



# Holy Communion at Easter

# Welcome to St Edmundsbury Cathedral for this celebration of Holy Communion

Worship has been offered here since medieval times. You are invited to be a part of that long tradition, and to participate fully in our Eucharist today.

The Order of Service begins on page 8. We hope that the information below and on page 7 will be helpful to you as we prepare to worship.

If you are new to our congregation and would like to learn more about the life of the Cathedral community, please speak to one of the wardens or clergy, or visit our website: stedscathedral.org. Alternatively, you can complete one of the 'new member cards' available at the west end of the Cathedral. We would be glad to provide you with a Welcome Pack giving some information about the many aspects of Cathedral life.

**Cathedral Giving**: One of the ways we express our response to God and our love of the Cathedral is by committing ourselves to regular giving. This is vital to our flourishing. If you are not already in our scheme for giving, please see the wardens who will help you decide how best to contribute, and explain about tax-efficient giving.

**Families and Children**: Families and children of all ages are welcome at the Cathedral. There are toys and books in the back corner, and please feel free to move in and out of the Cathedral during the service. Baby changing facilities are in the Cathedral Centre; please ask a warden for directions.

**Junior Church**: For the younger members of the congregation, Junior Church meets each week during term time unless there is a family service. Please do speak to a warden or member of the clergy if you need confirmation about dates.

If you are a UK taxpayer, please use the Gift Aid envelope provided. This enables the Cathedral to claim from HM Government an additional sum on top of your donation, at no further cost to you.

Alternatively, you may like to use one of the contactless donation points in the Cathedral.

Please use silent or do not disturb mode on your mobile phone. Please do not take any photographs or make any video or sound recordings. This is for reasons of Safeguarding and Data Protection and in order to help you concentrate on the service and not to distract others.







Please note that this service is normally livestreamed. Photographs, video or livestream footage in which you may appear could be used by the Cathedral at any time in the public domain including social media. If you do not want to appear, please inform a warden or verger.

**Instructions about posture in the service are for guidance only** and those who prefer not to stand or kneel, or who cannot, should do as is most comfortable for them.

Please leave this booklet here for others to use.

A large print version is available.

# The Holy Eucharist – Easter

The passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, along with the incarnation, are central to our understanding of what it is to be a Christian. The fifty days of Eastertide - seven Sundays from Easter Day until Pentecost - are weeks where the Church reflects on the meaning of the Resurrection, and how the message of Easter affects our journey of life and the choices we make. In churches, and cathedrals such as ours, where the custom of lighting the Easter Candle at the beginning of Easter is followed, the lit candle stands prominently in church for all the Eastertide services - a reminder of the Light of Christ in our midst. The celebration of the Ascension of Christ is celebrated towards the end of Eastertide: it marks Jesus's commissioning the disciples to continue with showing the world God's heart of love. The ascension is therefore closely connected with the theme of the mission of the Church. Jesus promises the gift of the Holy Spirit for this which is fulfilled on the day of Pentecost - the fiftieth day - which completes and crowns the Easter Festival.

The Eucharist, commonly known as Holy Communion, is the service which Jesus Christ instituted on the night before he was crucified, when he said "do this in remembrance of me". Since then, the church all over the world has celebrated using bread and wine; and the altar where the table is laid for communion is the heart of any church. So it is that we participate in Christ's life, joining with all other Christians, by sharing in God's Word through the bible, sermon and prayers and by sharing symbolically in his body and blood through the bread and wine.

The Holy Eucharist has four main sections:

**The Gathering**, when we come together in worship. This concludes with the Collect (the prayer for the week) which 'collects' or gathers together the prayers of the congregation.

**The Liturgy of the Word**, when we listen to readings from the bible and hear the sermon, sing or say together the Creed or Affirmation of Faith and offer our prayers of intercession.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament, when we follow the example and command of Jesus at the Last Supper. The President (a priest or bishop) takes the bread and the wine to be consecrated (set apart), offers thanks in the words of the Eucharistic (thanksgiving) Prayer, and shares this with the congregation.

**The Dismissal**, in which the President blesses the congregation and we are sent out to love and serve the Lord.

The sign of the cross: Some people find it helpful to make the 'sign of the cross' at various points in the service. This is a reminder of God's presence as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and his great love for us shown in Jesus Christ who opened wide his arms for all peoples on the cross. Those suggested points in the service are marked with a  $\maltese$  sign. The sign of the cross is traditionally made using your right hand: touch your forehead at 'Father'; the lower middle of your chest at 'Son'; the left shoulder at 'Holy', and the right shoulder at 'Spirit'.

