific bidding.*

The Collect is said.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

A responsory Psalm may be read.

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

A Gospel Acclamation is read.

Alleluia.

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

A time of quiet reflection may follow and music may be played.

The president says

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

The Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Prayers

Prayers of Intercession

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy (or) Lord, hear us.
hear our prayer. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

And at the end

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

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom,
as we pray in the words you gave us.

**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.**

Conclusion

Closing prayer

In darkness and in light,
in trouble and in joy,
help us, heavenly Father,
to trust your love,
to serve your purpose,
and to praise your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

(or)

This is love, not that we loved God,
but that he loved us and sent his Son.

He is the sacrifice for our sins,
that we might live through him.

If God loves us so much
we ought to love one another.

If we love one another
God lives in us.

Blessing

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
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.





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