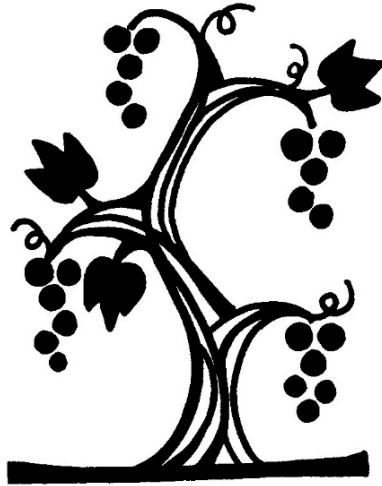




LICHFIELD
CATHEDRAL



Choral Eucharist
with the Admission of Children
to Holy Communion

28th April 2024 – 10.30

Fifth Sunday of Easter

President

The Revd Canon Andrew Stead – *Canon Precentor*

Preacher

The Rt Canon Gregory Platten – *Canon Chancellor*

Lichfield Cathedral is called to live and proclaim the transforming love of God. Through the fullness of its life in the Spirit, it seeks to be a sign of the friendship and freedom that God in Jesus Christ has given the whole world to enjoy.

ALL ARE WELCOME ... THIS IS YOUR CATHEDRAL....



Welcome to this service whether you are worshipping in the Cathedral or via YouTube at home 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.

A particularly warm welcome too to our visitors joining us this morning from our twin city of Limburg an der Lahn in Germany and the children who are being admitted to receiving and receiving their first Communion and their families.

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 a steward or vergier.

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 the Cathedral Choir conducted by the Director of Music, Ben Lamb. The organ is played by the Assistant Director of Music, Martyn Rawles. The setting for the Eucharist is the Missa Sancti Joannis De Deo by Joseph Haydn (1732-1809).

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, your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

Please join in whatever is printed in bold type.

THE GATHERING

Stand

INTROIT 141 *tii Württemberg*



**Christ the Lord is risen again,
Christ hath broken every chain.
Hark, angelic voices cry,
*singing evermore on high, Alleluia!***

**He who gave for us his life,
who for us endured the strife,
is our Paschal Lamb today;
*we too sing for joy, and say Alleluia!***

**He who bore all pain and loss
comfortless upon the cross,
lives in glory now on high,
*pleads for us, and hears our cry: Alleluia!***

**He whose path no records tell,
who descended into hell,
who the strong man armed hath bound,
*now in highest heaven is crowned. Alleluia!***

**He who slumbered in the grave
is exalted now to save;
now through Christendom it rings
*that the Lamb is King of kings. Alleluia!***

**Now he bids us tell abroad
how the lost may be restored,
how the penitent forgiven,
*how we too may enter heaven. Alleluia!***

**Thou, our Paschal Lamb indeed,
Christ, thy ransomed people feed;
take our sins and guilt away:
*let us sing by night and day Alleluia!***

Michael Weisse (c. 1480-1534) tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)

THE GREETING

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

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit 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 died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God.
Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil
and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

cf Romans 6.10

A moment of silence is kept.

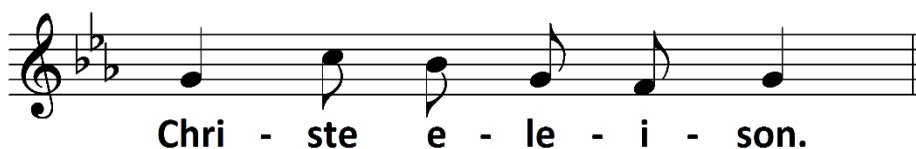
A cantor sings each petition, then the choir sings the Kyrie/Christe which all repeat:

Like Mary at the empty tomb,
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.



(Lord, have mercy)

Like the disciples behind locked doors,
we are afraid to be seen as your followers.



(Christ, have mercy)

Like Thomas in the upper room,
we are slow to believe.



(Lord, have mercy)

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 God,
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before us
you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen 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 8.26-40

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.

Thanks be to God.

A short period of silence is kept.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Stand

The choir sings Alleluia which all repeat

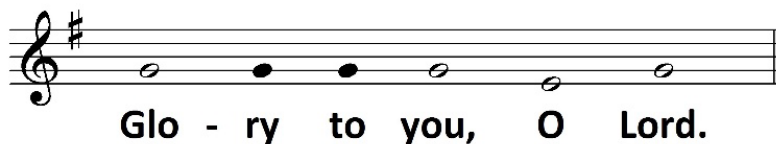
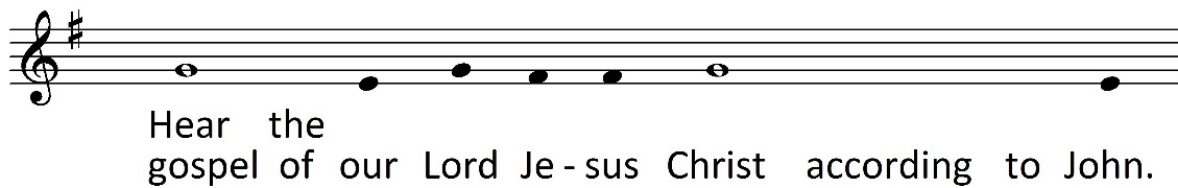
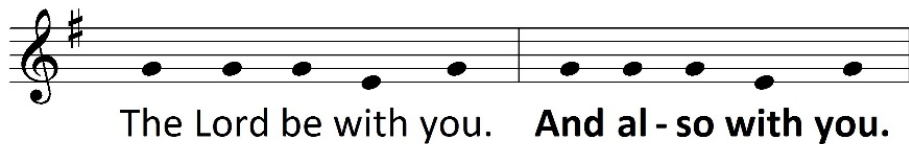


