



**LICHFIELD**  
CATHEDRAL

**Choral Eucharist**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**10:30**

**President**

The Rt Revd Jan McFarlane  
*Canon Custos*

**Preacher**

The Revd Canon Gregory Platten  
*Canon Chancellor*

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 whether you are worshipping in the Cathedral or via YouTube at home as we continue to celebrate with great joy the resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead. It is good that we can come together both virtually and in person 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. Please wear a face mask or covering at all times in the Cathedral.

## **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 the Holy 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. Please remain in your seats and the sacrament will be brought to you. You are welcome to stand or sit to receive your communion, as you feel most comfortable. Gluten-free hosts will be available on request.

## **Music & Speech**

There is no congregational singing allowed at this time and we are also asked to speak softly. The organ is played by the Organ Scholar, Liam Condon. The choir is conducted by the Assistant Director of Music, Martyn Rawles. The Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei will be sung to the Communion Setting in E Flat by Sir Edward Bairstow (1874-1946).

## 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](http://www.lichfield-cathedral.org/donate)

## 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.

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

*Before the service the organist will play*

Lied, from 24 Pièces en style libre, Op.31  
*Louis Vierne (1870-1937)*

## 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, whom we meet in bread and wine,  
in body broken and blood outpoured, fill us with your compassion,  
that we may hear the cries of the hungry and reach out to those in need.  
Engender in us a thirst for justice, that the hungry will be satisfied  
and the rich sent empty away.  
Roll away our apathy that, with arms outstretched,  
we may offer life in place of death and hope in the face of despair. Amen.*

*Annabel Shilson-Thomas/CAFOD*

## THE GATHERING

*Stand as the Clergy enter the Crossing sanctuary.*

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.**

*Please be seated*

*The President offers further words of welcome and then continues*

God calls, his call is to each one of us, it is personal and universal,  
an invitation to all humanity to meet him here.

God calls us to meet him here in the feast prepared by his Son.

God calls, his call is to each one of us.

His call is both personal and universal.

*A moment of silence is kept*

### 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*

Like Mary at the empty tomb,  
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence:  
Lord, have mercy: **Lord, have mercy**

Like the disciples behind locked doors,  
we are afraid to be seen as your followers:  
Christ, have mercy: **Christ, have mercy**

Like Thomas in the upper room,  
we are slow to believe:  
Lord, have mercy: **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.**

*Please stand if you are able*

## **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.**

*Remain standing*

## **THE COLLECT**

Let us pray:

Almighty God,  
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ  
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:  
grant that, as by your grace going before us  
    you put into our minds good desires,  
so by your continual help  
we may bring them to good effect;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. **Amen.**

*Sit*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### NEW TESTAMENT READING Acts 8.26-end

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.' The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*A short period of silence is kept*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Stand as the Choir sings*

*Alleluia. Alleluia*

*I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;*

*I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.*

*Alleluia*

*cf Revelation 1.17,18*

## GOSPEL READING

John 15.1-8

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

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**

We believe in one God,  
**the Father, the Almighty,**  
**maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
**eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,**  
**true God from true God, begotten, not made,**  
**of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
**was incarnate from the Holy Spirit**  
**and the Virgin Mary and was made man.**  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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.**

*Stand*

## THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

### THE PEACE

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said,  
'Peace be with you.' Then they were glad when they saw the Lord.

*John 20.19,20*

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

**And also with you. Alleluia.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a socially-distanced sign of peace with their neighbour*

*Please sit as the choir alone sings*

### Offertory Hymn CP 162 *St Fulbert*

<sup>1</sup>. Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,  
your sweetest notes employ,  
the Paschal victory to hymn  
in strains of holy joy.

<sup>2</sup>. How Judah's Lion burst his chains,  
and crushed the serpent's head;  
and brought with him, from death's domains,  
the long-imprisoned dead.

<sup>3</sup>. Triumphant in his glory now  
his sceptre ruleth all,  
earth, heaven, and hell before him bow,  
and at his footstool fall.

<sup>4</sup>. While joyful thus his praise we sing,  
his mercy we implore,  
into his palace bright to bring  
and keep us evermore.

<sup>5</sup>. All glory to the Father be,  
all glory to the Son,  
all glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,  
while endless ages run.

Alleluia! Amen.

St Fulbert of Chartres *d.* 1028  
*tr.* Robert Campbell 1814-1868

## 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.**

*Stand*

## 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.

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

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**

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**

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 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.*

*During Communion the Choir sings*

**AGNUS DEI (CHOIR)**

*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.*

**THE MOTET**

Risen Lord

*Words – The Revd John Hencher*

*(former student of Lichfield Theological College)*

*Music - Barry Rose (b. 1934)*

*Risen Lord, Risen Lord: Give us a heart for simple things— love, laughter, bread, wine, and dreams. Fill us with green growing hope! Risen Lord, Risen Lord: Make us a people whose song is Alleluia, whose sign is peace, and whose name is love! Risen Lord, Risen Lord: Give us a heart for simple things and to sing Alleluia.*

*Remain seated*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray:

Eternal God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:  
grant us to walk in his way,  
to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**NOTICES**

*Stand*

## **THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

God the Father,  
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,  
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

*Remain standing as the clergy depart as the organist plays the voluntary.  
Please then sit and remain in your place until the end of the organ voluntary  
when the Stewards will invite you, row by row, to leave the building safely.*

### **ORGAN VOLUNTARY**

Grand Choeur

*Théodore-César Salomé (1834-1896)*

*Please take this order of service with you  
for reflection and prayer during this week*

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

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