

*Mass from St Matthew's, Westminster
The Feast of Corpus Christi
14th June 2020*





Introductory Rite

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

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Welcome to St Matthew's Westminster for this Mass on the Feast of Corpus Christi. Even though physically separated, I hope you will feel part of this act of prayer and worship, as we celebrate in the presence of God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Today we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi, when we honour the gift of the Holy Eucharist, the food which sustains us on our journey through life which was given to us by Our Lord at the Last Supper. We pray that in this Mass we may deepen our Communion with Christ and with one another.

Prayers of Penitence

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

Like as the hart longs for flowing streams,
so longs my soul for you, O God:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

O send out your light and your truth,
that they may lead me:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

May we come to your altar, O God,
the God of our salvation:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

May Almighty God have mercy upon us,
forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

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 of The Day

The Feast of Corpus Christi

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,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Liturgy of The Word

First Reading

Genesis 14. 18-20

A Reading from the Book Genesis

And King Melchizedek of Salem brought out bread and wine;
he was priest of God Most High.
He blessed him and said, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
maker of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High,
who has delivered your enemies into your hand!'
And Abram gave him one-tenth of everything.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 11. 23-26

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul the Apostle to the Corinthians.

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The Word of The Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia.

Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia.

I am the bread of life, says the Lord:
anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.

Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel

St John 6. 51-58

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St John

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.'

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

Fr Peter Bradley, *Dean of Sheffield Cathedral*

The 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.

The Prayers of The People

Liturgy of The Sacrament

The Peace

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles
peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you:
regard not our sins but the faith of your Church,
and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom
where you live for ever and ever. Amen.

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

The Preparation Of The Gifts

Blessèd are you, Lord God of all creation.
Through your goodness
we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and
human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.
Blessèd be God for ever.

Blessèd are you, Lord God of all creation.
Through your goodness
we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become our spiritual drink.
Blessèd be God for ever.

Orate Fratres

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that this our sacrifice
may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.
**May the Lord accept the sacrifice we offer
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Prayer Over The Gifts

God our Father,
make holy the gifts
we bring to your altar,
and lift up our hearts
to your heavenly kingdom;
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.
Amen.

The Eucharistic 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 and good,
our duty and our salvation
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 through out 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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessèd 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 Our Lady,
St Matthew, St Edward the Confessor,
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

At the Saviour's command
and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**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 Fraction

Agnus Dei

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of
the world: have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of
the world: have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of
the world: grant us peace.**

Invitation to Communion

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

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

Spiritual Communion

During the coronavirus pandemic the Church of England is having to put public worship on hold. This means that many people who would have received Holy Communion each Sunday, and some of them every day, are not able to receive the comfort and benefits of the sacrament.

This is a huge loss. However, it is not the first time that the Church has been in such a position. Throughout Christian history some Christian people have found themselves isolated from the sacramental life of the Church for all sorts of reasons, and particularly in times of plague, famine and warfare.

At such times the Church has encouraged people to make what is called a Spiritual Communion. It is a way of uniting yourself with Jesus and entering into communion with him even though you are not able to receive the sacrament itself.

The prayer that follows draws on the story of the woman who comes to Jesus but only touches the hem of his garment. She still receives healing and blessing (See St Mark 5. 25-34). In a way, spiritual communion is like this. We are not able to receive the sacramental bread and wine. But in a spiritual communion we still come to Jesus and he still receives us.

Act of Spiritual Reception

O loving God, in union 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 of your dear Son, 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.

Postcommunion Prayers

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.

**Heavenly Father, your steadfast purpose
is the completion of all things in your Son Jesus Christ.
May we who have received the pledges of the kingdom,
live by faith, walk in hope and be renewed in love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

The Dismissal

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Christ, who has nourished us with himself the living bread,
make you one in praise and love,
and raise you up at the last day;
and the ✠ blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with now and always. **Amen.**

The Mass is ended.
Go in the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.



*The Mass concludes with the Angelus
which recalls the centrality of the Incarnation
as we are sent out to live the faith we have proclaimed.*

The Angelus

The angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary.
And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

**Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus.**

**Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now
and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

Behold, the handmaid of the Lord.
Be it unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary ...

And the word was made flesh.
And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary ...

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God:
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Almighty God, pour thy grace into our hearts, that as we have known
the incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel,
so by his ✠ Cross and Passion we may be brought unto the glory
of his resurrection; through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Organ Postlude