



***All Age Eucharist
with the admission of first communicants***

First 
Communion

St Alphege Parish Church, Solihull

Sunday 11th May 2025 at 9.15am

GATHERING HYMN – HON 201 God is love: his the care
(First two lines of chorus from HON 400)

**God is love: his the care,
tending each, everywhere.
God is love, all is there!
Jesus came to show him,
that we all might know him!**

Chorus

***Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!
God is good! God is truth!
God is beauty! Praise him!***

**None can see God above;
we can share life and love;
thus may we Godward move,
seek him in creation,
holding every nation.**

Chorus

**Jesus lived on the earth,
hope and life brought to birth
and affirmed human worth,
For he came to save us
By the truth he gave us.**

Chorus

**To our Lord, praise we sing,
light and life, friend and King,
coming down, love to bring,
pattern for our duty,
showing God in beauty.**

Chorus

In my head (touch head)
in my heart (touch heart)
and all around me (touch shoulders one by one)
Jesus is here (open hands in front, facing upwards)
Amen.

We say together:

All: **In my head** (*touch head*)
in my heart (*touch heart*)
and all around me (*touch shoulders one by one*)
Jesus is here (*open hands in front, facing upwards*)
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!

Please sit

The President introduces the service.

Today is a great day of celebration! Today, *Nathaniel, Victor, Ethan, and Ivy* will receive our risen Lord Jesus Christ for the first time in bread and wine. They have been preparing with the encouragement of their families by learning a deeper understanding of what we do when we meet together for the breaking of bread. We welcome them with their families and supporters and look forward to admitting them later in the service.

In baptism we died with Christ, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, we might walk in newness of life.

Let us receive new life in him as we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

We keep a moment of stillness.

Invite everyone to curl their hands into a ball.

Forgive us for holding things too tightly and forgetting to share.

All sing **Jesus, Lord, have mercy on us,
Jesus, Lord, have mercy on us,
Jesus, Lord, have mercy on us, have mercy on us all.**

Invite everyone to cross their arms.

Forgive us for not showing friendship and help to other people.

All sing **Christ our Lord have mercy on us,
Christ our Lord have mercy on us,
Christ our Lord have mercy on us, have mercy on us all.**

Invite everyone to cover their ears with their hands

Forgive us for all the times we turn away from you and ignore your voice.

All sing **Jesus, Lord, have mercy on us,
Jesus, Lord, have mercy on us,
Jesus, Lord, have mercy on us, have mercy on us all.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

May God our Father forgive you your sins,
and bring you to the fellowship of his table

with his saints for ever.

All Amen.

COLLECT PRAYER

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father.

All Amen.

President

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION HON 637 The Lord's my shepherd

THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

All Glory to you, O Lord.

'The Good Shepherd' from the Storyteller Bible, based on Luke 15:1-10

At the end of the Gospel:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ

THE TALK

REMINDER OF BAPTISM

The President invites the candidates to stand and addresses them:

Since it is through Baptism alone that we have access to the Lord's Table,

I invite you to come to the font

where you will make the sign of the cross on your forehead

with the blessed water of baptism

as a reminder of your Baptism

by which you became a member of the worldwide Christian family, the Church.

The candidates walk to the font, following the processional cross. Close family members and any Godparents are invited to follow. We all stand and turn to face the font.

WE BELIEVE

Please stand

Let us all stand and affirm,

our common faith in Jesus Christ – responding, 'I believe and trust in God.'

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All I believe and trust in God.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All I believe and trust in God.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All I believe and trust in God.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

The candidates are invited to dip their fingers in the water of the font

and make the sign of the cross on their foreheads;

President

As we prepare to invite these young people to the Eucharist, I invite them to walk from the font, the place of baptism, to gather in front of the altar, where we will share the Lord's Supper. Candidates will face the congregation, with parents, siblings, and godparents standing behind.

WELCOME TO FIRST COMMUNICANTS

Tutors: On behalf of this community,
we present to you these young people
to be admitted to the fellowship of the Lord's table.

President: Have they completed faithfully and diligently
their course of preparation?

Tutors: They have.

President:

Brothers and sisters,
today we are welcoming these young people to Holy Communion.
Some time ago, all these children were baptized
and became members of the Body of Christ.
As parents and godparents, and as the community of Solihull Parish,
we share the responsibility of encouraging them in their worship and learning,
and of supporting them by our friendship, our example and our prayers.

Will you help them to grow in faith and love?

All We will.

The President addresses all the candidates by name: (Nathaniel, Ethan, Victor, Ivy).

You love God, you follow Jesus, and you live the Christian life.
Do you wish to receive Holy Communion?

Candidates : We do

Addressing the congregation, the president asks:

People of God, these young people are members of our Christian family. On behalf of the whole people of God, I ask: are you ready to welcome them with joy as communicant members of the Church?

All In the Lord's name we welcome them.

In the name of our Bishops, Michael and Esther, I admit you to the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. May God bless you as you continue with us on the pilgrim journey of faith.

PRESENTATION OF CROSSES

As a sign of our welcome and as a reminder of this happy day we give to each of you a cross, a reminder that you need never feel alone. We pray that as you look upon the cross of Jesus you will come to know how much the Lord loves you. We ask you to accept this gift with our love and as a sign of our welcome and fellowship in the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The community expresses its joy and welcome with applause as the crosses are distributed.

