



LICHFIELD
• CATHEDRAL •



Choral Eucharist

4TH May 2025 – 10.30

Third Sunday of Easter

President

The Revd Canon Dr Gregory Platten - *Canon Chancellor*

Preacher

The Rt Revd Jan McFarlane – *Dean*

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



Welcome to this service whether you are worshipping in the Cathedral or via YouTube at home as we gather together 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 steward or verger. You can also scan this QR code or visit www.lichfield-cathedral.org/donate to donate online.



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 and the organ is played by the Assistant Director of Music, Martyn Rawles. The setting for the Eucharist is the Communion Service in F by *Harold Darke (1888 – 1976)*.

*Texts reproduced from Common Worship are copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2006.
Words of copyright hymns are reproduced under licence CCL 155215*

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,
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Please join in whatever is printed in bold type.

THE GATHERING

Stand

INTROIT HYMN 148 *St Albinus*



1. Jesus lives! thy terrors now
can, O Death, no more appal us;
Jesus lives! by this we know
thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us.
Alleluia!

2. Jesus lives! henceforth is death
but the gate of life immortal:
this shall calm our trembling breath,
when we pass its gloomy portal.
Alleluia!

4. Jesus lives! our hearts know well
nought from us his love shall sever;
life nor death nor powers of hell
tear us from his keeping ever.
Alleluia!

3. Jesus lives! for us he died;
then, alone to Jesus living,
pure in heart may we abide,
glory to our Saviour giving.
Alleluia!

5. Jesus lives! to him the throne
over all the world is given:
may we go where he is gone,
rest and reign with him in heaven.
Alleluia!

C F Gellert (1715-1769) *tr.* Frances Elizabeth Cox (1812-1897)

THE GREETING

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

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Sit as the President offers further words of welcome, concluding

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.

THE RITE OF PENITENCE

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

Open our eyes to the presence in our midst.



(Lord, have mercy)

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Turn our hearts from selfish ends.



(Christ, have mercy)

Chri - ste e - le - i - son.

Draw us into your company on the way.



(Lord, have mercy)

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

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:

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.**

Sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

NEW TESTAMENT READING Acts 9.1-20



A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.'

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



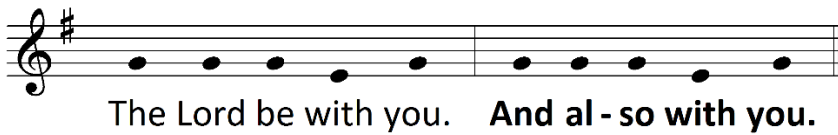
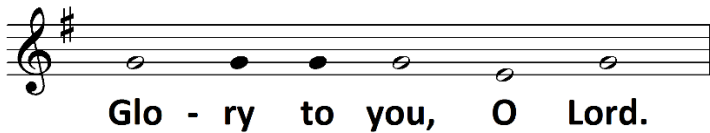
Jesus said, 'All who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

John 6.40

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

GOSPEL READING

John 21.1-19

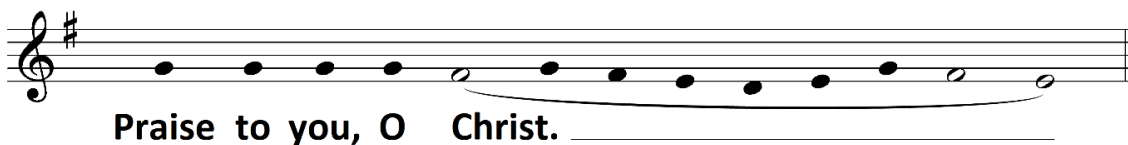
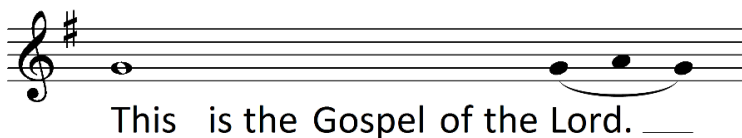
The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**Hear the
gospel of our Lord Je - sus Christ according to John.**Glo - ry to you, O Lord.**

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’ A second time he said to him, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Tend my sheep.’ He said to him the third time, ‘Simon son of John, do you love me?’ Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, ‘Do you love me?’ And he said to him, ‘Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.’ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, ‘Follow me.’



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. Alleluia.

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 request 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.*

OFFERTORY HYMN 138 *Salzburg*



**1. At the Lamb's high feast we sing
praise to our victorious King,
who hath washed us in the tide
flowing from his pierced side;
praise we him, whose love divine
gives his sacred blood for wine,
gives his body for the feast,
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.**

**3. Mighty victim from the sky,
hell's fierce powers beneath thee lie;
thou hast conquered in the fight,
thou hast brought us life and light.
Now no more can death appal,
now no more the grave enthrall:
thou hast opened paradise,
and in thee thy saints shall rise.**

**2. Where the Paschal blood is poured,
death's dark angel sheaths his sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go
through the wave that drowns the foe.
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,
Paschal victim, Paschal bread;
with sincerity and love
eat we manna from above.**

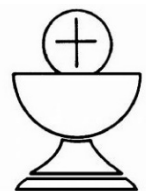
**4. Easter triumph, Easter joy,
sin alone can this destroy;
from sin's power do thou set free
souls new-born, O Lord, in thee.
Hymns of glory and of praise,
risen Lord, to thee we raise;
holy Father, praise to thee,
with the Spirit, ever be.**

Latin Breviary hymn *tr.* Robert Campbell (1814-1868)

