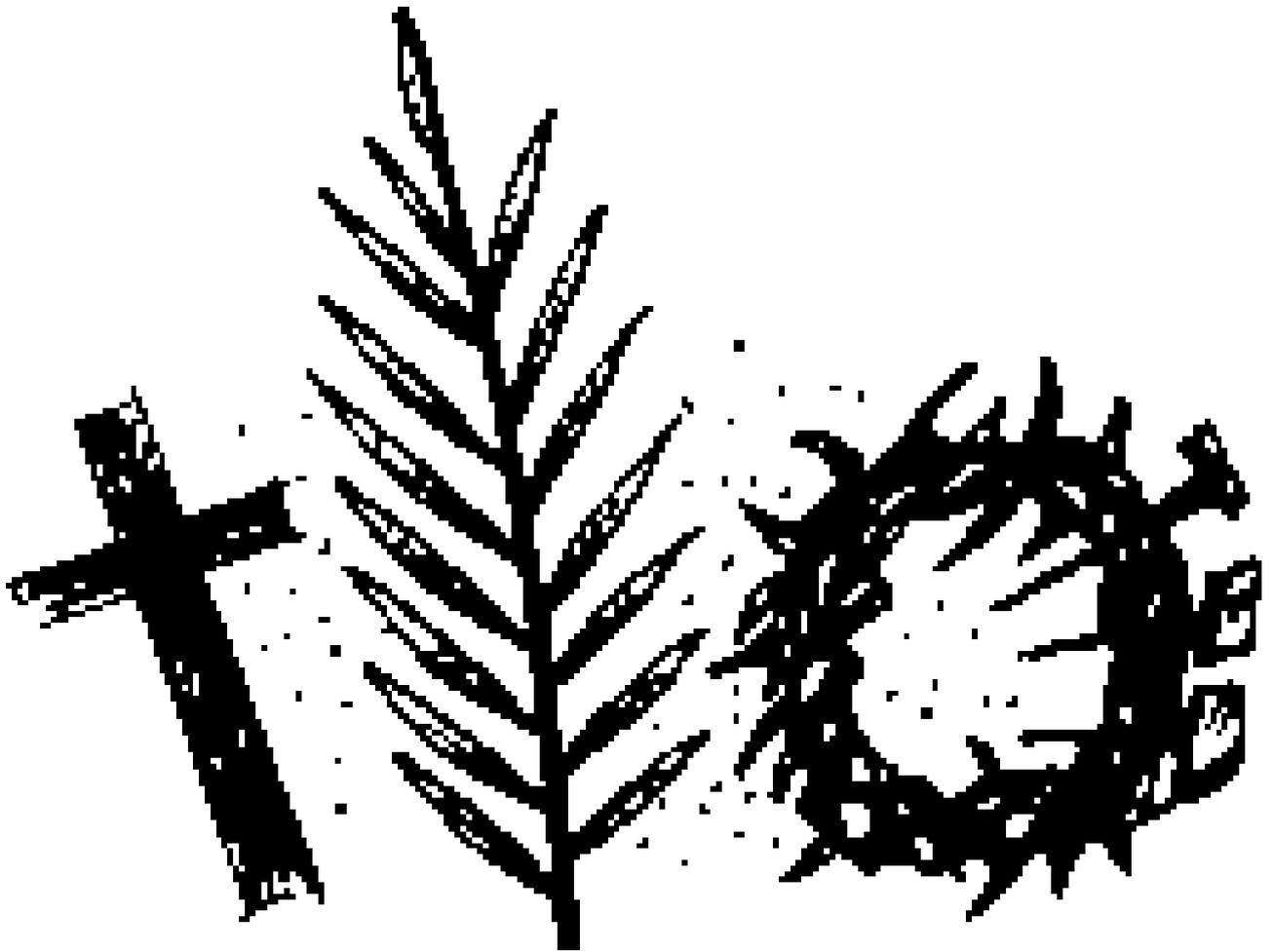


St Bridget's, West Kirby
with Caldy Church



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. *John 3:16*

**HOLY COMMUNION
DURING THE SEASON OF
LENT**

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent lasts for 46 days until Easter Sunday (the 40 days of 'fasting' during Lent does not include Sundays). The word Lent is a shortened version of the Old English word 'lencten', which is thought to have been used to describe the season of Spring when the days began to lengthen, signifying new life and renewal. Over time, the word Lent came to be linked specifically to the Christian tradition of fasting before Easter, which always coincided with the spring.

