

Parish Church of St Alphege Solihull



Choral Eucharist

2nd May 2021

10.30am

Order of Service

for the Season of Eastertide

Easter 5

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

Come, let us join our cheerful songs
with angels round the throne;
ten thousand thousand are their
tongues,
but all their joys are one.

The whole creation joins in one
to bless the sacred name
of him that sits upon the throne,
and to adore the Lamb.

'Worthy the Lamb that died,' they cry,
'to be exalted thus';
'Worthy the Lamb,' our lips reply,
'for he was slain for us.'

*Words by Isaac Watts
Music by Henry Lahee*

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.*

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.*

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, 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.*

Music by Chris Bell

The Collect

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen 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 8: 26- end

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem

to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 John 4: 7- end

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the

Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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 first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;

I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 15: 1- 8

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be

done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Creed

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

*We hail thy Presence glorious
O Christ our great high Priest
O'er sin and death victorious
At thy thanksgiving feast
As thou art interceding
For us in heaven above
Thy Church on earth is pleading
Thy perfect work of love*

*O stream of love unending
Poured from the one true Vine
With our weak nature blending
The strength of life divine
Our thankful faith confessing
In thy life-blood outpoured
We drink this Cup of blessing
And praise thy name, O Lord*

*Words by Richard Parsons
Music by Michael Haydn*

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 hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.
Amen.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of
the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Music by Herbert Sumsion

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 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

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 Herbert Sumson

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

I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet
to my taste.
He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was
love.

*Song of Solomon 2: 3b-4
Music by Edward Bairstow*

Communion Hymn

This is my body, broken for you,
bringing you wholeness, making you free.
Take it and eat it, and when you do,
do it in love for me.

This is my blood poured out for you,
bringing forgiveness, making you free.
Take it and drink it, and when you do,
do it in love for me.

Filled with my Spirit, how you will grow!
You are my branches; I am the tree.
If you are faithful, others will know
you are alive in me.

Words – James Owens

Music – Peter Jacobs

Post Communion Prayer

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
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

I danced in the morning when the world
was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars
and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I
danced on the earth:
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

*Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may
be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
But they would not dance and they
wouldn't follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and
John;
They came with me and the dance went
on:

Refrain

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the
lame:
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they
hung me on high,
And they left me there on a cross to die:

Refrain

I danced on a Friday when the sky
turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on
your back.
They buried my body and they thought
I'd gone;
But I am the dance, and I still go on:

Refrain

They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die.
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:
I am the Lord of the dance, said he.

Refrain

*Words by Sydney Carter
Music from American Shaker Melodies*

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: *Pomp and Circumstance March No.4* – Edward Elgar