President:

As all these young people receive today the sacrament of the body and blood of Christ, let us pray that we may all know and reflect the love of Christ.

Loving God, we pray for *Ethan, Ivy, Nathaniel and Victor* and ask that they may know you are with them every day, and that your presence is with them in every situation. Help them to be confident to share in your life and courageous in sharing that life with others.

All Amen.

Loving God, as we give thanks for these young people and this step that they are taking today, help each of us to walk with you, to know the presence of your Spirit within and beside us, that together we might grow in holiness, ready to be sent into the world, to love and serve in Jesus' name.

All Amen.

Finally, a prayer for Christian Aid as we begin Christian Aid week.

Loving God, we give thanks for the work of Christian Aid and for all who dedicate their lives to serving others. We thank you for the opportunity to participate in this work through our giving, becoming part of a global community of love and compassion. May our actions be a reflection of your love and your grace.

All Amen.

THE PEACE

Please stand if you are able

Alleluia! Christ has been raised from the dead.
May the peace of the Lord be always with you. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All And also with you. Alleluia! Alleluia!

We remain in our places and offer one another a sign of peace.

The candidates, parents, siblings, godparents and tutors return to their seats.

OFFERTORY SONG – HON 636 The Lord's my shepherd (*tune: Merla Watson*)

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Father, by your Holy Spirit,
you keep the Church in unity and truth.
As we break bread together,
may we be one with Christ
in faith and hope and love,
now and forever.

All Amen

The Lord is here

All His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Ist Young Person Why is it right to give thanks and praise?

All Listen, and we will hear

Lord of all life,
you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

You give us happy times
and things to celebrate.
In these we taste your kingdom,
a feast for all your children.

You made us all, each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels and sing your praise:

**All sing Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of pow'r and God of might:
heaven and earth, heaven and earth are full of your glory,
your pow'r and might.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest heav'ns.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest heav'ns.**

**Blessed, blessed is he who comes,
blessed, blessed is he who comes;**

**blessed is he, blessed is he
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest heav'ns.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest heav'ns.**

Please sit

We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.
Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

2nd Young Person Why do we share this bread and wine?
All **Listen, and we will hear**

On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit, and change us more and more

to be like Jesus our Saviour.

3rd Young Person How do we follow Jesus Christ?

All Listen, and we will hear

Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.
And now with St Alphege... and all your saints
we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever.

All Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As God's children, loved and cherished, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

All join in singing the words in bold:

Jesus, Lamb of God have mercy on us.

All Jesus, Lamb of God have mercy on us.

Jesus, Word made flesh, bearer of our sins:

All Jesus, Lamb of God have mercy on us.

Jesus, Bread of Life, have mercy on us.

All Jesus, Bread of Life, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Morning Star, Jesus, Prince of Peace:

All Jesus, Bread of Life, have mercy on us.

Jesus, Lamb of God have mercy on us.

All Jesus, Lamb of God have mercy on us.

Jesus, King of kings, Jesus, Lord of all:

All Jesus, Lamb of God, give us your peace.

GIVING OF COMMUNION

Alleluia! Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

All Therefore let us celebrate the feast.

We receive communion.

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 today. 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.

The Junior Choristers sing the Taizé chant HON 766 “In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful”

*In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid;
lift up your voices; the Lord is near,
lift up your voices; the Lord is near.*

*In the Lord is my true salvation, in the Lord my lasting joy!
He became my strength and my song:
I trust in him and I shall not fear,
I trust in him and I shall not fear.*

Repeat first verse

SONG DURING COMMUNION – HON 282 How sweet the name of Jesus
sounds
(tune SoF 782)

**How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear;
it soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,
and drives away his fear.
It makes the wounded spirit whole,
and calms the troubled breast;
'tis manna to the hungry soul,
and to the weary rest,
and to the weary rest.**

**Dear Name, the rock on which I build,
my shield, and hiding-place;
my never-failing treasury, filled
with boundless stores of grace.
Jesus, my Shepherd, Saviour, friend,
my Prophet, Priest and King;
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,
accept the praise I bring,
accept the praise I bring.**

**Weak is the effort of my heart,
and cold my warmest thought;
but when I see you as you are,
I'll praise you as I ought,
I would your boundless love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
so shall the music of your name
refresh my soul in death,
refresh my soul in death.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen

NOTICES AND BANNINGS OF MARRIAGE

The President gives out any notices and bannings of marriage.

Please stand, if you are able, to sing the final song.

FINAL SONG – SoF 1498 Over all the earth (Lord, reign in me)

**Over all the earth, you reign on high,
ev'ry mountain stream, ev'ry sunset sky.
But my one request, Lord, my only aim
is that you'd reign in me again.**

Refrain

***Lord, reign in me, reign in your pow'r
over all my dreams, in my darkest hour.
You are the Lord of all I am,
so won't you reign in me again.***

**Over ev'ry thought, over ev'ry word,
may my life reflect the beauty of my Lord;
'cause you mean more to me than any earthly thing,
so won't you reign in me again.**

Refrain

PRESENTATION OF CANDLES

Before the final blessing each candidate is presented with a candle as a reminder of this special day.

You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.

All Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

THE BLESSING

God the Father,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.

All Amen.

God the Son,
who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

All Amen.

God the Holy Spirit,
who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

All Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Growing Disciples, Building Community, Transforming Lives
www.solihullparish.org.uk
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