



The Diocese in Europe

A SERVICE FOR THE RENEWAL OF COMMITMENT TO MINISTRY

**President
Bishop Robert Innes**

*Maundy Thursday
9 April 2020
1100 CET*

Order of Service

Greeting

Bishop Jesus Christ has made us a kingdom of priests to serve his God and Father.

All **Glory and kingship be his for ever and ever.**

Bishop Grace, mercy and peace be with you.

All **And also with you.**

The Bishop welcomes the people, introduces the liturgy, and invites the people to confess their sins.

Act of Penitence

Come, let us return to the Lord and say

**Lord our God,
in our sin we have avoided your call.
Our love for you is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
Have mercy on us;
deliver us from judgement;
bind up our wounds and revive us;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

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.

Let us pray.

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.

Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament reading

1 Samuel 3. 1-10

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 133

Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous.

Praise befits the upright.

Praise the LORD with the lyre;

make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.

Sing to him a new song;

play skilfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

For the word of the LORD is upright,

and all his work is done in faithfulness.

He loves righteousness and justice;

the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
and all their host by the breath of his mouth.
He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle;
he put the deeps in storehouses.

Let all the earth fear the LORD;
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.
For he spoke, and it came to be;
he commanded, and it stood firm.

The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;
he frustrates the plans of the peoples.
The counsel of the LORD stands for ever,
the thoughts of his heart to all generations.
Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

The LORD looks down from heaven;
he sees all humankind.

From where he sits enthroned he watches
all the inhabitants of the earth—
he who fashions the hearts of them all,
and observes all their deeds.

A king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

The war horse is a vain hope for victory,
and by its great might it cannot save.

Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,
to deliver their soul from death,
and to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul waits for the LORD;
he is our help and shield.

Our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.

Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.

New Testament reading

Revelation 1. 5b-8

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because the Lord has anointed me;

he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 9. 35-38

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**Sermon
Bishop David Hamid**

Bishop

Brothers and sisters, before we offer to God the renewal of our commitment to ministry in His Church, let us all, whether bishop, priest or deacon, first recall with gratitude all those whom we here represent—the great dispersal of the communities of the diocese across a continent, and some beyond —especially those who are sick, those preparing for baptism and confirmation, and those who are preparing to be ordained to the sacred ministry as deacons and priests. May God unite our hearts and prayers with theirs by the same Spirit whose presence we invoke.

God our loving Father, pour out afresh upon our brothers and sisters in this Diocese the gifts of your Holy Spirit. Open our ears to hear your Word, open our hearts to you in prayer, that we may receive with ever deeper faith the Bread of Life and be signs of your presence to the world of today. Hear our prayer through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Bishop

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.

The Bishop addresses the Readers

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?

Readers

By the help of God, I will.

The Bishop addresses the Deacons

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?

Deacons

By the help of God, I will.

The Bishop addresses the Priests

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, ministering his holy sacraments?

Priests **By the help of God, I will.**

A Reader addresses the bishops

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?

The bishops **By the help of God, I will.**

The Reader addresses all the ministers

May the God of peace sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and he will accomplish it.

All **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

The bishop addresses the people

My brothers and sisters, pray for all who minister, that they may be constant in prayer and steadfast in faith, and serve your people with joy.

All **Lord, hear us.**

Pray for your deacons, that the Lord may pour upon them the riches of his grace. Pray that he who has called them to his service may make them worthy of his calling.

All **Lord, hear us.**

Pray for your priests. Ask the Lord to bless them with the fullness of his love, that they may be faithful ministers of his word and sacrament, and lead his people in the way of salvation.

All **Lord, hear us.**

Pray for your bishops, that despite our unworthiness we may be faithful to the great trust that has been handed to us. Pray that we may become

more like our Good Shepherd and great High Priest, the teacher and servant of us all, and so become more and more a sign of Christ's loving presence among you.

All **Lord, hear us.**

Pray for the families of those who minister, for their homes, and for all with whom they share their lives.

All **Lord, hear us.**

May the Lord in his love keep us ever close to him, and may he bring us all to the fullness of eternal life.

All **Amen.**

As our Saviour has commanded and taught us, we are bold to say:

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.

Bishop Our help is in the name of the Lord
who has made heaven and earth.

Bishop Blessed be the name of the Lord
now and for ever. Amen.

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

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

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

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

All Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

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