**Healing ministry**: If you would like to receive prayer or anointing for healing for yourself or someone else, it is normally offered in the Lady Chapel during the distribution of communion. After you leave the altar rail, make your way there via the south or north transepts, following the directions of the wardens or vergers.

**Incense** is one of the gifts given to the Christ-child in the manger, and referred to throughout the bible as a symbol of worship. It has been used in Christian worship since the very earliest times as a sign of our prayer rising to God. The hot coals can be seen as representing the warmth of God's heart of love, and only when the lifeless grains come into contact with the coals does the incense come alive – just as our souls come alive when we seek to connect with the fire of God's love. Leaving the Cathedral carrying the fragrance of incense with you can symbolise our desire to carry the 'fragrance of Christ' (2 Corinthians 2.15) to those whose lives are connected with ours. The incense used at the Cathedral is hypoallergenic.

The Order of Service begins on page 8.

# **Preparing for the Service**

Before the service begins you may find it helpful to use the following for reflection, preparation for worship, and prayer.

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages; to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever. Amen.

published in Common Worship Service of Light for Easter Day CHP 2006

# An Easter Sonnet by Malcolm Guite

Each human life hangs taut between the powers Of heaven and of earth. Our soaring hearts Yearn heavenward, even as the weighted hours Of gravity and time, heavy with hurts And griefs too great to number, pull us down And seal us at the last in one black tomb Against whose entrance rolls the heavy stone.

But from this day that tomb becomes a womb
The earth is shaking with her labour pain.
Our Life-Light quickens with the coming dawn.
To help us now the powers of heaven come down,
Time's tyrant prison guards have watched in vain
An angel-midwife rolls away the stone
And from the tomb the Kingdom is reborn.

published in Stations of the Resurrection CHP 2024

# The Order of Service begins here

# ¶ The Gathering

In the name of the 

Father,

and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

All stand to sing

The Introit Hymn

Hymn numbers can be found in the Sunday bulletin.

The Greeting

President Grace, mercy and peace

from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

be with you

All and also with you.

# The Prayer of Preparation

All 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 Prayers of Penitence

The following or some other words of introduction are used.

Deacon Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God.

Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil

and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

All sit or kneel as silence is kept. The following prayer of penitence may be used, or some other.

All Most merciful God.

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

In your mercy

forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly,

love mercy,

and walk humbly with you, our God.

Amen.

President 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.

All Amen.

or

We have lived by our own strength,

and not always by the power of your resurrection life.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, sometimes faithless and not believing.

Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

We have often lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

The Absolution

The following or some other words of absolution are used.

President May God, who loved the world so much

that he sent his Son to be our Saviour, 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

A setting is normally sung by the choir in English or Latin. Alternatively, a congregational setting may be used.

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.

All remain seated or kneeling for

The Collect

The President leads the Collect of the day found in the Sunday bulletin.

The Collect is a seasonal prayer, different each week, which 'collects' or gathers together the prayers of the congregation.

All respond Amen.

# ¶ The Liturgy of the Word

All sit for

# The Readings

Either one or two readings from the bible come before the Gospel reading. Readings can normally be found in the Sunday bulletin.

At the end of each, the reader says:

For the word of the Lord.

### All Thanks be to God.

All stand and turn to face the Gospel Book as it is carried in procession to the centre of the nave.

The choir leads

# The Gospel Acclamations

Choir Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.



The choir sings the Gospel sentence, then all repeat the Alleluia.

# The Gospel Reading

Deacon The Lord be with you and also with you.

Deacon Hear the Gospel of our Lord according to [Name].

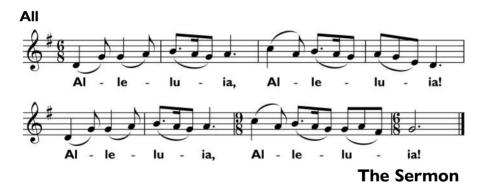
All Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

Deacon This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

All sing the Alleluia again.



All sit after the preacher's opening prayer.

The sermon is followed by a time of stillness for reflection.

