

The Churches of the Parish of Berkswich

in the Church of England Diocese of Lichfield

Live-streamed Eucharist with hymns sung at home for 10th Sunday after Trinity



Please note that current guidance does not permit the singing in the church building – please could those at home sing loudly for those in the church building who can't (you will still be muted!)

The gathering

We gather together today to worship God, who creates and sustains the universe. We will be nourished by the word of God, and reminded that Jesus is the bread of life, and that if we believe in him we will have eternal life.

**Come, living God, when least expected,
when minds are dull and hearts are cold,
through sharpening word and warm affection
revealing truths as yet untold.**

**Come now, as once you came to Moses
within the bush alive with flame;
or to Elijah on the mountain,
by silence pressing home your claim.**

**So, let our minds be sharp to read you
in sight or sound or printed page,
and let us greet you in our neighbours,
in ardent youth or mellow age.**

**Then, through our gloom, your Son will meet
us
as vivid truth and living Lord,
exploding doubt and disillusion
to scatter hope and joy abroad.**

**Then we will share his radiant brightness,
and, blazing through the dread of night,
illuminate by love and reason,
for those in darkness, faith's delight.**

Alan Gaunt (b. 1935)

The greeting

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

The Lord of glory be with you.
And also with you

The Act of Penitence

Let us come before God, whose love and mercy are bountiful, and recall the ways in which we have been ungenerous in our response to that love.

We have failed to appreciate
the bounty of your creation.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

We have been greedy,
and sought to acquire more than we need.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

We have failed to hear the cries
of your children who are hungry.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Words of forgiveness

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.
Amen

The Gloria

Our virtual choir sing the Gloria. Often referred to as "the angelic hymn," the gloria was first intoned by the angels from heaven for the birth of Christ on earth. The Gloria is a true hymn. Its opening burst of praise overflows into a series of joyful cries addressed to the Father: "we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory."

The hymn goes on to implore the mercy of the Son, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. In singing the Gloria, the church relives the experience of Saint Stephen who, "full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God" (Acts 7:55).

Gazing on Christ, the Church praises him: "You alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High." The final lines of the Gloria soar into the blinding mystery of the Trinity: "Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father." The hymn ends where it began: in the heavens.

The Collect for the day

Let us pray

Silence is kept

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; 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. **Amen.**

The liturgy of the word

First reading 2 Samuel 18:5-9. 15. 31-33

A reading from the book of Samuel

Absalom's treachery against his father, David, comes to an end when he is killed, despite David's orders that he should not be harmed.

The king gave orders to Joab and Abishai and Ittai, saying, 'Deal gently for my sake with the young man Absalom.' And all the people heard

when the king gave orders to all the commanders concerning Absalom. So the army went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was fought in the forest of Ephraim. The men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the slaughter there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. The battle spread over the face of all the country; and the forest claimed more victims that day than the sword. Absalom happened to meet the servants of David. Absalom was riding on his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak. His head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on. And ten young men, Joab's armour-bearers, surrounded Absalom and struck him, and killed him. Then the Cushite came; and the Cushite said, 'Good tidings for my lord the king! For the Lord has vindicated you this day, delivering you from the power of all who rose up against you.' The king said to the Cushite, 'Is it well with the young man Absalom?' The Cushite answered, 'May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up to do you harm, be like that young man.' The king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, he said, 'O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would that I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel reading

The virtual choir sing the Alleluia

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John ✠

Glory to you, O Lord.

6:35. 41-51

Jesus is the bread of life, sent by God. Those who ate manna died but those who believe will have eternal life.

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. Then the Jews began to complain about him

because he said, 'I am the bread that came down from heaven.' They were saying, 'Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, "I have come down from heaven"?' Jesus answered them, 'Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, "And they shall all be taught by God." Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

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

Homily

Affirmation of faith

With our Christian brothers and sisters throughout the world, let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who 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

Let us come before God with trusting hearts, knowing that God loves us and wants all that is best for us.

