



LICHFIELD
• CATHEDRAL •



Choral Eucharist
11th May 2025 – 10.30
Fourth Sunday of Easter

President & Preacher
The Right Reverend Dr Timothy Wambunya
The Bishop of Wolverhampton

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 Missa Brevis by *Sir Lennox Berkeley (1903 – 1989)*.

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,
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. Amen.*

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

THE GATHERING

Stand

INTROIT HYMN **468** Shaker Tune



I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
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 would not follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on:

Dance then, wherever you may be.....

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;
they left me there on a cross to die:

Dance, then, wherever you may be.....

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:

Dance, then, wherever you may be ...

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

Dance, then, wherever you may be.....

Sydney Bertram Carter (b.1915) © Stainer and Bell Ltd

Remain standing

THE GREETING

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

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

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.

cf Romans 6.4

A moment of silence is kept.

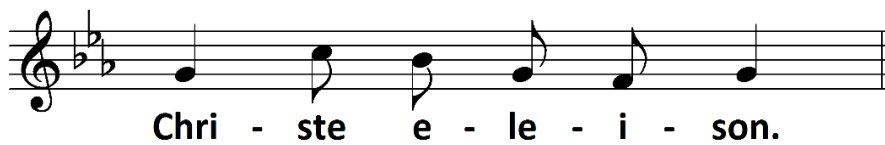
A cantor sings each petition, then the choir sings the Kyrie/Christe which all repeat:

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:
Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he 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 9.36-43



A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

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

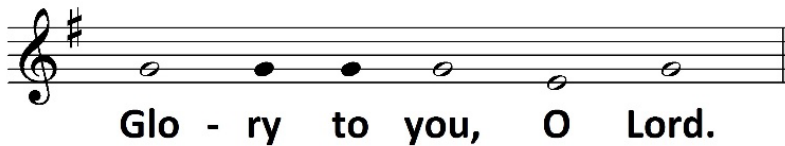
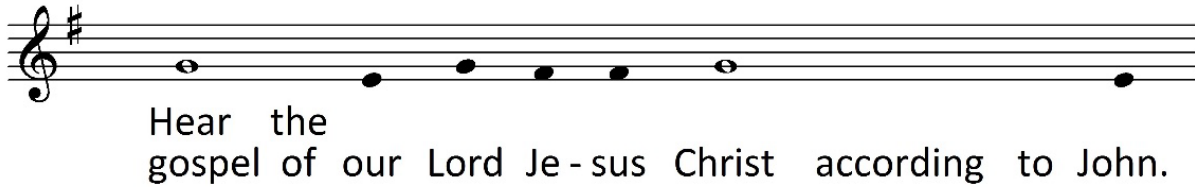
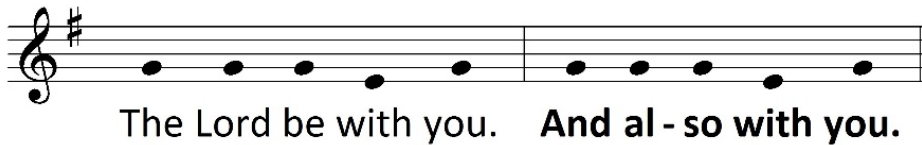


Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life.

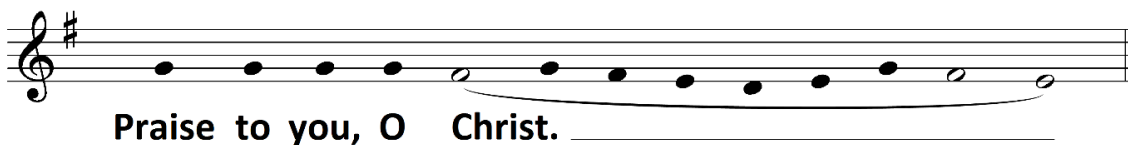
Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

John 11.25,26

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



At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, ‘How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.’ Jesus answered, ‘I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. The Father and I are one.’



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

Jesus, our exalted Lord, has been given all authority. Let us seek his intercession that our prayers may be perfected by his prayer.



Sit

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously 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

The two disciples told what had happened on the road to Emmaus, and how Jesus had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. Alleluia.

Luke 24.35

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

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 AHON 724 *The Lord's my shepherd*



**1. The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want;
he makes me lie in pastures green.
he leads me by the still, still waters,
his goodness restores my soul. Refrain..**

Refrain **And I will trust in You alone,
and I will trust in You alone,
for your endless mercy follows me,
your goodness will lead me home.**

**2. He guides my ways in righteousness,
and he anoints my head with oil,
and my cup, it overflows with joy,
I feast on his pure delights. Refrain...**

**3. And though I walk the darkest path,
I will not fear the evil one, for
you are with me, and your rod and staff
are the comfort I need to know. Refrain...**

Stuart Townend (b.1963)

Remain standing

TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
In your loving care you spread before us the table of life
and give us the cup of salvation to drink.
Keep us always in the fold of our Saviour and our Shepherd,
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Blessed be God for ever.



