



LICHFIELD
CATHEDRAL



*A new commandment I give you:
Love one another as I have loved you*

Choral Eucharist
5th May 2024 – 10.30
Sixth Sunday of Easter

President

The Revd Canon Andrew Stead – *Canon Precentor*

Preacher

The Rt Revd Jan McFarlane – *Interim Dean*

Lichfield Cathedral is called to live and proclaim the transforming love of God. Through the fullness of its life in the Spirit, it seeks to be a sign of the friendship and freedom that God in Jesus Christ has given the whole world to enjoy.

ALL ARE WELCOME ... THIS IS YOUR CATHEDRAL....



Welcome to this service whether you are worshipping in the Cathedral or via YouTube at home during this Easter season.



Welcome to your Cathedral. If you're here with small children, we're very glad to see you! It's good to have you with us and joining in the worship. If you'd like one, there are activity bags with simple activities for children and a sheet with activities that follow the readings you'll hear in the service today - please ask the stewards who welcomed you for one. If you, or your child, needs some time out, you can use St Stephen's Chapel - straight ahead and to the left of the large hanging cross, near the large font. It has green walls and two entrances. There you'll find there some stories, and simple craft activities. But please come back when you want! Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me.'

To our worshippers here without children: children are a sign that the Body of Christ is growing, and a reminder that God is always doing a new thing. Please greet parents, carers and children with a smile.

Safety

Please always follow any directions given in how we need to move around the Cathedral. In the unlikely event of an emergency, please remain quiet and respond calmly and promptly to the directions of the Vergers.

Spiritual Communion

While some cannot, for a number of reasons, come to Church to receive their communion in person we will continue to incorporate the Spiritual Communion within our worship at the point of the distribution.

Receiving Communion

People will be able to choose whether they wish or not to receive their Holy Communion in the form of wine as well as bread. If you take the chalice, please help the person giving the chalice by guiding the cup to your lips. People are also reminded that we do not allow intinction (dipping the bread into the wine) at the Cathedral. Please follow the instructions given by the Stewards who will direct you to a communion station. Gluten-free bread will be available at each station.

Posture

The order of service indicates whether to sit or stand, however please feel free to adopt the posture that you feel most comfortable with.

Offerings

Your gifts are vital in sustaining our mission and worship. A collection will be taken by the Stewards during the offertory hymn. Please do Gift Aid your donation if you are a UK taxpayer by completing the required details on the envelopes provided. There are electronic giving points where you can tap a debit or credit card; if you need assistance with these devices please do ask a steward or vergier.

Refreshments

At the end of the service refreshments are available in the North Transept. We do hope that you will join us for a time of fellowship together.

Photography and Livestreaming

Whilst we ask that members of the congregation do not take photographs or video of our worship, please note that at some of our services our Cathedral volunteer photographers will be taking photographs. We are also livestreaming to Facebook or YouTube many of our services. Whilst we do our best to not film the congregation for the livestream, please do let us know if this is a particular issue for you and we will assist by letting you know where you can sit so that you do not appear on screen.

Music

Our service is sung today by the Cathedral Choir conducted by the Director of Music, Ben Lamb. The organ is played by the Assistant Director of Music, Martyn Rawles. The setting for the Eucharist is the Communion Service in G by Francis Jackson (1917-2022).

Preparation before the Service

The time before the service you are invited to keep as a period of quiet preparation for worship. You might find the following prayer useful:

*Risen Christ,
by the lakeside you renewed your call to your disciples:
help your Church to obey your command
and draw the nations to the fire of your love,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

*Please join in whatever is printed in **bold type**.*

THE GATHERING

Stand

INTROIT HYMN 140 *Truro*



Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift, and war,
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

Brian A Wren (*b. 1936*)

THE GREETING

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Sit as the President offers further words of welcome, concluding

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.

It is to be made ready for those who love him
and for those who want to love him more.

So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little,
you who have been here often and you who have not been here long,
you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.
Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.
It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

*The Iona Community, Iona Abbey Worship Book,
Wild Goose Publications, 2001*

THE RITE OF PENITENCE

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

1 Corinthians 5.7,8

A moment of silence is kept.

