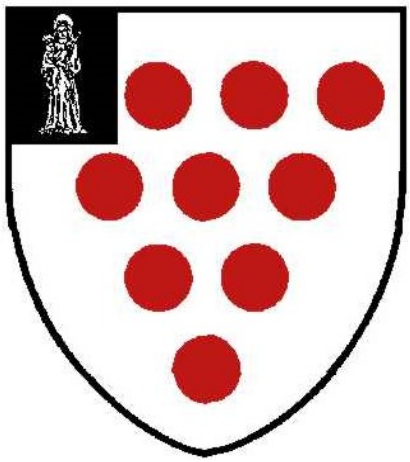
The Cathedral Church of Christ
and the Blessed Mary the Virgin of Worcester



Sung Eucharist for Ascension Day

Please take this booklet away with you.

Welcome

to everyone worshipping in Worcester Cathedral at this service.

If you are here for the first time, please contact Canon Stephen Edwards (stephenedwards@worcestercathedral.org.uk) who can give you a **welcome booklet**.

We regret that under current guidance, we are unable to offer **Junior Church** provision.

All baptised, communicant members of churches in which God the Holy Trinity is worshipped are welcome to receive **communion** if they wish.

Those who are not receiving communion are warmly invited to come forward with those who are receiving communion, if they wish, to receive instead a silent prayer of **blessing**. Please hold something in your hands as a sign that you wish to receive a blessing, and the minister will bless you without touching you.

Please speak to a steward or verger before the service if you wish to receive **gluten-free consecrated bread**, or to have communion brought to you in your seat.

A **collection** will be taken as you leave the cathedral at the end of the service, which includes a facility for contactless donation. Your gift will support the cathedral's ministry and mission, and help to keep the building in good repair and open to all without charge. UK tax-payers are kindly asked to use gift-aid envelopes available at the separate contactless giving points, which allows the cathedral to claim an additional 25% of the donation from the government, at no additional cost to the donor. The front of the envelopes has to be completed, and we ask you kindly to do this with your own pen. If you wish to give regularly, please contact Gerald Harris of the Stewardship Committee via the Chapter Office (01905 732900).

You may like to use this **prayer** privately before the service begins:

> Almighty God,
> to whom all hearts are open,
> all desires known,
> and from whom no secrets are hidden:
> cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
> by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
> that we may perfectly love you,
> and worthily magnify your holy name;
> through Christ our Lord.
> Amen.

The Gathering

The people stand at the entry of the ministers.

The Greeting

President In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

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

All **and also with you.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The president welcomes the people and introduces the service.

Prayers of Penitence

With suitable penitential sentences, this confession is used

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

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.**

Gloria in Excelsis

President Seeing we have a great high priest who has passed through the heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us offer him the praise worthy of his name.

Choir Glory be to God on high,
and in earth peace,
good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ:
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
art Most High
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

The Collect

The Collect is said, and all respond

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

The people sit for the readings and psalm.

Readings

Two readings precede the Gospel reading.

At the end of each, the reader says

For the word of the Lord,
All **thanks be to God.**

A psalm or canticle follows the first reading.

Gospel Reading

The people stand.

This acclamation heralds the Gospel reading

Reader Alleluia, alleluia.
Go and make disciples of all nations, says the Lord.
Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.
cf Matthew 28.19,20

All **Alleluia.**

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end

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

Sermon

The Nicene Creed

The people stand.

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,
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

The people sit, and a minister leads them in prayers of intercession.

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy
All **hear our prayer.**

(or)

Lord, hear us.
All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

And at the end

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The people stand.

President Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
If you love me, rejoice because I am going to the Father.' Alleluia.

John 14.27,28

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

The people remain standing.

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The president places bread and wine on the altar.

The president takes the bread and wine and says

Blessed be God,
by whose grace creation is renewed,
by whose love heaven is opened,
by whose mercy we offer our sacrifice of praise.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

President 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.**

The president praises God for his mighty acts.

Choir Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The president recalls the Last Supper, and this acclamation is used

President Great is the mystery of faith:
All **Christ has died:**
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

The Prayer continues and leads into the doxology, to which all respond boldly

All **Blessing and honour and glory and power**
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.

The people sit.

The Lord's Prayer

President Rejoicing in God's 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, saying

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

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

Live in us, that we may live in you.

Giving of Communion

The president invites the people to communion, saying

I heard the voice of a great multitude crying, Alleluia.
The Lord our God has entered into his kingdom.

All **Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb. Alleluia.**

The president receives communion and says to those intending to receive communion

The body of Christ. *(or)* The body of Christ keep you in eternal life.

Those intending to receive communion respond

Amen.

The people receive communion in one kind (consecrated bread only) from a standing station. All baptised members of churches in which God the Holy Trinity is worshipped are welcome to receive communion if they wish.

Those who are not receiving communion are warmly invited to come forward with those who are receiving communion, if they wish, to receive instead a silent prayer of blessing. Please hold something in your hands as a sign that you wish to receive a blessing, and the minister will bless you without touching you.

Those coming forward are asked to form a single line, socially distanced from one another, and return to their seats via the side-aisles, as directed by the stewards and vergers.

Choir O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God,
that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

During the distribution, the choir may also sing an anthem.

Prayer after Communion

President Let us pray.

The people stand.

God our Father,
you have raised our humanity in Christ
and have fed us with the bread of heaven:
mercifully grant that, nourished with such spiritual blessings,
we may set our hearts in the heavenly places;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

All **We thank you, Lord,**
that you have fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ,
and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet
prepared for all peoples.
Amen.

The Dismissal

President Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The president blesses the people, saying

Christ our ascended King pour upon you the abundance of his gifts
and bring you to reign with him in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The president dismisses the people, saying

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

The ministers and people depart. Please follow any direction of the stewards or vergers.

The offerings of the people are collected as they leave.

Please take this service-booklet away with you.

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