I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

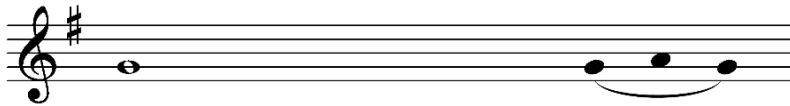
cf Revelation 1.17,18

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

GOSPEL READING John 15.1-8



‘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. —



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, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude

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

ADMISSION TO HOLY COMMUNION BEFORE CONFIRMATION

Those being admitted to Holy Communion stand before the Canon Precentor who says

Today we welcome to communion Dominic, Samuel, Annabelle, Benjamin, Isabella, Milly, Warwick and Thomas who share faithfully and regularly in our worship. A person is admitted to communion on the basis of their baptism, the sign and pledge of incorporation into the death and resurrection of Christ and the new life of the kingdom of God. These young people have been baptized, and today they receive the sacrament of the body and blood of Christ with us.

They are taking a new step in the life to which God has called them in baptism and which we trust they will later affirm in confirmation. We welcome them and look forward to learning with and from them as we journey together on the Way of Christ.

We are God's pilgrim people.

We share in the story of God's love for the world,
God's love in Christ, calling us to himself, God's love in the Spirit,
giving strength for our journey of faith.

We celebrate this love in word and song,
we feed on Jesus in bread and wine
and make him known through our life together.

The Canon Precentor addresses the congregation

Brothers and sisters, today we are welcoming Dominic, Samuel, Annabelle, Benjamin, Isabella, Milly, Warwick and Thomas to Holy Communion.

As parents and godparents, and as the community of Lichfield Cathedral, we share the responsibility of encouraging them in their worship, and of supporting them by our friendship, our example and our prayers.

Will you help them to grow in faith and love?

We will.

The Canon Precentor addresses those being welcomed

Dominic, Samuel, Annabelle, Benjamin, Isabella, Milly, Warwick and Thomas you love God, you follow Jesus, and you live the Christian life.

Do you wish to receive Holy Communion?

Candidates: Yes.

We welcome you in Jesus' name to receive communion with us.

As these children receive today the sacrament of the body and blood of Christ, let us pray that we may all know and reflect the love of Christ.

God of life, you invite us to eat at your table; may we know your love as we share your heavenly food, and shine with your light all the days of our life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.

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

Bread and wine are carried through the congregation and presented at the altar, together with prayer slips that have been left at the Shrine of St Chad during the week.

*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 136 *Alleluia No. 1*



***Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.***

**Jesus is Lord of all the earth:
he is the King of creation: *Alleluia, alleluia ...***

**Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and has risen: *Alleluia, alleluia ...***

**We have been crucified with Christ:
now we shall live forever: *Alleluia, alleluia ...***

**God has proclaimed the just reward:
life for all men, alleluia: *Alleluia, alleluia ...***

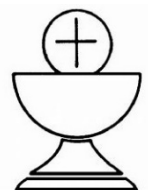
**Come let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Saviour: *Alleluia, alleluia ...***

