CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL
OXFORD

CHORAL EUCHARIST
The Third Sunday of Easter

Sunday 18 April 2021
11am Oxford Time
Preparing for Worship

Welcome to Christ Church! It is such a joy to welcome congregations once more to worship together in this holy place; but a huge sorrow that not everyone can be present with us at the moment. While some of us rejoice to worship in our cathedral, we gather as a community both here and in our own homes; and we continue to pray together, to hear God’s word together, and to worship together wherever we are.

In this Easter season, our liturgical colour is gold and our music, readings and the text of the service reflect our joy in the risen life of Jesus.

The cantor this morning is James Potter.

Please pay attention to Covid risk mitigation measures and please do ask the vergers if you are unsure. There is much that is different from our “normal” practice. The chalice will not be offered to the congregation; the sacrament of Holy Communion is received fully in the bread alone. We will all maintain social distancing at all times, except for the moment of giving the Communion bread. Please make sure you wash or sanitise your hands when asked to do so, and please don’t touch or hug anyone who isn’t part of your household, especially at the Peace.

May God bless you as we worship together.

Music before the Service

\[ \text{Played by Joseph Wicks, Deputy Organist, Cathedral Singers} \]

\[ Vater unser im Himmelreich \]

\[ J S Bach (1685–1750) \]

\[ \text{Mass of St Cedd} \]

\[ \text{Peter Nardone (b. 1965)} \]
The Gathering

The service starts at 11.05 GMT (11 am Oxford Time). Shortly before the beginning of the service, the President will welcome the congregation.

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

The Greeting

President  The Lord be with you  
All  and also with you.  
President  Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
All  He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The President introduces the service.

You may like to adopt a prayer posture such as sitting with your head bowed, as we remember our brokenness and call to mind our sins.

Prayer of Preparation

All  Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.
Invitation to Confession

Deacon  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.

Confession

All  Father eternal, giver of light and grace, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour, in what we have thought, in what we have said and done, through ignorance, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We have wounded your love, and marred your image in us. We are sorry and ashamed, and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and lead us out from darkness to walk as children of light. Amen.

Absolution

President  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.
The Cantor sings the Gloria in Excelsis.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Et in terra pax  
hominibus bonæ voluntatis.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

Laudamus te, benedicitus te,  
adoramus te, glorificamus te.  
Gratias agimus tibi  
propter magnam gloriam tuam,  
Domine Deus, Rex cœlestis,  
Deus Pater omnipotens.

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

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.

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.

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

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

President    Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

President    Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
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.

All    Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Sit comfortably to listen to God speaking through the Scriptures.

First Reading
Acts 3:12–19 (NRSV)


When Peter saw that the people had gathered together, he addressed
them, ‘You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare
at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made this lame
man walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of
Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom
you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had
decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One
and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author
of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And
by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom
you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this
perfect health in the presence of all of you.
'And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

Reader  This is the word of the Lord.
All  Thanks be to God.

The Cantor sings the Gospel Acclamation, and the Deacon brings the Book of the Gospels in procession to the Crossing, to be read from among the people.

Gospel Reading

Preacher  Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
All  Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, ‘Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.’ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’ They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Preacher  This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All  Praise to you, O Christ.
After the Homily, there will be a short silence for reflection. We will then affirm together the faith of the Church, using the Nicene Creed.

All

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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from 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.
With the Father and the Son
he is worshipped and glorified.
He 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.

Prayers of Intercession

A minister leads the prayers of the People.

Minister Let us pray.

During the intercessions, the following response is used:

Minister Lord, in your mercy
All hear our prayer.

The prayers usually end with:

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

President The peace of the Lord be always with you
All and also with you.

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We know that Christians have shared a sign of peace since the very earliest days of the Church. As we may be separated from one another, we remember that peace is from the heart and from God. God’s peace in the Spirit moves among us to unite us with one another and with all who have served God in every age, distant in time and space yet one in the Body of Christ.

Offertory motet

Hic cibus qui datur est corpus divinum videtur et vinum quod sanguis est hic panis quem cernis est caro non panis, hic salus humanis et vita est.

This food which is given is the holy body, and the wine that is seen is blood. This bread which you consume is flesh, not bread; this is salvation and life for mankind.