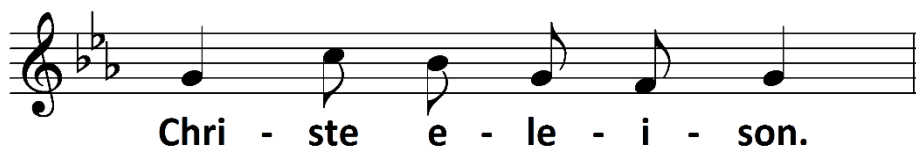
A cantor sings each petition, then the choir sings the Kyrie/Christe which all repeat:

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life.



(Lord, have mercy)

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins.



(Christ, have mercy)

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the living bread.



(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.**

Stand

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO (choir)

*Glory to God in the highest, and 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.
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 the Father: receive our prayer.
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 Father. Amen.*

THE COLLECT

Let us pray:

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy;
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.**

Sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

NEW TESTAMENT READING Acts 10.44-48



A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A short period of silence is kept.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Stand

The choir sings Alleluia which all repeat

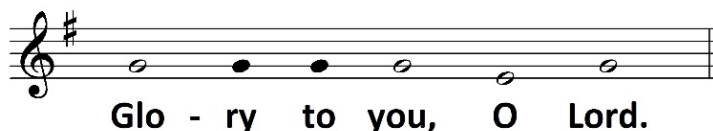
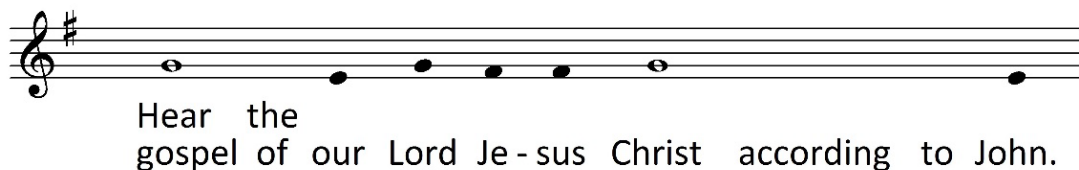
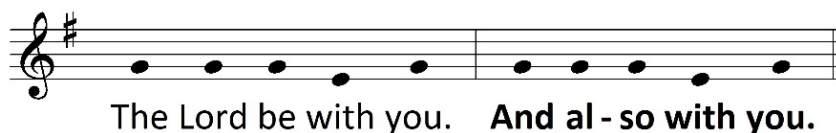


Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

John 6.35

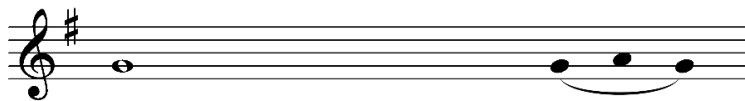
Turn towards the reading of the Gospel in the middle of the Nave.

GOSPEL READING John 15.9-17



As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.



This is the Gospel of the Lord. —



Praise to you, O Christ. —

A fanfare is sounded to honour the reading of the Gospel.

Sit

SERMON

Stand

NICENE CREED *sung in the arrangement of John Merbecke*

We believe in one God, **the Father almighty,**
maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;

who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man,
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried,
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.
And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead:
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
together is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the prophets.

And we believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.

And we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.

Sit

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

The prayers conclude

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

THE PEACE

Stand

Alleluia. Christ has been raised from the dead.

1 Corinthians 15.20

Alleluia. The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

The Deacon of the Gospel says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange the peace with their neighbour.

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Bread and wine are carried through the congregation and presented at the altar, together with prayer slips that have been left at the Shrine of St Chad during the week.