Donald Fishel (b. 1950) © 1973 International Liturgy Publications

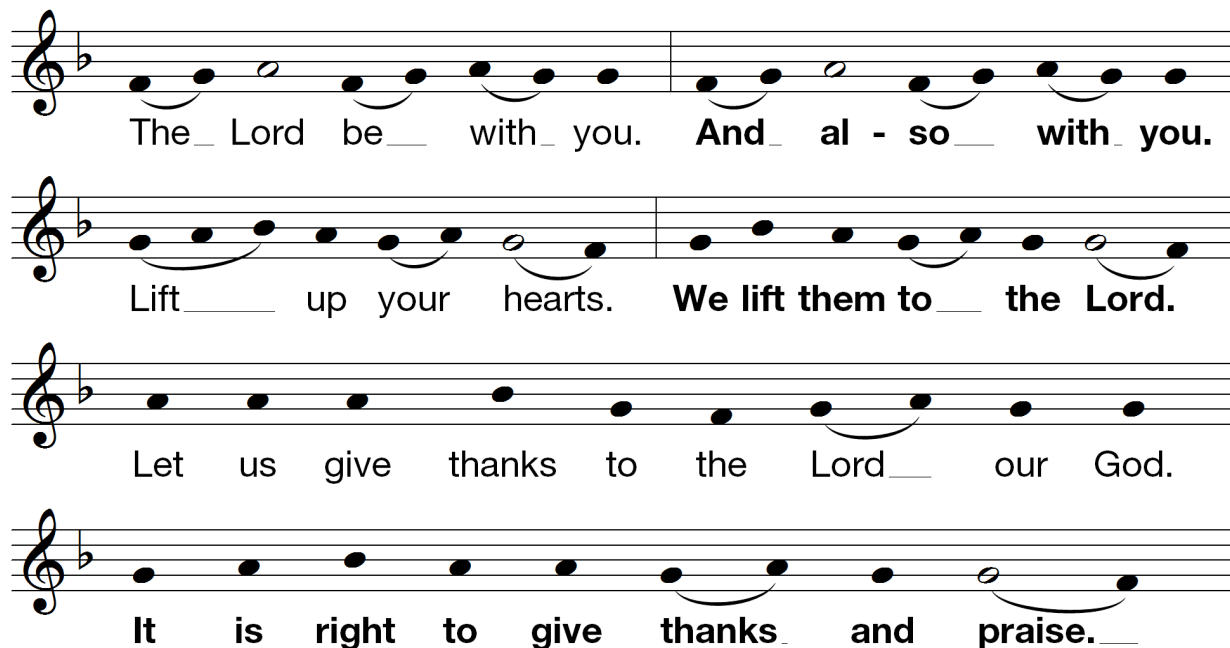
Remain standing

TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

Creator of all,
you wash away our sins,
you give us new birth by the Spirit,
and redeem us in the blood of Christ.
As we celebrate the resurrection,
renew your gift of life within us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord.
Amen.



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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*)

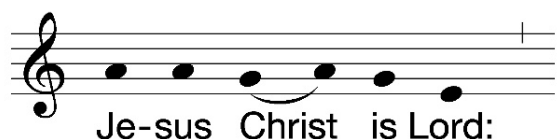
*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

Lord God, you are the most holy one,
enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ
you reveal the power of your love
made perfect in our human weakness.

Embracing our humanity,
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;
loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us;
dying for his own, he set us free from the bonds of sin,
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave up himself for us all
he 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.

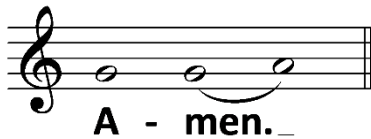


Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,
we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb,
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high
and we long for his coming in glory.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption,
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
form us into the likeness of Christ
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.
Look with favour on your people
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.

Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free
and fill your Church with power from on high.
Gather your people from the ends of the earth
to feast with Blessed Mary the Virgin,
Chad our Patron and all your saints
at the table in your kingdom,
where the new creation is brought to perfection
in 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.



Sit

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour 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

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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 *Vinea mea electa – Lodovico da Vladana (1560-1627)*

Vinea mea electa, ego te plantavi: quomodo conversa es in amaritudinem,
ut me crucifigures et Barrabam dimitteres.
Sepivi te, et lapides elegi ex te, et ædificavi turrim.

O vineyard, my chosen one! I planted you: how are you changed from sweet to bitter, to have crucified me and released Barrabas? I protected you; I have removed stones that could bother you and built a tower for your defense.

MUSIC *Nun danket alle Gott played by Bläserensemble der Kreismusikschule Limburg conducted by Peter Schreiber Direktor of the KMS Limburg.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Kneel or sit

Let us pray:

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

NOTICES

Stand

HYMN A&M SP 81 *Noel Nouvelet*

- 1. Word that formed creation, earth and sea and sky;
Word that brings salvation, Word that will not die;
speak now in us that we might hear your call;
Living Word of Jesus, sound within us all.**
- 2. Love that formed and named us, filled this clay with breath;
Love that seeks and claims us, Love beyond all death;
come now and fire the life that flows from you;
Love that raised up Jesus, raise us up anew.**
- 3. Song of joy and wonder, sound so wild and free;
voice of wind and thunder, boundless as the sea;
Music of God, the love that casts out fear;
Song that sang in Jesus, sing within us here.**
- 4. God of all creation, form our hearts anew;
God of our salvation, lead us home to you;
Spirit, inspire our hearts to hear your call;
living God of Jesus, come renew us all!**

Marty Haugen (b.1950)

© 1991, GIA publication Inc. www.giamusic.com All rights reserved.

Used under One License No. A-631957

Remain standing

THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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. **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

Toccata on 'O filii et filiae'

Lynnwood Farnam (1885-1930)

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



Later today:

15:30 Choral Evensong

Responses: *Lamb*

Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis: Second Evening Service – *Leighton*

Anthem: Hallelujah – *Handel*

Organ Voluntary: Saraband for the morning of Easter – *Howells*

*Texts reproduced from Common Worship are copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2006
Words of copyright hymns are reproduced under licence CCL 155215*

**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**

**You'll find us on Facebook,
'X' (formerly Twitter)@LichfieldCath
www.lichfield-cathedral.org**