

St Edmundsbury
Cathedral



A thousand years of God's love in Suffolk

Holy Communion

on the day of Pentecost

31 May 2020

10.00 am



Pentecost Sunday at St Edmundsbury Cathedral

Welcome to the Cathedral as we celebrate the day of Pentecost.

Today's Service

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to today's livestreamed Eucharist, sending in recordings and videos to Rachel Clover, Head Verger and Estates Manager, who has woven together the many different elements in the liturgy. The musical setting of the Sanctus and Benedictus (Darke in F) was recorded by members of our cathedral choir just before 'lockdown'; the hymn and anthem were put together in the last few days remotely. All the texts are from *Common Worship*, and help focus on the gift of the Spirit in our lives and world.

Pentecost

The Great Fifty Days of Eastertide, beginning on Easter Day and ending with Pentecost (sometimes called Whitsun), form a single season in the church's calendar. Although Pentecost has its roots in the Jewish tradition on the fiftieth day after Passover, for Christians, it was on the fiftieth day of Easter that God sent his promised Holy Spirit to empower Christians to perform the mission which the risen Christ has entrusted to them. Pentecost therefore crowns the celebration of Eastertide.

The 'birthday of the Church'

Pentecost Sunday recognizes that the risen Lord Jesus is no longer physically present to Christians; Christians are now to be the new 'body of Christ', filled with his life through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Through the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit, the apostles were given the strength and boldness to take the message of the Good News of Christ to all the world. The events of the first Pentecost Day brought the nascent church to birth, hence is often referred to as the 'church's birthday': at Pentecost we pray that the same Holy Spirit would guide and strengthen Christians today in mission and ministry.

Thank you to the Norman Tower Bellringers, who have provided the 'virtual' bellringing before today's service.

Cover Image

Pentecost

Jean Il Restout, 1692-1758

Service order extracts from *Common Worship Services*,
© The Central Board of Finance of The Church of England.
Music reproduced with permission - CCL Licence No 317297

The Order of Service

¶ The Gathering

The Canon Precentor gives the welcome and then introduces the service, saying

The President says

We meet in the name of the ✠ Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Jesus Christ, whom we worship,
is our crucified, risen and ascended Lord,
and we have walked with him through his journey of love.

We have faced the agony of his suffering
and death on a cross.

We have rejoiced at his bursting free
from the bonds of death.

We have enjoyed his risen presence with us
and his revelation of himself through the breaking of bread.

We have seen his return to the throne
before which every knee shall bow
and every tongue confess that this Jesus is Lord.

And now, with the followers of his own time,
we await the coming of the promised Holy Spirit,
his gift to his people,
through whom we make Christ known to the world.

The Opening Hymn

O thou who camest from above
the fire celestial to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart!

There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work, and speak, and think for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire,
and still stir up the gift in me.

Ready for all thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat;
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: Hereford, Samuel Sebastian Wesley 1810-1876

Pentecost Prayer for Personal Renewal

President Be with us, Spirit of God;
All nothing can separate us from your love.

All Breathe on us, breath of God;
fill us with your saving power.

All Speak in us, wisdom of God;
bring strength, healing, and peace.

The President says

May Christ forgive ✕ you your sins
and dwell in your hearts through faith,
that you may be rooted and grounded in love
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.
All Amen.

¶ The Liturgy of the Word

The Pentecost Reading

As at the first Pentecost, the reading will be in different languages, as a reminder of the Spirit's gift of the ability to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to all nations and races.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in their native language. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs - in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.' But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: "In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Acts 2.1-21, NRSV

The Pentecost Responsory

The Lord is here!
All His Spirit is with us!

In place of the Gloria, everyone joins in the Pentecost Responsory, praying with thankful hearts for the Holy Spirit's renewing touch in our lives and world.

As we wait,
All fill us with your Spirit.

As we listen to your word,
All fill us with your Spirit.

As we worship you in majesty,
All fill us with your Spirit.

As we long for your refreshing,
All fill us with your Spirit.

As we long for your renewing,
All fill us with your Spirit.

As we long for your equipping,
All fill us with your Spirit.

As we long for your empowering,
All fill us with your Spirit.

Silence is kept.

The Collect

Let us pray that the Spirit will work through our lives
to bring Christ to the world.

Silence is kept.

Holy Spirit, sent by the Father,
ignite in us your holy fire;
strengthen your children with the gift of faith,
revive your Church with the breath of love,
and renew the face of the earth,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

¶ *The Liturgy of the Word*

The Gospel Acclamations

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people
and kindle in us the fire of your love.