All stand for

### The Nicene Creed

The Nicene Creed is normally used. An alternative Affirmation of Faith may be used, printed on the next page.

AΙΙ

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.

or

### The Affirmation of Faith

President Let us declare our faith

in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All Christ died for our sins

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he was buried;

he was raised to life on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures;

afterwards he appeared to his followers,

and to all the apostles: this we have received, and this we believe.

Amen.

or

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life,

the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in God.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,

who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in God.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,

who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

All We believe and trust in God.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

# The Prayers of Intercession

Deacon Let us pray for the Church and for the world

and let us thank God for his goodness.

All sit or kneel.

After each bidding:

Minister Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

or

Minister Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

Other responses may be used.

At the end:

Minister Merciful Father,

All accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

# ¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

All stand for

The Peace

The following or some other words of introduction are used.

President The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples

and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

President 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.

# **The Offertory Hymn**

During the Offertory Hymn the gifts of the people are gathered and presented, the table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it. Hymn numbers can be found in the Sunday bulletin.

# The Preparation of the Table

# The Taking of the Bread and Wine

President Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.

In your loving care you spread before us the table of life

and give us the cup of salvation to drink.

Keep us always in the fold

of our Saviour and our Shepherd, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Blessed be God for ever.

# The Eucharistic Prayer

### The President and people sing

### The Sursum Corda



from Easter Day until the Sixth Sunday of Easter:

**President** 

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. For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory. He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal. And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

on the Seventh Sunday of Easter, the Sunday after Ascension Day:

President

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For he is our great high priest who has entered once for all into the heavenly sanctuary, evermore to pour upon your Church the grace and comfort of your Holy Spirit. He is the one who has gone before us, who calls us to be united in prayer as were his disciples in the upper room while they awaited his promised gift, the life-giving Spirit of Pentecost. Therefore all creation yearns with eager longing as angels and archangels sing the endless hymn of praise:

### Sanctus and Benedictus

A setting is normally sung by the choir in English or Latin. Alternatively, a congregational setting may be used.

Choir

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

### President

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.

### Deacon

Jesus Christ is Lord:

### All

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

### President

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 kneel as the consecrated bread and wine are raised in the sight of the people and the Sanctus bell is rung.

# The Lord's Prayer

The following or some other words are used.

Deacon Rejoicing in God's new Resurrection Light,

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.

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

President Jesus says, I am the bread of life,

whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

All Lord, our hearts hunger for you;

give us this bread always.

# The Giving of Communion

President Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

# **Spiritual Communion**

The prayer for Spiritual Communion is offered here for those joining by livestream. Spiritual Communion is the historic practice in the church for anyone who cannot receive the bread and wine physically.

# **Agnus Dei**

A setting is normally sung by the choir in English or Latin. Alternatively, a congregational setting may be used.

Choir 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.

If you are used to receiving communion in a church of your own, whatever your Christian tradition, you are warmly invited to receive the sacrament today. Please follow the directions of the wardens.

If you require gluten-free communion bread, please indicate to the minister.

Anyone wishing to receive a blessing is also welcome: please carry this order of service with you as an indication to the ministers.

During the distribution of communion, the choir may sing a motet.

# **Prayers for Healing**

Prayer or anointing for healing for yourself or someone else is normally offered in the Lady Chapel during the distribution of communion. Please follow the directions of the wardens or vergers.

# The Prayer after Communion

President Let us pray.

All sit or kneel as silence is kept.

A Post Communion Prayer, which can be found in the Sunday bulletin, may be led by the President, after which all may say:

### All God of life,

who for our redemption
gave your only-begotten Son
to the death of the cross,
and by his glorious resurrection
have delivered us from the power of our enemy:
grant us so to die daily to sin,
that we may evermore live with him
in the joy of his risen life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

# ¶ The Dismissal

All stand for

# The Blessing

President The Lord be with you and also with you.

The following or some other words of blessing are used.

President God the Father,

by whose love Christ was raised from the dead, open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.

All Amen.

President God the Son,

who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,

give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

All Amen.

President God the Holy Spirit,

who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,

empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

All Amen.

President And the blessing of God Almighty,

the Father, 

the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

All remain standing to sing

# The Final Hymn

Hymn numbers can be found in the Sunday bulletin.

