



CHESTER
CATHEDRAL

Cathedral Eucharist

5th Sunday of Easter
10th May 2020 at 10.00am

President: Canon Jane Brooke

Preacher: The Very Revd Dr Tim Stratford

WELCOME

EASTER SEASON

The proclamation of Christ's triumph over death opens a season filled with joy and thanksgiving. The great fifty days of Eastertide, from Easter Day to Pentecost, form a unity: thus Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost are not a succession of seasons, but a single season encompassing the three mysteries of the resurrection, the ascension, and the coming of the Holy Spirit. This season enjoys a unique place in the liturgical calendar, focusing our attention upon the central tenets of the Christian faith, and reminding us that our Easter faith is more than simply that God raised Jesus: it is also that Jesus has been taken into glory and the Spirit has been poured out.

THE GATHERING

HYMN

- 1** Name of all majesty,
fathomless mystery,
King of the ages
by angels adored;
power and authority,
splendour and dignity,
bow to his mastery,
Jesus is Lord!

- 2** Child of our destiny,
God from eternity,
love of the Father
on sinners outpoured;
see now what God has done
sending his only Son,
Christ the beloved One,
Jesus is Lord!

- 3** Saviour of Calvary,
costliest victory,
darkness defeated
and Eden restored;
born as a man to die,
nailed to a cross on high,
cold in the grave to lie,
Jesus is Lord!

- 4** Source of all sovereignty,
light, immortality,
life everlasting
and heaven assured;
so with the ransomed, we
praise him eternally,
Christ in his majesty,
Jesus is Lord!

GREETING

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

OPENING RESPONSES

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed Alleluia!

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

He has brought us out of darkness.

He has made us light to the world.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Scripture calls us to resist temptation and be faithful to Christ.
As we offer ourselves to him in penitence and faith,
we renew our confidence and trust in his mercy.

We confess to you our selfishness and lack of love:
fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

We confess to you our fear and failure in sharing our faith:
fill us with your Spirit.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

We confess to you our stubbornness and lack of trust:
fill us with your Spirit.

Lord, have mercy.

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.**

GLORIA

**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 upon 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.**

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. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE NEW TESTAMENT

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

7. 55-60

Standing before the high priest and the council, Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL PSALM 31. 1-5, 15-16

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me, for you are my rock and my stronghold;
guide me, and lead me for your name's sake.

Take me out of the net that they have laid secretly for me,
for you are my strength.

Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

'My times are in your hand; deliver me from the hand of my enemies,
and from those who persecute me.

'Make your face to shine upon your servant,
and save me for your mercy's sake.'

HOLY GOSPEL

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

14. 1-14

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

After the sermon, a short silence is observed

NICENE CREED

**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

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

After each petition the following response is used

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

At the end

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

PEACE

Let love be genuine. Never pay back evil for evil.
As far as it lies with you, live at peace with everyone.

cf Romans (12,9,17,18)

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

THE PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you

and also 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.

But chiefly we are bound to praise you
because you raised him gloriously from the dead.
For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us,
and has taken away the sin of the world.
By his death he has destroyed death,
and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.
Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy
Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth
are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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 BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

AGNUS DEI

**Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world;
grant us peace.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.**

THE DISMISSAL

BLESSING

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.
Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.
In the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

HYMN

- 1 Christ of the mountain, shining in the light,
walks with the saints of prophecy and law.
His friends, so dazzled by the wondrous sight
could never tell exactly what they saw.**
- 2 Christ of the heights, in your perfection shine
across the ages let your love be shown,
for though your presence is such love divine
it is in this world that it must be known.**
- 3 Christ of the low place of our human sin,
you touch the needy and forgive their pain,
drive out the evil and let love begin
to find the wholeness of our life again.**
- 4 Christ of our history and the empty tomb,
always surprising those who follow you,
into our lives, into each hidden room,
you can break in to challenge us anew.**
- 5 Christ of the heavens, promise for always,
keep shining in your followers today,
so we may show the glory of your praise
and walk with faith in your surprising way.**

Colin Ferguson (born 1937)
© 2012 Colin Ferguson

WOODLANDS
Walter Greaterox (1877-1949)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Material from *Common Worship* included in this service is copyright © *The Archbishop's Council 2000*. Scripture quotations are from *New Revised Standard Version Bible: Anglicized Edition*, copyright © 1989, 1995 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. CCLI Licence Number: 177097.

