



LICHFIELD
CATHEDRAL

**The Eucharist
on the Feast of the
Baptism of Christ
10 January 2021
10:30**



President

The Revd Canon Gregory Platten
Canon Chancellor

Preacher

The Rt Revd. Jan McFarlane
Canon Custos

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.



WELCOME TO LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL

Welcome to this service as we continue to celebrate the Christmas season, whether you are worshipping in the Cathedral or via YouTube at home. It is good that we can come together both virtually and physically to offer our Eucharist, our offering of praise and thanksgiving to almighty God.

Safety

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

Spiritual Communion

Whilst services are being live-streamed and people 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 of Communion.

The reasoning behind this is found in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. The Book of Common Prayer instructs us that if we offer ourselves in penitence and faith, giving thanks for the redemption won by Christ crucified, we may truly 'eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ', although we cannot receive the sacrament physically in ourselves. It is a way of taking our communion when, as at this time, we are prevented from doing so.

Receiving Communion

Communion will be offered only in bread at this time. Gluten free host will be available on request.

Music & Speech

There is no congregational singing allowed at this time and additionally we are also asked to speak softly. The organ will be played by The Assistant Director of Music and Cathedral organist, Martyn Rawles and the Cantor this morning is Daniel Antrobus.

Offerings

We have been immensely grateful to members of our worshipping community for their continued generosity throughout the pandemic. Your gifts are vital in sustaining our mission and worship. For your safety, no physical collection will be taken during the service. For those worshipping in the Cathedral, there are electronic giving points where you can tap a debit or credit card; if you are unfamiliar with these devices please do ask a volunteer or verger for assistance. For those worshipping at home, you can text SPIRES to 70191 to give £10, or visit www.lichfield-cathedral.org/donate

We do hope that you can feel as totally included
in this celebration of the Eucharist as is possible,
whether you are worshipping at home or in the Cathedral.

PREPARATION BEFORE THE SERVICE

In the time leading up to the start of the service you are invited to keep this as a period of quiet reflection and preparation for worship. You might find the following prayer useful.

*God in our uncertainty, God in our doubts,
God in our deepest insecurity, speak to us your word of peace;
show us our true worth in your eyes; hold us in your unconditional love;
through Jesus, your living bread, given for us and for all. Amen.*

*Please join in with the words in **bold** type.*

Before the service the organist will play

Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam. BWV 684
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

THE GATHERING

***Stand** as the clergy gather in the Crossing*

THE GREETING

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

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.
**From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.**

The Lord of glory be with you.
The Lord bless you.

The President offers further words of welcome

***Remain standing** as we say together*

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO

**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 that we may be faithful to our baptism.

Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling as your adopted children;
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

OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 1.1-5

A reading from the book of Genesis.

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.

Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A short period of silence is kept

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. **Alleluia.**

This is my Son, the Beloved,
with whom I am well pleased.

Matthew 3.17

Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1.4-11

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

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

THANKSGIVING FOR HOLY BAPTISM

Water is poured into the font in the crossing.

God in Christ gives us water welling up for eternal life.
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
Lord, give us this water and we shall thirst no more.

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise for your gift of water in creation;
for your Spirit, sweeping over the waters, bringing light and life;
for your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, baptized in the river Jordan.

We bless you for your new creation, brought to birth by water and the Spirit,
and for your grace bestowed upon us your children, washing away our sins.
May your holy and life-giving Spirit move upon these waters.
Restore through them the beauty of your creation,
and bring those who are baptized to new birth in the family of your Church.
Drown sin in the waters of judgement,
anoint your children with power from on high,
and make them one with Christ in the freedom of your kingdom.
For all might, majesty, dominion and power are yours, now and for ever.
Alleluia. Amen.

I saw water flowing from the threshold of the temple.
Wherever the river flows, everything will spring to life. Alleluia.

On the banks of the river grow trees bearing every kind of fruit.
Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail.

