

**ST. ALBANS
CATHEDRAL**



Choral Eucharist
Fifth Sunday of Easter
2 May 2021

Welcome to this celebration of the Eucharist as we continue to keep the Easter feast, celebrating with joy the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead. The Sacrament will be distributed at the altar rail. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please ask one of the clergy there. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of the Communion bread, please bring this order of service with you and hold it clearly for the priest to see.

The setting at today's service is *Missa brevis in F K.192* by W A Mozart

The Gathering

Please stand for the procession

Introit

sung by the choir

Rise and hear! The Lord is speaking,
as the gospel words unfold;
we, in all our age-long seeking,
find no firmer truth to hold.

Word of goodness, truth, and beauty,
heard by simple folk and wise,
word of freedom, word of duty,
word of life beyond our eyes.

Word of God's forgiveness granted
to the wild or guilty soul,
word of love that works undaunted,
changes, heals, and makes us whole.

Speak to us, O Lord, believing,
as we hear, the sower sows;
may our hearts, your word receiving,
be the good ground where it grows.

Words: H C A Gaunt
Tune: Sussex

The Greeting

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

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you
and with thy spirit.

All

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Please sit. *Additional words of introduction may be used.*

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God,
**unto whom all hearts be open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love thee,
and worthily magnify thy holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

All

Prayers 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.

Almighty God,
**our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against thee
and against our neighbour,
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are heartily sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us, forgive us all that is past,
and grant that we may serve thee in newness of life
to the glory of thy name. Amen.**

All

The choir sings the Kyrie Eleison:

<i>Kyrie eleison.</i>	Lord have mercy.
<i>Christe eleison.</i>	Christ have mercy.
<i>Kyrie eleison.</i>	Lord have mercy.

The president says

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

All stand as the choir sings the Gloria.

Glory be to God on high,
and in earth peace,
good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee
for thy great glory,

O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son,
Jesus Christ:

O Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the
world,

have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of
the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand
of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo,
et in terra pax
hominibus bonae voluntatis.*

*Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te,
gratias agimus tibi
propter magnam gloriam
tuam*

*Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.*

*Domine Fili unigenite,
Jesu Christe,
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,
Filius Patris,
qui tollis peccata mundi,*

*miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,*

*suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,*

miserere nobis.

For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
art the Most High,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

*Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spiritu,
in gloria Dei Patris.
Amen.*

The Collect

Let us pray

Almighty God,
who through thine only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
hast overcome death and opened unto us
the gate of everlasting life:
we humbly beseech thee that,
as by thy grace preceding us
thou dost put into our minds good desires,
so by thy continual help
we may bring the same to good effect;
through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

The Liturgy of the Word

Please sit

Reading

Acts 8: 26-end

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Then 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.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

John 15: 1-8

Please stand as the choir sings the Gospel acclamation

Alleluia

I am the first and the last saith the Lord and the living one;

I was dead and behold I am alive for evermore.

Alleluia.

The Lord be with you.

All **And with thy spirit.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

'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.

All **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Revd Jon Stevens
Cathedral Curate

Please stand

The Creed

All

I 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 men, 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 I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and 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 I believe in one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins.
And I look for the Resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray.

Please kneel or sit. *The president may mention special subjects for prayer.*

Almighty and eternal God, we humbly beseech thee to inspire continually the universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity and concord; that all who confess thy holy name may agree in the truth of thy holy word, and live in unity and godly love.

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops, priests and deacons, especially to thy servant Alan our bishop, that they may both by their life and doctrine set forth thy true and lively word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy sacraments.

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

To all thy people give thy heavenly grace; and especially to this congregation here present, that they may serve thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We beseech thee, O Lord, to direct with thy heavenly wisdom those who rule over the nations of the world; bless thy servant Elizabeth our Queen and all who exercise authority under her, that thy people may be faithfully and justly governed.

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

Of thy goodness, O Lord, help and comfort all those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity [...], granting them a happy issue out of all their afflictions.

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We commend to thy gracious keeping, O Lord, all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear [...], beseeching thee to grant them everlasting light and peace.

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

We bless thy holy name for the grace and virtue declared in the Blessed Virgin Mary, Alban and in all thy saints. Grant that we, rejoicing in their fellowship and following their good examples, may be partakers with them of thy heavenly kingdom.

All Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of thy Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Please stand

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

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.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and with thy spirit.

Preparation of the Altar

Please sit

The altar is prepared and the president takes the bread and wine.

There is no collection at this point of the service, but feel free to make your offering afterwards on one of the plates. If you are a UK taxpayer please use a yellow GiftAid envelope.

Offertory Hymn *sung by the choir*

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.

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.

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.

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.

Words: C Wordsworth
Tune: Lux Eoi

Eucharistic Prayer

Please stand

The following responses are sung by the president and choir only

The Lord be with you.

Choir **And with thy spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

Choir **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

Choir **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right and our bounden duty,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto thee,
O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God,
through Jesus Christ thine only Son our Lord.

But chiefly are we bound to praise thee
because thou didst raise him gloriously from the dead.
For he is the true paschal lamb
 who was offered for us,
and has taken away
 the sin of the world.

By his death he has destroyed death,
and by his rising to life again
he has restored to us everlasting life.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
evermore praising thee, and singing:

The choir sings the Sanctus and Benedictus.

*Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full
of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.*

*Blessed is he that cometh
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra
gloria tua,
Hosanna in excelsis.*

*Benedictus qui venit
in nomine Domini.
Hosanna in excelsis.*

Please kneel or sit

All glory be to thee, almighty God, our heavenly Father,
who, of thy tender mercy,
didst give thine only Son 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;
and did institute, and in his holy gospel command us to continue,
a perpetual memory of that his precious death,
until his coming again.

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee,
and grant that, by the power of thy Holy Spirit,
we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine,
according to thy 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 when he had given thanks to thee,
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.

Likewise after supper he took the cup;
and when he had given thanks to thee, he gave it to them, saying:
Drink ye all of this;
for this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father,
we thy humble servants, having in remembrance
the precious death and passion of thy dear Son,
his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
entirely desire thy fatherly goodness
mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving;
most humbly beseeching thee to grant that
by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ,
and through faith in his blood,
we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins,
and all other benefits of his passion.

And although we be unworthy, through our manifold sins,
to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee
to accept this our bounden duty and service,
not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences;
and to grant that all we, who are partakers of this holy communion,
may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction;
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 unto thee,
O Father almighty, world without end.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All **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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread and says:

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All **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.

All **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Holy Communion is distributed at the altar rail. Please follow the directions of the virgins. If you would like to receive a gluten-free wafer, please ask one of the clergy. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of the Communion bread, please bring this order of service with you and hold it clearly for the priest to see.

During communion the choir sings the Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei,
qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem.

Communion Motet

sung by the choir

The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing.
He shall feed me in a green pasture:
and lead me forth beside the waters of comfort.
He shall convert my soul:
and bring me forth in the paths of righteousness, for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear
no evil; thy rod and thy staff comfort me.
Thou shalt prepare a table before me against them that trouble me:
thou hast anointed my head with oil, and my cup shall be full.
But thy loving-kindness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Words: Psalm 23

Music: H Howells

Post Communion Collect

The president says

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

All **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Please stand. *The president says*

All The Lord be with you
and with thy spirit.

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.

All **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Organ Voluntary

Te Deum op. 11 J Demessieux

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We do rely heavily on the generous support of our congregations for the ministry and mission of our Cathedral. Financial giving is not only essential to fund our work, but is also an expression of our thanksgiving to God, whom we acknowledge to be the source of all our blessings. If you are a member of the congregation, and have not already done so, please consider joining our Parish Giving Scheme and make a regular donation by direct debit. This is very easy to do and PGS can take your instructions over the phone (03330 021 271). Please use Parish Code 320632001. More information can be found here: [**www.stalbanscathedral.org/congregational-giving**](http://www.stalbanscathedral.org/congregational-giving)

CONTACTLESS DONATIONS

If you are visiting us today, please do consider making a donation when you leave by using one of our contactless giving plates or visitor donation points. To add Gift Aid every time you tap to donate, register with our partner Swiftaid at [**donor.swiftaid.co.uk/register**](http://donor.swiftaid.co.uk/register)

Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, material from which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000.

Hymns and music are reproduced under licence: CCL No. 808548 and MRL No. 808579.

Scripture quotations are from New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Edition, copyright © 1989, 1995 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.