



LICHFIELD
• CATHEDRAL •



Choral Eucharist
27th April 2025 – 10.30
Second Sunday of Easter

President

The Rt Revd Jan McFarlane – *Dean*

Preacher

The Revd Canon Andrew Stead – *Canon Precentor*

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 Chorus ad Vincula. The setting for the Eucharist is the Communion Service in F by *Harold Darke (1888 – 1976)*.

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,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father. Amen.*

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

THE GATHERING

Stand



INTROIT HYMN 143 *Ave Virgo Virginum*

**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*)

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

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.

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.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

we have sinned against you,

through our own fault,

in thought, and word, and deed,

and in what we have left undone.

We are heartily sorry, and repent of all our sins.

For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,

forgive us all that is past;

and grant that we may serve you in newness of life

to the glory of your name. Amen.

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,
you have given your only Son to die for our sins
and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness
that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ 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 5.27-32



A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree.

God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

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

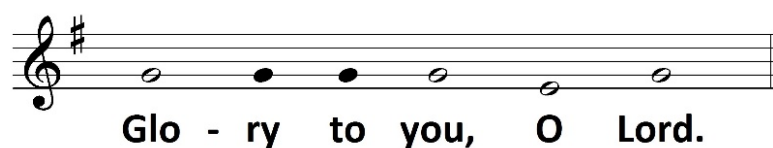
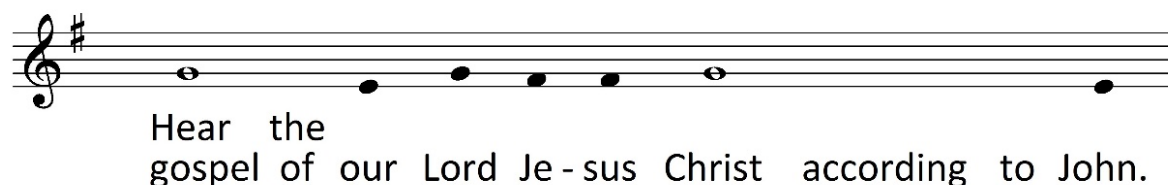
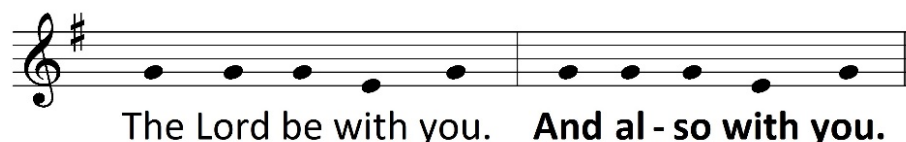


Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

John 6.35

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

GOSPEL READING John 20.19-31



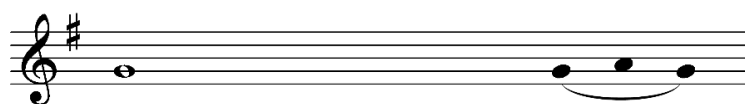
When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'

After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.



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

In joy and hope let us pray to the Father.

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 risen Christ came and stood among his disciples
and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia. *John 20.19, 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

*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 137 *Lux Eoi*

1. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hearts to heaven and voices raise;
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise:
he who on the cross a victim
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
now is risen from the dead.

**2. Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits
of the holy harvest field,
which will all its full abundance
at his second coming yield;
then the golden ears of harvest
will their heads before him wave,
ripened by his glorious sunshine,
from the furrows of the grave.**

3. Christ is risen, we are risen;

shed upon us heavenly grace,
rain, and dew, and gleams of glory
from the brightness of thy face;
that we, with our hearts in heaven,
here on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel-hands be gathered,
and be ever, Lord, with thee.

4. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Glory be to God on high;
Alleluia to the Saviour,
who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
to the Triune Majesty.



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 recognize you
as the fire that burns within us,
that we may bring light to your world. **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 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.*

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

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 of Lichfield, 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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Being made one by the power of the spirit,
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 *Everlasting Love Peter Moorse (1930–2018)*

Jesu, we thus obey
Thy last and kindest word.
Here, in thine own appointed way,
We come to meet thee, Lord.

Thy presence makes the feast,
Now let our spirits feel,
The glory not expressed,
The joy unspeakable.

Our hearts are open wide
To make the Saviour room
And lo, the Lamb, the crucified,
The sinner's friend is come.

Now let our souls be fed
With manna from above,
And over us Thy banner spread,
Of Everlasting love.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Kneel or sit

Let us pray:

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

NOTICES

Stand

HYMN 150 *Savannah*



1. Love's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won:
lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er,
lo, he sets in blood no more.

2. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened paradise.

3. Lives again our glorious King;
where, O death, is now thy sting?
dying once, he all doth save;
where thy victory, O grave?

4. Soar we now where Christ has led,
following our exalted Head;
made like him, like him we rise;
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to thee by both be given:
thee we greet triumphant now;
hail, the Resurrection Thou!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

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

Hymne d'Actions de graces "Te Deum"
Jean Langlais (1907 – 1991)

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



Later today:

15:30 Choral Evensong sung by Chorus Ad Vincula

Responses : *Ayleward*

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis: *Evening Service in D – Brewer*

Anthem : He is Risen – *Whitlock*

Voluntary : Toccata in G - *Dubois*

**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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