Their fruit will serve for food, their leaves for the healing of the nations.
**For the river of the water of life
flows from the throne of God and of the Lamb.**

ACT OF PENITENCE AND DEDICATION

God of truth, you are faithful to the covenant you have made with us;
look in mercy on your people.
From all our sins, O Lord: **wash us, and we shall be clean.**

Though we are saved by Christ
and dead to sin through the deep waters of death,
we have not witnessed to his grace by our manner of life.
From all our sins, O Lord: **wash us, and we shall be clean.**

Today we rejoice and give thanks
because your Son humbled himself to be baptized in the Jordan.
Through the waters you have given us the mystery of baptism
for the remission of our sins.
From all our sins, O Lord: **wash us, and we shall be clean.**

Through water and Spirit you give us new life as the people of God,
and pour out upon us the gifts of your new covenant.
From all our sins, O Lord: **wash us, and we shall be clean.**

Almighty God, in our baptism you have consecrated us to be temples of your Holy Spirit.
May we, whom you have counted worthy, nurture your indwelling Spirit with a lively faith, and worship you with upright lives; through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

'Come,' say the Spirit and the Bride.
'Come forward, you who are thirsty, receive the water of life, the free gift to all who desire it.'

May almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive you your sins, and bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

THE PEACE

God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

cf 2 Corinthians 1.22

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a socially distanced sign of peace with their neighbours

TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to set before you, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.
Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to set before you, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.
Blessed be God for ever.

After the washing of the president's hands

TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

Open the heavens, Lord our God,
and send your transforming Spirit
on us and on these gifts.

May we who are baptized into Christ
be ready to share his cup of suffering
and strengthened to serve him for ever. **Amen.**

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 truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
You celebrated your new gift of baptism
in signs and wonders at the Jordan.
Your voice was heard from heaven
to awaken faith in the presence among us of your Word made flesh.
Your Spirit was seen as a dove, revealing Jesus as your servant,
and anointing him with the oil of gladness
to preach the good news to the poor.
Therefore, as we celebrate the union of earth and heaven,
we rejoice to echo the song of the angels in heaven
for ever praising you and saying:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

**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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

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.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of Blessed Mary the Virgin,
Chad our Patron and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

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

Sit

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
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 the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.
God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

AGNUS DEI

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

GIVING OF COMMUNION

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The President receives Holy Communion and then leads the Spiritual Communion for those who are prevented from receiving physically their communion. The words for the distribution are used once at this point and not repeated to each communicant.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

I invite you to open your hands as a sign of your openness
to receiving God's grace as we pray together:

**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. The sacrament will be brought to you in your place by one of the priests. Please feel free, as you feel most comfortable, to sit or stand to receive your communion. Gluten free hosts are available for those who require them, please let the priest know if you require one. Those who do not normally take communion will be offered a blessing.

MOTET

The Three Kings
Words and Music: Peter Cornelius (1824-1874)

Organ music may be played until the ministers have returned to their places.

Remain seated.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray

Lord of all time and eternity,
you opened the heavens and revealed yourself as Father
in the baptism of Jesus your beloved Son:
by the power of your Spirit
complete the heavenly work of our rebirth
through the waters of the new creation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

NOTICES

Stand

THE DISMISSAL

ACCLAMATION

The Father's voice bears witness to the Son.

God has revealed himself to us.

The Son bows his head beneath the waters of baptism.

God has revealed himself to us.

The Spirit as a dove descends from heaven.

God has revealed himself to us.

Submitting to John's baptism, Christ delivers us from bondage.

God has revealed himself to us.

THE DISMISSAL GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'

John 1.32-34

This is the Gospel of the Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE BLESSING

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

May God the Father, who led the wise men by the shining of a star to find the Christ, the Light from light, lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord. **Amen.**

May God the Son, who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at Cana, transform your lives and make glad your hearts. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit, who came upon the beloved Son at his baptism in the river Jordan, pour out his gifts on you who have come to the waters of new birth. **Amen.**

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

We have come to Christ, the living water.

Go in the peace of Christ: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Please remain standing as the clergy process to the west doors.

Please then be seated as the organist plays

Deo gratias (Messe a l'usage ordinaire des paroisses)

François Couperin (1668-1733)

You will be invited at the end of the short organ voluntary to follow the directions of the Stewards who will assist in you leaving the building safely. Please be careful to maintain social distancing at all times. There must not be any gathering inside or outside the Cathedral.

If you have printed this order of service off to bring to Church, please take it away with you. Thank you.

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