Words: Anonymous
Music: Isabella Leonarda (1620–1704)
Preparation of the Table

President Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

All All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

The Eucharistic Prayer

President The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

President Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

President Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

President 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:
The Cantor sings the Sanctus and Benedictus

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus  

Holy, holy, holy

Dominus Deus Sabaoth:  

Lord God of hosts:

pleni sunt cœli et terra gloria tua.  

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in excelsis.  

Hosanna in the highest.

Benedictus qui venit

Blessed is he who comes

in nomine Domini.  

in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in excelsis.  

Hosanna in the highest.

President  

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.

All  

Christ has died.  

Christ is risen.  

Christ will come again.

President  

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 Frideswide and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever;
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 yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord’s Prayer

President As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:
All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.
Breaking of the Bread

The President breaks the consecrated bread.

President  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

President  Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
All   Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Cantor sings the Agnus Dei.

Agnus Dei

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.

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.

We pause together to rest in the presence of Christ in us and all around us; trusting that wherever we are, however we are, whoever we are with, Jesus comes to meet us as he has promised. Jesus invites us to receive him in our hearts by faith; to unite our prayers and our wills with his; and to rest in his perfect and eternal love. Without physically eating and drinking, we yet receive his body and his blood by grace.
There are no special words or prayers for this. All the Church has ever thought necessary is true desire, lively faith and genuine love. So you are invited to come honestly before God the way you know how. You may like to close your eyes, or to look at a picture; to pause the recording, or to listen to the music; to keep silence, or to pray one of the following prayers:

In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of thy Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer thee praise and thanksgiving. I present to thee my soul and body with the earnest wish that they may always be united to thee. And since I can not now receive thee sacramentally, I beseech thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to thee, and embrace thee with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing ever separate thee from me. May I live and die in thy love. Amen.

Lord, you stand at the door of my heart and knock. You wait for me and only I can let you in. I believe and trust in you and ask you now to fill me with your presence. Feed me with your body and unite me in your blood, that I may be your blessing to a world in need. Amen.

Communion Motet

O Jesu dulcissime, creator generis humani,
Quod per sacramentum tuum voluisti habitare in nobis,
conserva cor meum et corpus meum,
ut non confundar in aeternum. Alleluia.

O sweetest Jesus, creator of the race of man,
Who by thy sacrament wouldst dwell among us,
Protect my heart and body,
That I may not be confounded for ever. Alleluia.

Words: Anonymous
Music: Isabella Leonarda (1620–1704)
President  Let us pray.

A time of silent prayer may be kept.

All    You have opened to us the Scriptures, O Christ, and you have made yourself known in the breaking of the bread. Abide with us, we pray, that, blessed by your royal presence, we may walk with you all the days of our life, and at its end behold you in the glory of the eternal Trinity, one God for ever and ever. Amen.
Blessing

President The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will; working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

President Go in the peace of Christ.
All Thanks be to God.

Music after the Service

Fugue No.1 on B.A.C.H. Robert Schumann (1810–56)
As we continue to move through these unsettled times, please be assured that you are welcome, whether you are a long-standing member of our congregation or worshipping with us for the first time. Although the pattern of our life has changed so much, our prayers continue; and please let us know if we can pray for you, or if you need our support. You are warmly invited to continue to participate in our community worship, prayer and spiritual life, both online and offline.

If you would like to be put on our mailing list to receive our weekly e-news, with a link to the online ‘Zoom Tea,’ please contact us at cathedraloffice@chch.ox.ac.uk or speak to one of the clergy in the cloister as you leave.

We will continue to provide online worship; please don’t put yourself under any pressure to come to church if it is safer for you to stay at home. Wherever you are, you remain a valued member of our community.

**Online worship resources from Christ Church Cathedral**

The Cathedral website contains an archive of sermons and services, alongside a regular series of blog reflections. You can find worship, resources and prayers at:

- www.chch.ox.ac.uk/onlineworship
- www.chch.ox.ac.uk/cathedralblog
- www.chch.ox.ac.uk/services-and-events/sermons
- @chchcathedralox
Prayer for the Week

Living God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.