

ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

THE LITURGY  
FOR THE  
FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI  
(AS IT WOULD HAVE BEEN CELEBRATED IN 2020)



CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

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# THE GATHERING

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

*All* **Amen.**

## The Greeting

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

*All* **And also with you.**

## Introduction

*¶ The **priest** offers an informal welcome to the congregation and introduces the service and invites us to confess our sins.*

As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of God's love, revealed in Word and Sacrament, let us call to mind our sins.

## Prayer of Penitence

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We are truly sorry**

**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 grant that we may serve you in newness of life**

**to the glory of your name.**

**Amen.**

*¶ The priest prays over water:*

God our Father,  
your gift of water brings life and freshness  
to the earth;  
in baptism it is a sign of the washing away of our  
sins  
and the gift of eternal life.

Accept this water, we pray:  
renew the living spring of your life within us,  
that we may be free from sin  
and filled with your saving health;  
through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*¶ As a reminder of the baptism through which God's people enter his divine life the priest then asperges us with the blessed water.*

*¶ The priest then pronounces the absolution.*

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.*

*¶ We sing GLORIA IN EXCELSIS.*

**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

**Priest** Let us pray  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament  
you have given us the memorial of your passion:  
grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries  
of your body and blood  
that we may know within ourselves  
and show forth in our lives  
the fruits of your redemption;  
for you are alive and reign with the Father  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## The Readings

¶ *The portions of Scripture appointed for the day are read. At the end of each reading, the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*      **Thanks be to God.**

¶ *The PSALM follows the first reading. The Gospel procession commences during the GRADUAL HYMN.*

## The Gospel Reading

¶ *The deacon's acclamation heralds the Gospel reading:*

Alleluia, alleluia. I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the Lord. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever.

*All*      **Alleluia.**

¶ *When the Gospel is announced the deacon says:*

The Lord be with you.

*All*      **And also with you.**

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

*All*      **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¶ *At the end of the Gospel:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All*      **Praise to you O Christ.**

## *The Sermon*

# The Creed

*¶ The deacon invites us to stand to proclaim the faith of the Church.*

**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

We pray to the Lord.

Lord, listen to the prayers of your people,  
gathered at your table.

In faith we pray:

*All* **we pray to you our God.**

Here, where we celebrate how Christ gave us his  
body

to be our spiritual food,  
listen as we pray for his body the Church,  
spread throughout the world ...

In faith we pray:

*All* **we pray to you our God.**

Here, where we recognize the presence of Christ,  
who takes away the sins of the world,  
listen as we pray for that world,  
and for its peoples for whom his blood was shed ...

In faith we pray:

*All* **we pray to you our God.**



Here, where we come together as Christ gathered  
with his friends  
to give us this meal of holy fellowship,  
listen as we pray for all whom you have given us,  
our friends and all those whose lives are  
joined with ours ...

In faith we pray:

*All* **we pray to you our God.**

Here, where we remember the night of Christ's  
agony and trial,  
listen as we pray for all who share his sufferings  
through fear or pain or distress of many kinds ...

In faith we pray:

*All* **we pray to you our God.**

Here, where we join our praises with the whole  
company of heaven,

listen as we pray for all who have trusted

Christ's promise

to raise up on the last day those who eat his flesh  
and drink his blood ...

In faith we pray:

*All* **we pray to you our God.**

Lord, satisfy our hunger with the food that lasts,  
the bread of God which comes down from heaven  
and gives life to the world,

Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

## The Peace

¶ *The Peace is introduced in these words:*

We are the Body of Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Let us then pursue all that makes for peace and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

**Deacon** Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

¶ *All may exchange a sign of peace. We sing an Offertory hymn.*

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

*All* **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right and good,

Always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise

holy Father, almighty and eternal God,

through Jesus Christ our great high priest.

He offered himself to you as the Lamb without blemish,

the acceptable gift that gives you perfect praise.

At the Last Supper, seated with his apostles,

he left this memorial of his passion

to bring us its saving power until the end of time.  
In this great sacrament you feed your people  
and strengthen them in holiness,  
so that throughout the world the human family  
may be enlightened by one faith  
and drawn together in one communion of love.  
We come to this foretaste of your heavenly banquet  
to be transformed by your grace  
and restored in the image and likeness of the risen  
Christ.

Therefore earth unites with heaven  
to sing a new song of praise;  
we too join with angels and archangels  
as they proclaim your glory without end:

*All* **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, 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.

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 [*N 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

**Priest** Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us,

*All* **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.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

*¶ The priest breaks the consecrated bread and says*

**Priest** 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 one bread.**

*¶ The priest invites us to receive Holy Communion.*

**Priest** Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

*All* **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*¶ We then receive Holy Communion. Communion hymns may be sung.*

## Prayer after Communion

*¶ Silence is kept. The priest says:*

**Priest:** Let us pray.

**Priest:** All praise to you, our God and Father,  
for you have fed us with the bread of heaven  
and quenched our thirst from the true vine:  
hear our prayer that, being grafted into Christ,  
we may grow together in unity  
and feast with him in his kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

**Amen.**

## Benediction

¶ *As the Blessed Sacrament is processed, we sing NEH 268 part 1.*

Of the glorious body telling,  
O my tongue, its mysteries sing,  
And the blood, all price excelling  
Which the world's eternal King,  
In a spotless womb once dwelling,  
Shed for this world's ransoming.

2. Given for us, for us descending,  
Of a virgin to proceed,  
Man with man in converse blending  
Scattered he the gospel seed,  
Till his sojourn drew to ending,  
Which he closed in wondrous deed.

3. At the last great supper lying  
Cirled by his chosen band,  
Duly with the law complying,  
First he finished its command,  
Then, immortal food supplying,  
Gave himself by his own hand.

4. Word-made-flesh, by word he  
maketh  
Bread his very flesh to be;  
Man in wine Christ's blood partaketh:  
And if senses fail to see,  
Faith alone the true heart waketh  
To behold the mystery.

¶ *When the Blessed Sacrament is brought to the altar, we sing NEH 269, part 2.*

O saving Victim, opening wide  
The gate of heaven to man below:  
Our foes press hard on every side,  
Thine aid supply, thy strength bestow.

All praise and thanks to thee ascend  
For evermore, blest One in Three;  
O grant us life that shall not end,  
In our true native land with thee. Amen.

¶ *The Blessed Sacrament is censed as we sing NEH 268 part 2.*

Therefore we, before him bending,  
This great sacrament revere:  
Types and shadows have their ending,  
For the newer rite is here;  
Faith, our outward sense befriending,  
Makes the inward vision clear.

Glory let us give and blessing  
To the Father and the Son,  
Honour, might and praise addressing  
While eternal ages run;  
Ever too his love confessing,  
Who from both, with both, is one. Amen.

**Priest**    Thou gavest them bread from Heaven. Alleluia!  
*All*        **Containing in itself all sweetness. Alleluia!**

¶ *We are blessed with the Blessed Sacrament*

¶ *The Divine Praises are repeated after the Priest.*

Blessed be God.  
Blessed be his holy Name.  
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.  
Blessed be the Name of Jesus.  
Blessed be his most Sacred Heart.  
Blessed be Jesus in the most holy  
    Sacrament of the Altar.  
Blessed be the Holy Spirit the Comforter.

Blessed be the Holy and Undivided Trinity.  
Blessed be God in his angels and in his saints.

¶ *We sing three times:*

Blessed and praised be Jesus Christ,  
in the most holy Sacrament.  
Hosanna! Hosanna!  
Hosanna in excelsis!

¶ *We then sing NEH 305.*

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 blessèd 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.