Christ Church Cathedral
OXFORD

CHORAL EUCHARIST
Easter Day
Sunday 4 April 2021
12pm Oxford Time
Alleluya, Alleluya, hearts to heaven and voices raise!
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise!

A very warm welcome to Christ Church on this Easter Day. Today, with millions of Christians around the world, we celebrate with joy the good news of Easter and the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, from the dead. The Ministers wear vestments of gold to reflect our Easter joy. Our Preacher today is the Venerable Jonathan Chaffey, The Archdeacon of Oxford, concluding his series of broadcast sermons through this Holy Week.

Currently, regulations do not permit the Choir to lead services with a congregation. In other services today, members of the congregation come together to receive Communion, accompanied by one of our organists. In this service, our choir are able – in the words of the great Easter hymn – to sing to God their hymns of gladness and of praise, bringing to God the best they can offer as they are called to do.

We are glad of all the ways that we can worship together, both under one roof and in our separate homes, on this Easter Day. Although distanced physically, we remain one in Christ, wherever we are, and part of this community. May God bless you as we worship together.

If you would like us to keep in touch with you, please make sure we have your contact details by contacting the office cathedraloffice@chch.ox.ac.uk/ 01865 286 869.

Cover image: Christ Appearing to the Magdalen, Bacchiacca (1494–1557), JBS 61
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Music before the Service
Played by Benjamin Sheen, Sub-Organist

Choral, from Symphonie Romane, Op. 73 Charles-Marie Widor (1844–1937)

Missa Bell’Amfitrit’ altera Orlande de Lassus (c. 1532–94)
The Gathering

During the opening hymn, the Ministers enter in procession. The Deacon carries the Book of the Gospels and places it on the High Altar.

Opening Hymn

This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow!
My Love, the crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow.

Had Christ, that once was slain, ne’er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain—but now is Christ arisen!

My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a season slumber:
Till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number.

Death’s flood hath lost its chill, since Jesus crossed the river:
Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver.

Words: George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848–1934)
Music: Charles Wood (1866–1926)

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.
Prayers of Penitence

The President invites the people to confess their sins:

President  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.

A moment of silent reflection is kept.

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  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.

All       Amen.

The Choir sings Gloria in Excelsis

Gloria in Excelsis

Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Et in terra Pax
hominibus bonæ voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi
propter magnam gloriam tuam,
Domine Deus, Rex cœlestis,
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.

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

Gloria 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**

*President*  
Let us pray.

*Silence is kept.

*President*  
Lord of all life and power,  
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son  
overcame the old order of sin and death  
to make all things new in him:  
grant that we, being dead to sin  
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,  
may reign with him in glory;  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
be praise and honour, glory and might,  
now and in all eternity.

*All*  
**Amen.**
The Liturgy of the Word

Sit comfortably to listen to God speaking through the Scriptures.

First Reading
Acts 10:34–43 (NRSV)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

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

The Choir sings the Gospel Acclamation.
Deacon    Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
All       Glory to you, O Lord.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.’ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping?’ She said to them, ‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.’ When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, ‘Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But
go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.” ’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Deacon This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon
The Archdeacon

After the Homily, the President, Choir and Clergy stand. Please join us in affirming 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;
his 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.

You may like to adopt a prayer posture with your hands open and lifted up to God as we hold out all the prayers of our hearts to him.

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 Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

President 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

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

We know that Christians have shared a sign of peace since the very earliest days of the Church. As once again we are 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

Haec dies quam fecit Dominus: exsultemus et laetemur in ea.
This is the day that the Lord has made: let us be glad and rejoice in it.

Words: Unknown
Music: William Byrd (1543–1623)
Preparation of the Table

President  Be present, be present,
Lord Jesus Christ, our risen high priest;
make yourself known in the breaking of bread.

All  Amen.

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 Choir sings Sanctus:
Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth:  
pleni sunt cœli et terra gloria tua.  
Hosanna in excelsis.  

Holy, holy, holy  
Lord God of hosts:  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
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.

The Acclamation is sung:

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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mary Magdalene, Frideswide, Birinus, 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.

Amen.
The Lord’s Prayer

President  Rejoicing in the new creation, 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 the one bread.

Giving of Communion

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

The Choir 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.

**Prayer after Communion**

*President* Let us pray.

*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.
The Dismissal

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. Alleluia, alleluia.
All  Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Music after the Service

Choral-Improvisation  Charles Tournemire (1870–1939)
sur le Vichtimaee Paschali  reconstructed by Maurice Duruflé (1902–86)
A very Happy Easter
to all who worship with us today.

You are always welcome to worship here at Christ Church, both online and in the Cathedral. Please do get in touch with us if you’d like to know more about what we do, the God we worship, or our pattern of worship. You can contact us at cathedraloffice@chch.ox.ac.uk/ 01865 286 869

You can also find details of services on our website, www.chch.ox.ac.uk, our YouTube Channel, or by following us on Twitter @ChChCathedralOx.

We have a weekly email list which gives details of all our services, and of opportunities to meet on Zoom. Please get in touch with the office as above if you’d like to be on that list.

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