Most of us know about giving something up for Lent. The aim is that we exercise self-control and spend more time focussing on what is important in life. We are encouraged to use Lent to deepen our understanding of and relationship with God, perhaps through reading or prayer, or joining a study group or putting aside time for prayerful reflection. Just as we carefully prepare for events in our personal lives, such as a wedding, or birthday; Lent invites us to prepare our hearts and minds to reflect on God's great gift to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Lent is also a time for generous living – whether that is through small acts of kindness to others or in our financial support of those in need.

In our worship we reflect the solemnity of Lent as we recall the events leading up to the death of Jesus. We avoid singing triumphant or celebratory songs and try not to use the word Alleluia! We keep our churches bare of flowers and we wear purple as it is associated with mourning and so anticipates the pain and suffering of the crucifixion.

Whilst these may seem quaint or odd practises, they help us journey with Jesus and more joyfully celebrate the resurrection on Easter Day. A time for bright colours, flowers, and much rejoicing!

THE GATHERING

A hymn may be sung

All The Lord be with you
 and also with you.

Prayer of Preparation

**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**

Prayers of penitence

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.
Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,
and acknowledge our transgressions
in penitence and faith.

a time of quiet reflection

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us, forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

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.

All **Amen.**

A short time of quiet follows

The Collect - prayer for the day

The LITURGY of the WORD

Readings

One or two readings may follow. After the readings:-

This is the word of the Lord

All **Thanks be to God**

A hymn may be sung

The Gospel

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

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

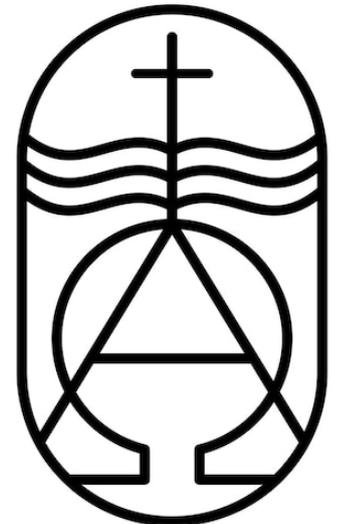
Sermon

The Creed

All **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.**



The Prayers

We kneel or sit for a time of prayer. This response may be used

Lord in your mercy
All **Hear our prayer**

and at the end

Merciful father
All **Accept these prayers
For the sake of your Son our Saviour
Jesus Christ. Amen**

The LITURGY of the SACRAMENT

The Peace

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has given us access to his grace.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory hymn

Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good
to give you thanks and praise,
almighty God and everlasting Father,
through Jesus Christ your Son.
For in these forty days
you lead us into the desert of repentance
that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline
we may grow in grace
and learn to be your people once again.

Through fasting, prayer and acts of service
you bring us back to your generous heart.
Through study of your holy word
you open our eyes to your presence in the world
and free our hands to welcome others
into the radiant splendour of your love.

As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast
with joyful hearts and minds
we bless you for your mercy
and join with saints and angels
for ever praising you and saying:

All **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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died,
he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread,
gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body
which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.



When supper was ended, he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of
salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

All **Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy
will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours,
O loving Father, for ever and ever.
Amen.

seek
justice
love
mercy
walk
humbly
Micah 6:8

All

The Lord's Prayer

As our saviour taught us, so we pray:

All **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 forever. Amen.**

All **We break this bread to share in the body of Christ
Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

All **Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

Invitation to Communion

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and
feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

All are now welcome to come for communion. If you would prefer a blessing simply keep your hands lowered and bow your head.

Prayer after Communion

Silence may be kept

A prayer suitable for the Sunday or Season may be used

All **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 may now be given

Blessing

Christ give you grace to grow in holiness,
to deny yourselves, take up your cross and follow him
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen**

A hymn may be sung

Dismissal

We go into the world to walk in God's light,
To rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

All **In the name of Christ. Amen**

**Please join us for refreshments in St Bridget's Centre
immediately after the service.**

If you feel able to support our churches and ministry in the parish, please leave an offering in the plate at the back of church, use the payaz giving station in St Bridget's or visit our website for alternative means of giving. www.stbridgetschurch.org.uk
Thank you.

Acknowledgement:

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