At the end of each bidding the following response is used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

At the end, on behalf of us all, the intercessor gathers our individual prayers together into one, by saying on our behalf

We bring our prayers before you, loving God, confident in your power and mercy, and we make our prayer through your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The liturgy of the sacrament

The Peace

The Lord of glory be with you.
And also with you

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life," and our confidence in his promise is our joy and our peace.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Prayer

Father, accept all we bring before you this day. Guide us with your love and feed us at your table as you nourish the faith of the Church by the preaching of your apostles. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here
His spirit is with us.
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.

Eternal God, in the abundance of your love you have caused all things to be; from dust and spirit you have woven our humanity; in all our wanderings you never cease to call us to fullness of life. You gave us Jesus, son of Mary, the bread of life broken for the world; he fed us and feasted with us, he healed us and suffered for us; his dying and rising have set us free from the poverty of sin and the famine of death. Therefore, with all whom you have made, cherished and called, with all who hunger for your kingdom and will not rest until all your children are fed, with the broken saints and redeemed sinners of all the ages, we take up the song of your praise:

Our Virtual Choir will sing the Sanctus, the Holy, Holy, Holy, an integral part of the Eucharistic Prayer in both the Eastern and Western churches from before the year 400 A.D, and the conclusion of the Preface.

Its text is composed of two parts, both inspired in Scripture and highlighting two juxtaposing aspects of God – the first part focuses on the awe and surpassing wonder before the divine majesty, and in the second, the humility of Jesus, God made man.

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.

Our Virtual Choir will sing our Memorial Acclamation – a response to what has been proclaimed in the Eucharistic prayer

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, with all the faithful departed, and in the company of Mary, Blessed Mother of Jesus, Saint Thomas, Saint Chad, 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

Let us offer our prayers to God with grateful and trusting hearts as we say together.

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

Lord, we died with you on the cross.
Now we are raised to new life.

We were buried in your tomb.
Now we share your resurrection.

Live in us,
that we may live in you

The priest breaks the consecrated bread as our virtual choir sing the Agnus Dei, underlining the reality of Jesus the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.

An act of Spiritual Communion

Those at home, as they look on to the consecrated elements - the Body and Blood of Our Lord present in the Bread and Wine, are invited to say

In union, dear Father, with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood, I offer you praise and thanksgiving. Even though I am exiled from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us. Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with your presence.

Those in church are invited to receive communion in one kind only. When you remove your mask, please ensure you wash your hands before and after receiving. Please do not say Amen when the host is given to you. As those in church receive, the following hymn is sung for those at home.

**Soul of my Saviour, sanctify my breast,
body of Christ, be thou my saving guest,
blood of my Saviour, bathe me in thy tide,
wash me with water flowing from thy side.**

**Strength and protection may thy Passion be,
O blessed Jesu, hear and answer me;
deep in thy wounds, Lord, hide and shelter me,
so shall I never, never part from thee.**

**Guard and defend me from the foe malign,
in death's dread moments make me only thine;
call me and bid me come to thee on high
where I may praise thee with thy saints for ay.**

*Anima Christi, sanctifica me
sometimes ascribed to Pope John XXII (1249-1334)
trans unknown*

Prayer after communion

Holy Father, who gathered us here around the table of your Son to share this meal with the whole household of God: in that new world where you reveal the fullness of your peace, gather people of every race and language to share in the eternal banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The dismissal

**Now let us from this table rise
renewed in body, mind and soul;
with Christ we die and rise again,
his selfless love has made us whole.**

**With minds alert, upheld by grace,
to spread the word in speech and deed,
we follow in the steps of Christ,
at one with all in hope and need.**

**To fill each human house with love,
it is the sacrament of care;
the work that Christ began to do
we humbly pledge ourselves to share.**

**Then grant us grace, Companion-God,
to choose again the pilgrim way
and help us to accept with joy
the challenge of tomorrow's day.**

Fred Kaan (1929-2009)

The Blessing

The Lord of glory be with you.

And also with you

God has sent Jesus to be the bread of life,
and we are nourished by him through word and
sacrament. Let us go out into the world
to share the good news that whoever eats of this
bread will live for ever.

And the blessing of God almighty, the ✠ Father,
the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and
remain with you always. **Amen.**

Jesus said to the disciples, 'Go into all the world
and proclaim the good news to the whole
creation.'

Mark 16.15

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

*Equipped to go out into our world, we leave in
silence*

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