

Parish Church of St Alphege Solihull



**Choral Eucharist
in Lent**

**21st February 2021
The First Sunday of Lent**

Music before the Service: *Christe, du Lamm Gottes* (Christ, the Lamb of God) BWV

619 – JS Bach

The Gathering

The Greeting

President: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

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

The president says a few words of welcome and introduces today's service.

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.

We keep silence

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:

fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:
fill us with your Spirit.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:
fill us with your Spirit.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

The Choir sings

*Kyrie eleison
Christe eleison
Kyrie eleison*

Lord have mercy upon us
Christ have mercy upon us
Lord have mercy upon us

Music by John Merbecke

Absolution

May almighty God,
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
✚ bring you his pardon and peace, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit;

and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
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 Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Genesis 9. 8-17

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able. The choir sings the Gospel Acclamation.

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

The Lord is a great God, O that today you would listen to his voice.

Harden not *your* hearts.

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

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 1.9-15

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.' And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Creed

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

**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.**

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

(or)

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

And at the end:

Lord of the Church,
hear our prayer
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve with joy for ever.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Let love be genuine. Never pay back evil for evil.
As far as it lies with you, live at peace with everyone.
The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

Offertory Hymn

Please sit as we listen to two verses of the hymn 'Forty days and Forty Nights' sung to the tune 'Aus der Tiefe'. You are welcome to pray the words silently as the choir sings.

**Forty days and forty nights
You were fasting in the wild;
Forty days and forty nights
Tempted, and yet undefiled.**

**Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,
Ever constant by Your side,
That with You we may appear
At the eternal Eastertide.**

George Hunt Smyttan

Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

God of mercy and compassion

Your Word calls us home to faith and love.

Accept all we offer you this day;

In the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Amen

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

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 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 singing:

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Osanna in excelsis.*

Holy, holy, holy
Lord God of Hosts
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest.

*Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.
Osanna in excelsis.*

Blessed is he who comes in the name of
the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Music by John Merbecke

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.

Christ is the bread of life:

**When we eat this bread, and drink this cup,
We proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
Until you come in glory.**

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 Alphege, Helen, Michael and 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.

A bell is rung to signify the sacramental presence of Christ, followed by a moment of stillness.

The Lord's Prayer

Please sit.

Trusting in the compassion of God,
Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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 Breaking of Bread

The celebrant breaks the consecrated 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.**

Agnus Dei

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.*

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins
of the world: have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins
of the world: have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins
of the world: grant us thy peace.

Music by John Merbecke

The Invitation

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

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.**

These or other words may be said to those watching the service.

For most of us participating at home, it may feel strange to be invited to Communion, not through the physical bread and wine we can touch, but in a Spiritual Communion with God who always comes to meet us wherever we are.

There are no special words or prayers for this, all the Church has ever thought necessary is true desire, lively faith and genuine love. Come honestly before God the way you know how. You may like to pray quietly using this prayer to help you:

Lord, you stand at the door of my heart and knock. You wait for me and only I can let you in. I believe and trust in you and ask you now to fill me with presence. Feed me with your body and unite me in your blood, that I may be your blessing to a world in need. Amen.

Confession of St Thomas Jn. 20:28

The celebrant raises the paten and chalice and says

The Body and Blood of Christ.

Amen.

The Giving of Communion

Only the celebrant receives Communion under both kinds. Others present receive under the form of the consecrated bread.

Communion Motet

*Buß und Reu, Buß und Reu
Knirscht das Sündenherz entzwei.
Das die Tropfen meiner Zähren
Angenehme Spezerei,
Treuer Jesu, dir gebären.*

Repentance and regret, repentance and
regret
rips the sinful heart in two.
Thus the drops of my tears,
desirable spices,
are brought to you, loving Jesus.

*From BWV 244 Matthäus Passion
JS Bach*

Post Communion Prayer

Lord God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;
by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love:
teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread,
and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**Lord, we have broken your bread
and received your life.**

**By the power of your Spirit
keep us always in your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Dismissal

Notices

The celebrant will give the details of any particularly important notices and read any Banns of Marriage.

The Blessing

Now may the Lord of peace himself
give you peace at all times and in every way.

The Lord be with you all;
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.

Organ Voluntary: *Christus, der uns selig macht* (Christ who makes us blessed) BWV
620 – JS Bach