*A **collection** is taken to support the mission and ministry of the Cathedral. Please give as generously as you are able and, if you are a UK taxpayer, use the Gift Aid envelopes provided.*



**You shall go out with joy
and come again in peace;
the mountains and the hills
shall sing and never cease;
the Son of God is ris'n again,
his love has conquered death's domain.**

**The trees in every field
shall clap their hands, and say
'Come shout aloud, and help
us celebrate this day!'
Jesus, the King, has burst the grave,
and lives once more to heal and save.**

**The Word, like rain or snow,
has come down from above,
and now reveals to all
God's purposes of love;
the Word made flesh, once dead, now lives,
new life to all he freely gives.**

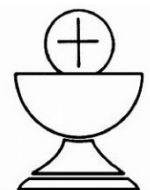
**The myrtle for the briar,
the cypress for the thorn,
shall rise to tell the world
of its awaking dawn.
Jesus, the Life, the Truth, the Way,
has ushered in God's great new day.**

N.T. Wright (*b. 1948*) based on Isaiah 55.10-13

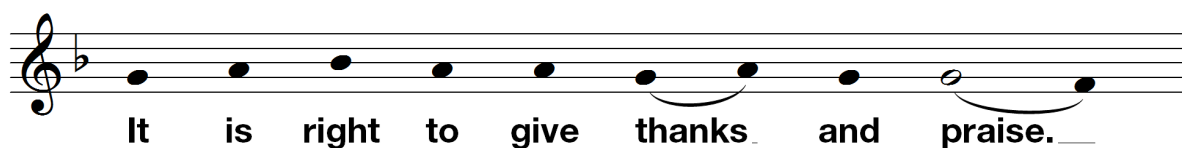
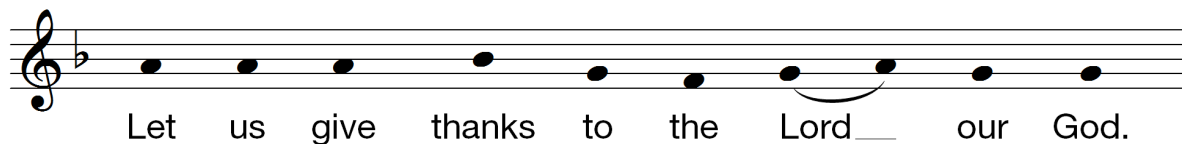
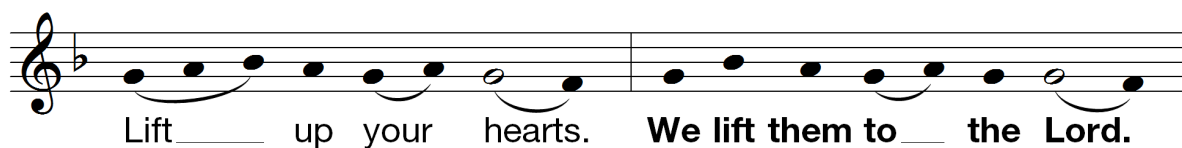
Remain standing

TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

Risen Lord Jesus Christ, we believe you, and all we have heard is true. When you break bread may we recognise you as the fire that burns within us, that we may bring light to your world. **Amen.**



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter 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.

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS (*choir*)

*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.*

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.

As a mother tenderly gathers her children,
you embraced a people as your own.

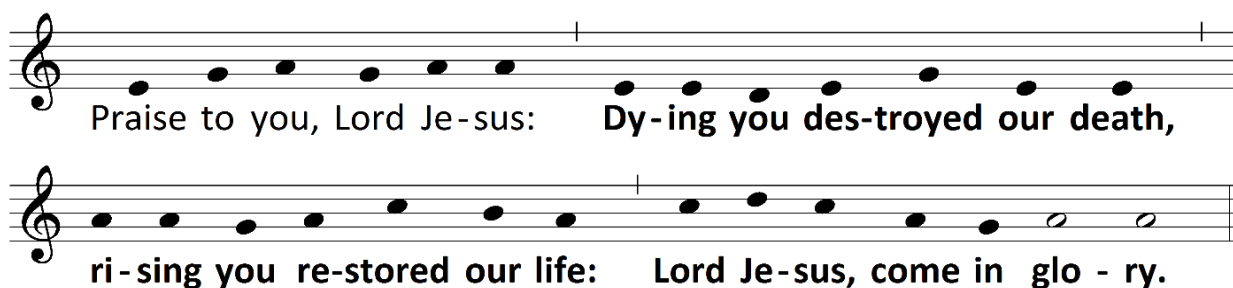
When they turned away and rebelled your love remained steadfast.