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

The Dean reads

The Gospel Reading

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

John 20.19-23

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

The Sermon

given by
The Reverend Canon Matthew Vernon
Canon Pastor and Sub Dean

The sermon is followed by a few moments of stillness for reflection.

The Profession of Faith

President At Pentecost, in the power of God's Holy Spirit and in the company of all his people, I ask you to make the profession of the Christian faith into which you were baptized, and in which you live and grow.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, ✠ Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

The President invites everyone to pray, saying

We pray for God to fill us with his Spirit.

Christopher Barlow leads

The Prayers of Intercession

The intercessions conclude as the President says

Generous God,
you sent your Holy Spirit
upon your Messiah at the river Jordan,
and upon the disciples in the upper room:
in your mercy fill us with your Spirit,
hear our prayers
and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you with joy for ever. **Amen.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

President God has made us one in Christ.
He has set his seal upon us and,
as a pledge of what is to come,
has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.
Alleluia.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

If you have other members of your household with you, you may wish to share the peace with them now. If are alone, know Christ's Peace to be with you now.

The Preparation of the Table

The Taking of the Bread and Wine

President Blessed be God,
who feeds the hungry,
who raises the poor,
who fills us with the Spirit's power.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
and also with you

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

President It is indeed right,
it is our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
holy Father, almighty and everlasting God,
through Jesus Christ, your only Son our Lord.

This day we give you thanks
because in fulfilment of your promise
you pour out your Spirit upon us,
filling us with your gifts, leading us into all truth,
and uniting peoples of many tongues
in the confession of one faith.

Your Spirit gives us grace to call you Father,
to proclaim your gospel to all nations
and to serve you as a royal priesthood.

Therefore we join our voices with angels
and archangels, and with all those in whom
the Spirit dwells,
to proclaim the glory of your name,
for ever praising you and saying:

Sanctus and Benedictus

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.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;

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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

All **Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free,
you are the Saviour of the world.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

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

The Lord's Prayer

President Being made one by the power of the Spirit,
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.**

Breaking of the Bread

President Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life.
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

Agnus Dei

**All 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.**

Spiritual Communion

President Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

‘Spiritual Communion’ is a historic practice in the church for anyone who cannot receive the bread and wine physically. It is possible because Communion is always a spiritual practice and not simply physical. Through God’s grace, whilst we cannot receive the bread and wine, we can still receive the sacrament in our hearts, and share in communion with Jesus. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere who cannot receive the bread and wine at this time. The following prayers are one form of words to use for Spiritual Communion.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given us,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for us.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may we know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day. Amen.

after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

Soul of Christ, sanctify me;
Body of Christ, save me;
Blood of Christ, fill me;
Water from the side of Christ, wash me;
Passion of Christ, strengthen me;
O good Jesu hear me;
Within your wounds hide me;
let me never be separated from you;
From darkness protect me;
At the hour of my death, call me;
And bid me come to you;
That with your saints,
I may praise you to all eternity.

Anima Christi, Latin 14th-century

During Communion the choir sings

Come, Holy Ghost

Come, Holy Ghost our souls inspire,
and lighten with celestial fire.
Thou the anointing Spirit art,
Who dost thy sev'nfold gifts impart.
Thy blessed unction from above,
is comfort, life and fire of love.

Enable with perpetual light,
the dullness of our blinded sight;
Anoint and cheer our soiled face
with the abundance of thy grace.
Keep far our foes give peace at home,
where thou art guide no ill can come.

Teach us to know the Father, Son,
and thee of both to be but one,
that through the ages all along,
this may be our endless song;
Praise to thy eternal merit,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Thomas Attwood, 1765-1838

The Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

**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 Blessing

President The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

President Today we have remembered the coming
 of God's power on the disciples.
 We invite that same Spirit
 to drive us out into the world.

The President prays the blessing, saying

May the Spirit,
who hovered over the waters when the world was created,
breathe into you the life he gives.
Amen.

May the Spirit, who overshadowed the Virgin when the
eternal Son came among us,
make you joyful in the service of the Lord.
Amen.

May the Spirit, who set the Church on fire
upon the Day of Pentecost, bring the world alive
with the love of the risen Christ.
Amen.

 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 Final Hymn

Come down, O Love divine,
Seek thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner clothing:
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace,
Till he become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his dwelling.

Words: Bianco da Siena, d1434, tr. R.F. Littledale, 1833-90

Music: Down Ampney, R. Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

The Dismissal

Filled with the Spirit's power
be in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

The Voluntary

Placare Christe Servulis
Marcel Dupré, 1886-1971