

Parish Church of St Alphege Solihull



Choral Eucharist

18th April 2021

10.30am

**Order of Service
for the Season of Eastertide**

Easter 3

Please note that, due to COVID restrictions, congregational singing is not currently permitted. As a result, the choir will sing all the musical items printed herein alone and you are invited to sit during them.

The words are printed in the order of service for your reference, and you are encouraged to pray them silently while the choir is singing.

Processional Hymn

Now is eternal life,
If risen with Christ we stand,
In him to life reborn,
And holden in his hand;
No more we fear death's ancient dread,
In Christ arisen from the dead.

For God, the living God,
Stooped down to our estate;
By death destroying death,
Christ opened wide life's gate.
He lives, who died; he reigns on high;
Who lives in him shall never die.

*Words by G. W. Briggs
Music by Charles Steggall*

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.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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

Prayers of Penitence

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God.
Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil
and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

We keep silence

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the living bread:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Gloria

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

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

You alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

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 God
the right hand of God the Father:
receive our prayer.

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

Music by John Bell

in the glory of God the Father.
Amen, Amen, A---men.

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

The Collect

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
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

Either or Both of the Readings may be used.

First Reading

Acts 3:12-19

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, 'You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see

and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

‘And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

“I am the resurrection and the life” says the Lord.

“those who live and believe in me shall never die.”

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 24: 36b-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, ‘Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.’ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’ They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received,
and this we believe.
Amen.**

Intercessions

This response may be used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

And at the end:

Merciful Father,
**Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son
our saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

**The Liturgy of the Sacrament
The Peace**

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples
and said, 'Peace be with you.'
Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn

*Love's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won:
Lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er;
Lo, he sets in blood no more!*

*Vain the stone, the watch, the seal:
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids his rise
Christ has opened paradise:*

*Lives again, our glorious king;
Where, O Death, is now thy sting?
Dying once, he all doth save;
Where thy victory, O grave?*

*Word by Charles Wesley
Music from 'Choralbuch' Herrnhut*

Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

Be present, be present,
Lord Jesus Christ, our risen high priest;
make yourself known in the breaking of bread.

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, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and on this night of our redemption
to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.
And so, in the joy of this Passover,

earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

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

Music by John Bell

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:

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 Alphege, Helen, Michael, Mary Magdalene 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

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
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.

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.
**Lord, our hearts hunger for you;
give us this bread always.**

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of
the world: have mercy on us.

Music by Dom Gregory Murray OSB

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of
the world: have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of
the world: grant us peace.

The Invitation

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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

If God be for us, who can be against us? Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth, who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is at the right hand of God, who makes intercession for us.

Romans 8: 31, 33 - 34
Music by GF Handel (from Messiah Part III)

Post Communion Prayer

Living God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.

**God of truth,
we have seen with our eyes
and touched with our hands the bread of life:
strengthen our faith
that we may grow in love for you
and for each other;
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.

Final Hymn

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
your sweetest notes employ,
the Paschal victory to hymn
in strains of holy joy.

Triumphant in his glory now
his sceptre ruleth all:
earth, heav'n and hell before him bow
and at his footstool fall.

For Judah's Lion burst his chains,
and crushed the serpent's head;
and brought with him, from death's
domains,
the long-imprisoned dead.

*Words St Fulbert of Chartres
Music by Gauntlett*

The Blessing

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

God the Father,
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

We are raised to new life with Christ.

Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Organ Voluntary: *Piece d'orgue BWV 572* – J.S Bach