

**Parish Church of St Alphege Solihull**



**Choral Eucharist  
in Lent**

**28<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**10.30am**

**The Second Sunday of Lent**

Music before the Service: *Schmucke Dich, O liebe Seele (Prepare your Soul)* BWV

654 – 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 Vaughan Williams*

## **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,

you show to those who are in error the light of your truth,

that they may return to the way of righteousness:

grant to all those who are admitted

into the fellowship of Christ's religion,

that they may reject those things

that are contrary to their profession,  
and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
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**

*Either or Both of the Readings may be used.*

### **First Reading**

#### **Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16.**

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless. Then I will make my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

God also said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Reading**

**Romans 4.13-end.**

It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be." Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead. Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Gospel

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

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

Blessed are those who have *endured* temptation;  
they have stood the test and will receive the crown *of* life.

*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 8.31-end.**

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of

Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

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.**

## **Intercessions**

*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 four verses of the hymn 'Take up thy Cross' sung to the tune `Breslau. You are welcome to pray the words silently as the choir sings.*

**"Take up thy cross," the Saviour said,  
"if thou wouldst my disciple be;  
Deny thyself, the world forsake,  
and humbly follow after me."**

**Take up thy cross; let not its weight  
fill your weak spirit with alarm;  
His strength shall bear thy spirit up  
and brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.**

**Take up thy cross, and follow Christ,  
Nor think til death to lay it down;  
For only he who bears the cross  
May hope to wear the glorious crown.**

**To thee, great Lord, the One in Three,  
All praise for evermore ascend;  
O grant us in our home to see  
The heavenly life that knows no end.**

*Charles W. Everest*

## 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 Vaughan Williams*

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.*

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

*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: grant us thy peace.

*Music by Vaughan Williams*

## **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**

*Gerne will ich mich bequemen,  
Kreuz und Becher anzunehmen,  
Trink ich doch dem Heiland nach.  
Denn sein Mund,  
Der mit Milch und Honig fließet,  
Hat den Grund  
und des Leidens herbe Schmach  
Durch den ersten Trunk versüßet.*

*From BWV 244 Matthäus Passion  
JS Bach*

Gladly will I force myself  
to take on the Cross and the Chalice,  
yet I drink after the Savior.  
For his mouth,  
which flows with milk and honey,  
has sweetened the grounds  
and the bitter taste of sorrow,  
through his first sip.

*From BWV 244 Matthew Passion  
JS Bach*

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Almighty God,  
you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:  
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,  
and inwardly in our souls;  
that we may be defended from all adversities  
which may happen to the body,  
and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul;  
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: *Prelude in F Minor* BWV 534 – JS Bach