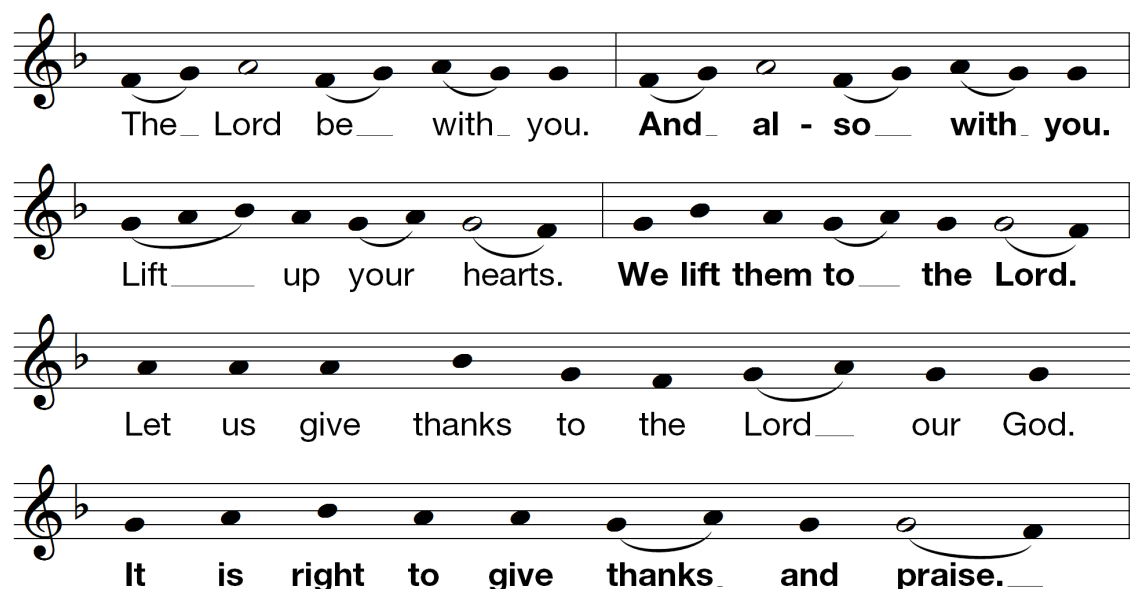
Remain standing

TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

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 be with you. And al - so with you.
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 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,

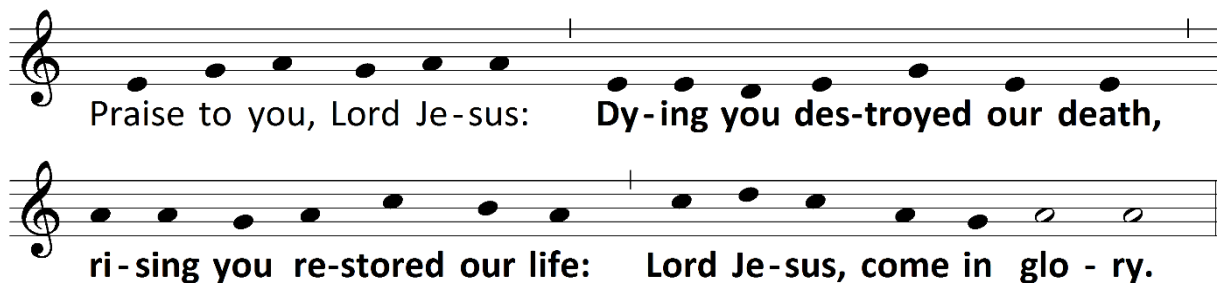
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

All glory be to you, our heavenly Father, who, in your tender mercy,
gave your only Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption;
who made there by his one oblation of himself once offered
a full, perfect and sufficient sacrifice,
oblation and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world;
he instituted, and in his holy gospel commanded us to continue,
a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

Hear us, merciful Father, we humbly pray,
and grant that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
we receiving these gifts of your creation, this bread and this wine,
according to your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution,
in remembrance of his death and passion,
may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
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.



Therefore, Lord and heavenly Father,
in remembrance of the precious death and passion,
the mighty resurrection and glorious ascension
of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
we offer you through him this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Grant that by his merits and death,
and through faith in his blood,
we and all your Church may receive forgiveness of our sins
and all other benefits of his passion.
Although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins,
to offer you any sacrifice,

yet we pray that you will accept this
the duty and service that we owe.
Do not weigh our merits, but pardon our offences,
and fill us all who share in this holy communion
with your grace and heavenly blessing;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.



Sit

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Looking for the coming of his kingdom,
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

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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 Now the green blade riseth – *Andrew Lumsden (b. 1962)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Kneel or sit

Let us pray:

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.

NOTICES

Stand

HYMN AHON 854 *Wolvercote*



1. You stood there on the shoreline
and waited in the dawn
to share with your disciples
the newness of the morn;
be with us now, Lord Jesus,
and make your presence known;
in resurrection power
declare today your own.

2. When hours of tiring labour
had brought them scant reward,
in your immense provision
they recognised their Lord;
when drudgery seems endless,
demeaning all our skill,
let this be our contentment:
to know and do your will.

3. On bread and fish they feasted
around a charcoal fire:
that resurrection breakfast
was all they could desire!
Like them, may we discover
the joy which never ends
when you, the King of glory,
count us among your friends.

4. Where Simon Peter languished
in guilt and burning shame,
you spoke of restoration,
and not of endless blame;
where sin and failure haunt us,
remind us what is true:
that we are now forgiven
and called to follow you.

Martin E. Leckebusch (b.1962)

Remain standing

THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.**

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
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 and an Organ Voluntary is played. Cortège - Louis Vierne (1870-1937) (trans. by Maurice Duruflé)

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

