Christ Church Cathedral
OXFORD

Holy Communion
according to the
Book of Common Prayer

Livestreamed services
As a small congregation gathers in the cathedral, others gather to watch at home. The president enters and those in the cathedral may stand.

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

All  Amen.

The president greets the congregation, both those in the cathedral and those at home.

The Lord’s Prayer

President  Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Prayer of Preparation

President  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.

All  Amen.
As we gather, we hear again Christ’s call: the responsibility of the Christian to love God and our neighbours.

Summary of the Law

President

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:
Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. This is the first commandment.
And the second is like, namely this: Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All

Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.

The Collect

The President prays the Collect of the Day.

The Epistle

The Gospel

The President reads the Epistle and the Gospel for the day, from the historic one-year lectionary.

Homily

The President offers a short reflection on the readings of the day.
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 one 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.
Offertory

One of the following sentences (or another) may be said:

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

*Matthew 5.16*

Lay not up for yourselves treasure upon the earth; where the rust and moth doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven; where neither rust nor moth doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal.

*Matthew 6.19*

All things come of thee, and of thine own do we give thee.

*1 Chronicles 29.14*

Whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

*1 John 3.17*

The gifts of the people may be gathered and presented.

The President places the bread and wine upon the table.
**Intercession**

*Brief biddings may be given.*

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ’s Church militant here in earth.

Almighty and ever-living God, who by thy holy apostle hast taught us to make prayers and supplications, and to give thanks, for all men: we humbly beseech thee most mercifully [to accept our alms and oblations, and] to receive these our prayers, which we offer unto thy divine majesty; beseeching thee to inspire continually the universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord: and grant, that all they that do confess thy holy name may agree in the truth of thy holy word, and live in unity and godly love.

We beseech thee also to save and defend all Christian kings, princes and governors; and specially thy servant Elizabeth our Queen, that under her we may be godly and quietly governed: and grant unto her whole Council, and to all that are put in authority under her, that they may truly and indifferently administer justice, to the punishment of wickedness and vice, and to the maintenance of thy true religion and virtue.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and curates, that they may both by their life and doctrine set forth thy true and lively word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy sacraments: and to all thy people give thy heavenly grace; and specially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy word; truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

And we most humbly beseech thee of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succour all them, who in this transitory life are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear; beseeching thee to give us grace so to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ’s sake, our only mediator and advocate.

*All Amen.*
Invitation to Confession

President

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: draw near with faith, and take this holy sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

Kneeling, a time of silence may be kept.

Confession

All

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, by thought, word and deed, against thy divine majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.

We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us; the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honour and glory of thy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
Absolution

President  Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
who of his great mercy 
hath promised forgiveness of sins 
to all them that with hearty repentance and true 
faith turn unto him:  
have mercy upon you;  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins; 
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; 
and bring you to everlasting life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All  Amen.

The Comfortable Words

President  Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith 
unto all that truly turn to him:  
Come unto me, all that travail and are heavy laden, and I 
will refresh you.

Matthew 11: 28

So God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, 
to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, 
but have everlasting life.

John 3: 16

Hear also what Saint Paul saith:  
This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, 
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

1 Timothy 1: 15

Hear also what Saint John saith:  
If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father; Jesus 
Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins.

1 John 2: 1, 2
President  The Lord be with you
All  and with thy spirit.

President  Lift up your hearts.
All  We lift them up unto the Lord.

President  Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
All  It is meet and right so to do.

President  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.

In the octaves of Christmas, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost, and on Trinity Sunday, a proper preface is inserted here.

President  Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we laud and magnify thy glorious name,
evermore praising thee, and saying:

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

President  We do not presume
to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in thy manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table.
But thou art the same Lord,
whose property is always to have mercy:
grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body,
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us.

All  Amen.
The Prayer of Consecration

President

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 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, he brake 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, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins: do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.

All

Amen.
Giving of Communion

The President elevates the bread with the words:

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your bodies and souls unto everlasting life. In your hands or in your heart, receive the remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

The People remain in their places and the President brings Communion to them. If you are at home, please know that in this moment, Jesus comes to meet you. The love of Jesus does not depend on any particular place, or time, or presence. Wherever you are, however you feel, Jesus invites you to receive him in your heart by faith; to unite your prayers and your will with his; and to rest in his perfect and eternal love.

You could use one of the following prayers, or your own words:

Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits thou hast given me, for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day. Amen.

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.
The Lord’s Prayer

All

Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that 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.

Prayer after Communion

President

O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy humble servants
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 here we offer and
present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies,
to be a reasonable, holy and lively sacrifice unto thee;
humbly beseeching thee, that all we, who are partakers of
this holy communion in body or in spirit, may be fulfilled
with thy grace and heavenly benediction. 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
pardon our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by
whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all
honour and glory be unto thee, O Father almighty, world
without end.

All

Amen.
Except in Advent and Lent, the Gloria in Excelsis is said.

Gloria in Excelsis

All

Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, goodwill 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 Jesu 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, 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. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Blessing

President

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always.

All

Amen.