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.
And also 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*)

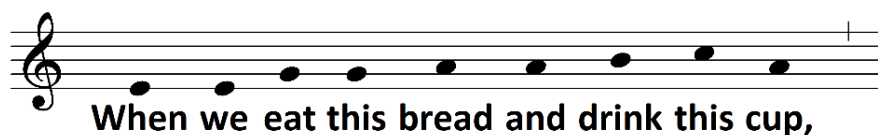
*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

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.



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 Blessed Mary the Virgin,
Chad our Patron, 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.**

Sit

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus taught us to call God our Father,
and so we have the courage to say:

**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 Sing We Merrily – *Adrian Batten (1591-1637)*

Sing we merrily unto God our strength:
make a cheerful noise unto the God of Jacob.
Take the song, bring hither the tablet: the merry harp with the lute.
Blow up the trumpet in the new moon: e'en in the time appointed.
And upon our solemn feast day.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Sit

Let us pray:

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. **Amen.**

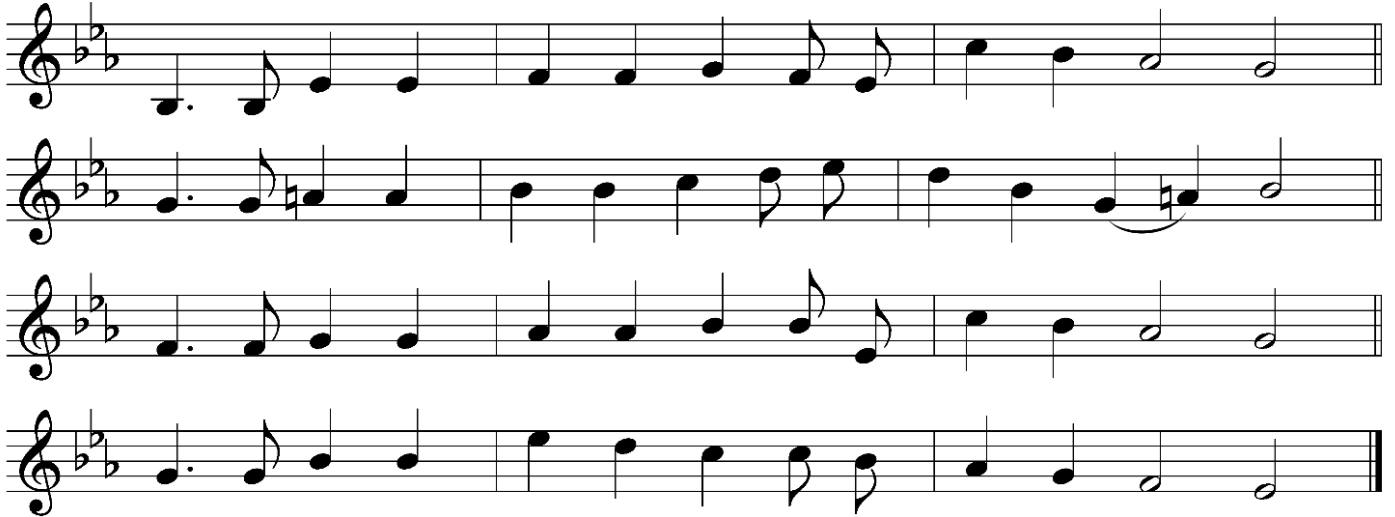
NOTICES

Stand

HYMN 143 *Vicars' Close*

VICARS' CLOSE 76 76 D

Benjamin Lamb (b.1974)



**Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness!
God hath brought his Israel into joy from sadness;
loosed from Pharoah's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters;
led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.**

**'Tis the spring of souls to-day; Christ hath burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath risen:
all the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying
from his light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.**

**Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendour,
with the royal feast of feasts, comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains Jesu's resurrection.**

**Alleluia now we cry to our King immortal,
who triumphant burst the bars of the tomb's dark portal;
Alleluia, with the Son God the Father praising;
Alleluia yet again to the Spirit raising.**

St John of Damascus (*d. c754*) tr. J M Neale (*1818-1866*)

Remain standing

THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ
has given us the victory,
give you joy and peace in your faith;
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

Etude de Concert

Joseph Bonnet (1884-1944)

Please do stay for refreshments which are served in the North Transept



Later today:

Prayers for Healing

Following this service today there is the opportunity to receive the Ministry of Healing. Priests will be available at the Shrine to offer prayer with the laying on of hands and anointing.

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

You'll find us on Facebook, Twitter @LichfieldCath

www.lichfield-cathedral.org

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