

**Parish Church of St Alphege Solihull**



**Choral Eucharist**

**The Eucharist for the Feast of St Alphege**

**21st April 10.30am**

**Order of Service**



## The Gathering

### The Greeting

✙ 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.

**All** and also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**All** He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

*Words of welcome or introduction may be said.*

### The Confession

The saints were faithful in life and in death  
and now dwell in the heavenly kingdom for ever.  
As we celebrate their joy,  
let us bring to the Lord our sins and weaknesses,  
and ask for his mercy.

We are often slow to follow the example of Christ.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All** Lord, have mercy.

We often fail to be known as Christ's disciples.  
Christ, have mercy.

**All** Christ, have mercy.

We often fail to walk the way of the cross.

Lord, have mercy.

**All** Lord, have mercy.

## The 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.

**All** Amen.

*Please stand to sing the Gloria.*

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

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

*Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father.*

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

*We worship you,*

**All**      **Glory in the highest**

*Give you thanks*

**All**      **Glory in the highest**

*Praise you for your glory.*

**All**      **Glory to God, glory in the highest. Peace to his people, peace 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,*

**All**      **Have mercy on us;**

*You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer,*

**All**      **Receive our prayer.**

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

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

*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 glory of God the Father.*

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

**Amen.**

(Music by Peter Jones)

*The president prays the Collect for the Day.*

Merciful God,  
who raised up your servant Alphege  
to be a pastor of your people  
and gave him grace to suffer for justice and true religion:  
grant that we who celebrate his martyrdom  
may know the power of the risen Christ in our hearts  
and share his peace in lives offered to your service;  
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.

**All**            **Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

**First Reading – Acts 4.5-12**

*At the end of the reading:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All**            **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 23 (Gelineau/Murray)

Response (repeat after cantor, then once after every verse)



His good - ness shall fol - low me al - ways to the end of my days.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.  
Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose.  
Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.

He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name.  
If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear.  
You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me  
comfort.

You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes.  
My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life.  
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

## Second Reading – 1 John 3.16-end

*At the end of the reading:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All** Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able.

The Choir and Congregation sing the Gospel Acclamation.

The image shows a musical score for a Gospel Acclamation. It consists of two systems of music. The first system is labeled 'Vocal descant' and 'People (1st time Choir. All repeat)'. The vocal line is in G major, 6/8 time, and features a melodic line with lyrics: 'AL — LE — LU — IA, AL — LE — LU — IA.' The piano accompaniment is in G major, 6/8 time, and features a bass line with lyrics: 'A E D E A D E'. The second system is a repeat of the first system, with the piano accompaniment featuring a different bass line with lyrics: 'A E Bm E A D E A'. The piano accompaniment is in G major, 6/8 time, and features a bass line with lyrics: 'A E Bm E A D E A'.

Please stand as able.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**All** Alleluia, 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.

**All** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**All** Glory to you, O Lord.



Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**All**      **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end of the Gospel reading:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All**      **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Creed**

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

**All**      **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.**

## Prayers of Intercession

We pray for strength to follow Jesus.  
Saviour, we hear your call.

**All**      **Help us to follow.**

Jesus said: 'Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant.'

Saviour, we hear your call.

**All**      **Help us to follow.**

Jesus said: 'Unless you change and become humble like little children, you can never enter the kingdom of heaven.'

Saviour, we hear your call.

**All**      **Help us to follow.**

Jesus said: 'Happy are the humble; they will receive what God has promised.'

Saviour, we hear your call.

**All**      **Help us to follow.**

Jesus said: 'Be merciful as your Father is merciful; love your enemies and do good to them.'

Saviour, we hear your call.

**All**      **Help us to follow.**

Jesus said: 'Love one another, as I love you; there is no greater love than this, to lay down your life for your friends.'

Saviour, we hear your call.

**All**      **Help us to follow.**

Jesus said: 'Go to people everywhere  
and make them my disciples,  
and I will be with you always, to the end of time.'  
Saviour, we hear your call.

**All Help us to follow.**

God of mercy,  
**All You know us and love us  
and hear our prayer:  
keep us in the eternal fellowship of Jesus Christ our Saviour.  
Amen.**

*The prayers may end with:*

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

## **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

### **The Peace**

*We stand.*

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.  
**All And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.

**All** As we offer cheerful praises  
in this ancient holy shrine,  
round this table where we worship,  
meeting Christ in bread and wine,  
let us thank God for our patron,  
Alphege, martyr, saint, divine.

Lo, a thousand years before us,  
barb'rous Danes assailed this land:  
homesteads, boroughs, churches, abbeys,  
pillaged by a plundering band;  
and the people suffered deeply  
from the cruel heathen hand.

Pious Alphege, humble prelate,  
languished in captivity,  
while his jailers sought a ransom  
from his flock in poverty.  
But the saint forbade the payment  
that would buy his liberty.

As his captors camped at Greenwich  
sadly dawned the fateful day:  
warriors in a drunken fury  
launched a murderous affray,  
showered the saint with bones of oxen,  
slew the old man as he lay.

Sorrowing monks conveyed his body  
to a sombre, holy wake.  
Faithful flocked to Canterbury  
loving pilgrimage to make.  
Dane and Saxon learned to honour  
him who died for justice sake.

Praised be God for Holy Alphege;  
may his mem'ry not abate.  
Praise God for his steadfast courage,  
as he faced an unjust fate.  
May a modern generation  
learn that love can conquer hate.

Tune: Westminster Abbey

## Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

God of faithfulness,  
your servant Alphege praised you in his death.  
Receive all we bring before you this day,  
and give us the strength of will  
to proclaim your righteousness and love.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All** 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, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For following the example of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
your holy martyr Alphege shed his blood for the glory of your name.  
His death reveals your power made perfect in our human frailty.  
You choose the weak and make them strong in bearing witness to  
you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore with joyful hearts we echo on earth the song of the  
angels in heaven as they praise your glory without end:

*The Choir sings the Sanctus and Benedictus:*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts.  
Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory:  
Glory be to Thee, O Lord most High.  
Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord;  
Hosanna in the highest.

*Music by  
Darke*

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:  
**All** 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.

**All** Amen.

*We sit.*

## The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**All**     **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.

**All**     **Lord, our hearts hunger for you;  
give us this bread always.**

## The Invitation

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**All**     **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*We are all invited to draw near to God today. If you, or your children, regularly receive the bread and wine at any Christian church, you are most welcome to do so. If you do not usually receive the bread and wine, or prefer not to do so today, you are invited to come forward to receive a prayer of blessing. If you do this, you may want to hold your hands together in prayer so that we know your intention. Thank you.*



## The Giving of Communion

*Whilst those helping with the administration receive, the choir sings the 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  
Darke*

*The Choir sings a anthem/motet during the Distribution:*

*Te Deum - Howells*

## Post-Communion Prayer

*The president will pray this week's post-communion prayer.*

Merciful Father,  
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,  
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:  
keep us always under his protection,  
and give us grace to follow in his steps;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All**     **Almighty God,**  
**we thank you for feeding us**  
**with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.**  
**Through him we offer you our souls and bodies**  
**to be a living sacrifice.**  
**Send us out in the power of your Spirit**  
**to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**  
**Amen.**

## Dismissal

### Notices

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

### The Blessing

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*The president says*

God give you grace to follow his saints  
in faith and hope and love;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
✝ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

We are raised to new life with Christ.  
Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia.

**All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Final Hymn - 330**

*Organ Voluntary: Prelude & Fugue in G major BMV541 – J S Bach*



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