

SHARED MINISTRY IN EXNING AND NORTH NEWMARKET

**MASS OF THE FEAST OF ST ETHELDREDA,
ABBESS OF ELY, CO-PATRON OF THE BENEFICES**



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Greeting

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

The Lord be with you;
and also with you.

Confession

God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him in love. Let us confess our sins and failings and ask him who is rich in mercy for forgiveness and peace. *cf. Ephesians 1.4*

You give your kingdom to those who are poor in spirit:
Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

You give the earth for an inheritance to those who are meek:
Christ have mercy. **Christ have mercy.**

You show yourself to those who are pure in heart:
Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

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.
Amen.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.**
Amen.

Collect

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who bestowed such grace upon your servant Etheldreda that she gave herself wholly to the life of prayer and to the service of your true religion: grant that we, like her, may so live our lives on earth seeking your kingdom that by your guiding we may be joined to the glorious fellowship of your saints; 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.**

Epistle Reading

A reading from the Song of Songs:

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If one offered for love all the wealth of one's house, it would be utterly scorned.

Song of Songs 8.6-7

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Psalm

R: 'Come, my children,' says the Lord; 'I will teach you.'

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

My soul shall glory in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad. *R*

O magnify the Lord with me; let us exalt his name together.

I sought the Lord and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. *R*

Look upon him and be radiant and your faces shall not be ashamed.

This poor soul cried, and the Lord heard me
and saved me from all my troubles. *R*

The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him and delivers them.

O taste and see that the Lord is gracious;
blessed is the one who trusts in him. *R*

Psalm 34.1-8, R cf. 11

Gospel Reading

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Behold the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ,
who is the very image of God.

cf. 2 Corinthians 4.4

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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.

Jesus said, ‘Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, “Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.” Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, “Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.” But the wise replied, “No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.” And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, “Lord, lord, open to us.” But he replied, “Truly I tell you, I do not know you.” Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Matthew 25.1-13

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Address

A short address is given.

Intercessions

Prayers of intercession are offered.

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

Declaration of the Peace

Jesus says, 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
I do not give to you as the world gives.'

John 14.27

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace. ✎

All may express a sign of peace.

Prayer over the Offerings

Lord, accept the gifts we bring to your table as we keep this feast of Saint
Etheldreda: free us from the things that keep us from you and teach us to
seek you as our only good; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you;
and also 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.

It is truly right and good, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

This day we honour you in our remembrance of Saint Etheldreda,
who consecrated her life to Christ
for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.
In her you show us your saving love
as you call the human race back to its first holiness,
and invite us to taste on earth the gifts of the world to come.

In communion with angels and archangels,
and all who served you on earth and worship you now in heaven,
we raise our voice to proclaim your glory,
for ever praising you and saying::

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.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the
power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of
bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
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.

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

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. Remember, Lord, your Church in every land. Reveal her unity, guard her faith, and preserve her in peace.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Etheldreda, St Agnes, St Martin, St Nicholas, St Philip and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

Our Father, ...

Breaking of the Bread

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.**

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

Jesus is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

J Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Those who are unable to receive the bread and wine of communion at this time may make an act of spiritual communion using the words:

Lord Jesus Christ, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Merciful God, who gave such grace to your servant Etheldreda that she served you with singleness of heart and loved you above all things: help us, whose communion with you has been renewed in this sacrament, to forsake all that holds us back from following Christ and to grow into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer for the Benefices

I will meditate on your commandments
and give attention to your ways, O Lord.

Psalm 119.15

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your Holy Spirit to the Church to lead us into all truth: bless with the Spirit's grace and presence the people of these benefices, amongst whom your blessed servant Etheldreda was once born, raised and baptised and to whom she now shows her patronage; keep us steadfast in faith and united in love, that we may manifest your glory and prepare the way of your kingdom; 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.**

Blessing

The Lord be with you;
and also with you.

God, who has prepared for you a city with eternal foundations, bring you, with all the saints, to the eternal and triumphant joy of that city; 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 the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

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