From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,
to be the living bread, in whom all our hungers are satisfied.

He offered his life for sinners, and with a love stronger than death he opened wide his arms on the cross.

On the night before he died,
he came to supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.
He broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, 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.



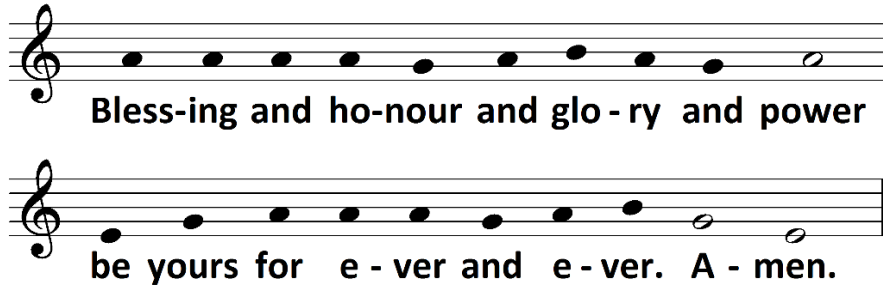
Father, we plead with confidence
his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;
we remember his dying and rising in glory,
and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.
Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you
these gifts of your creation;
may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,
form us in the likeness of Christ,
and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Bring us at the last with Blessed Mary the Virgin,
Chad our Patron and all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour
for which you have created us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

by whom, with whom, and in whom,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

The people respond:



Sit

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven,
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.**

BREAKING OF THE 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.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The President receives Holy Communion and then leads the Spiritual Communion for those who are prevented from receiving their communion, and worshipping with us from home. We invite those in the Cathedral to pray quietly for them as the President leads them in prayer.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION *(for those worshipping online)*

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

Those of any Christian denomination who are accustomed to receiving Holy Communion in their own churches are invited to do so here. Please follow the directions given by the Stewards who will indicate which communion station you should go to. If you do not normally receive communion, please do come forward to receive a prayer of blessing. Gluten free hosts are available at each station for those who require them.

AGNUS DEI *(choir)*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us; grant us peace.*

MOTET Greater Love — *John Ireland (1879-1962)*

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it. Love is strong as death. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness. Ye are washed, ye are sanctified, ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus. Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. I beseech you brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies, a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto to God, which is your reasonable service.

Song of Songs 8.6f; John 15.13; I Peter 2.9, 24; I Corinthians 6.11; Romans 12.1

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sit

Let us pray:

God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water of eternal life:
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

NOTICES

Stand

HYMN 145 *Gelobt sei Gott*

**Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King.
To all the world glad news we bring: *Alleluia.***

**The Lord of Life is risen for ay:
bring flowers of song to strew his way;
let all the earth rejoice and say *Alleluia.***

**Praise we in songs of victory
that Love, that Life, which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high: *Alleluia.***

**Thy name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing to-day with one accord
the life laid down, the life restored: *Alleluia.***

C A Alington (1872-1955)

Remain standing

THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

May Christ, who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,
fill you with his new life; and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Deacon of the Gospel says

We are raised to new life with Christ.

Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Remain standing as the choir and clergy depart

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

The trees Unfold

Judith Weir (b. 1954)

Please do stay for refreshments, these are served in the North Transept.



Later today:

15:30 Choral Evensong

Responses: *Morley*

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis: Evening Service in B minor – *Noble*

Anthem: Blessed be the God and Father – *Wesley*

Organ Voluntary: Resurrection (Symphonie-Passion) - *Dupré*

**If you would like to be kept informed of services and events
at Lichfield Cathedral please do get in touch with us.**

Our general 'phone number is 01543 306100

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www.lichfield-cathedral.org

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