All remain standing for

### The Dismissal

Deacon With the risen life of Christ within you,

go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

All remain standing as the procession departs and the organist plays

# The Organ Voluntary

Refreshments are normally served after the service to which you are warmly invited.

If you are visiting the Cathedral today, please take our prayers and best wishes back to your own community.

The **Friends of St Edmundsbury Cathedral** support the Cathedral Chapter in caring for the fabric of the building and by expanding the resources available to the Cathedral in its work and mission.

You may wish to support the choral tradition of our Cathedral Church by joining the **Friends of the Cathedral Choirs (FOCC)**.

Membership forms for the Friends of St Edmundsbury Cathedral and the Friends of the Cathedral Choirs are available at the west end of the Cathedral. Please ask a warden for help if needed.

Service order extracts from Common Worship Services,

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# **Congregational setting by Peter Jones**

### Gloria

Choir Glory to God, glory in the highest,

and peace to his people, peace on earth.

ΑII



Choir Lord God, heavenly King,

almighty God and Father,

All Glory to God, glory in the highest, and peace to his people, peace on earth.

Choir we worship you,

All glory in the highest,

Choir give you thanks,

All glory in the highest,

Choir praise you for your glory.

All Glory to God, glory in the highest, and peace to his people, peace on earth.

Choir 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,

All have mercy on us;

Choir you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer,

All receive our prayer.

Choir Glory to God, glory in the highest, and peace to his people, peace on earth.

All Glory to God, glory in the highest, and peace to his people, peace on earth.

Choir 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 glory of God the Father.

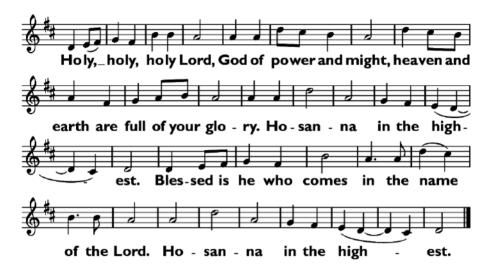
All Glory to God, glory in the highest, and peace to his people, peace on earth.

Choir Amen,

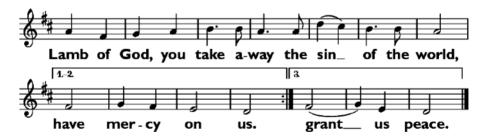
All a - men.

# **Congregational Setting by Gregory Murray**

### Sanctus and Benedictus



# **Agnus Dei**



# **Congregational Setting by David Thorne**

### Gloria

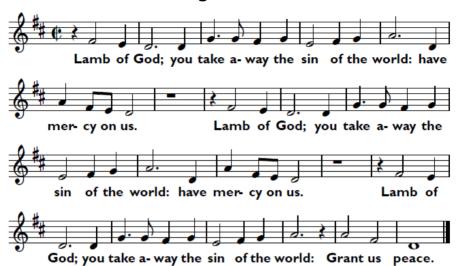




### **Sanctus and Benedictus**



# **Agnus Dei**





# Our weekly pattern of worship:

	Monday		Thursday
8.30 am	Morning Prayer	8.30 am	Morning Prayer
9.00 am	Eucharist	12.30 pm	Meditation & Eucharist
5.30 pm	Evening Prayer	5.30 pm	Choral Evensong
	Tuesday		Friday
8.30 am	Morning Prayer	8.00 am	Eucharist
12.30 pm	Eucharist	8.30 am	Morning Prayer
2.00 pm	Together on Tuesday*	5.30 pm	Choral Evensong
5.30 pm	Choral Evensong		
	Wednesday		Saturday
8.30 am	Morning Prayer	8.45 am	Morning Prayer
1.00 pm	BCP Eucharist	9.00 am	Eucharist
5.30 pm	Choral Evensong	3.30 pm	Evening Prayer or Choral Evensong

<sup>\*</sup>One service per month, usually on the second Tuesday. This service is a short Eucharist designed for those who find a traditional service difficult, and is dementia-friendly.

# Sunday

8.00 am	Holy Communion
9.00 am	All-Ages Eucharist
10.30 am	Choral Eucharist
3.30 pm	Choral Evensong

Please note that the above is our normal pattern of services. For up-to-date information about service times and events, please visit our website:

stedscathedral.org



Angel Hill Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP33 11 S

stedscathedral.org

reception@stedscathedral.org

