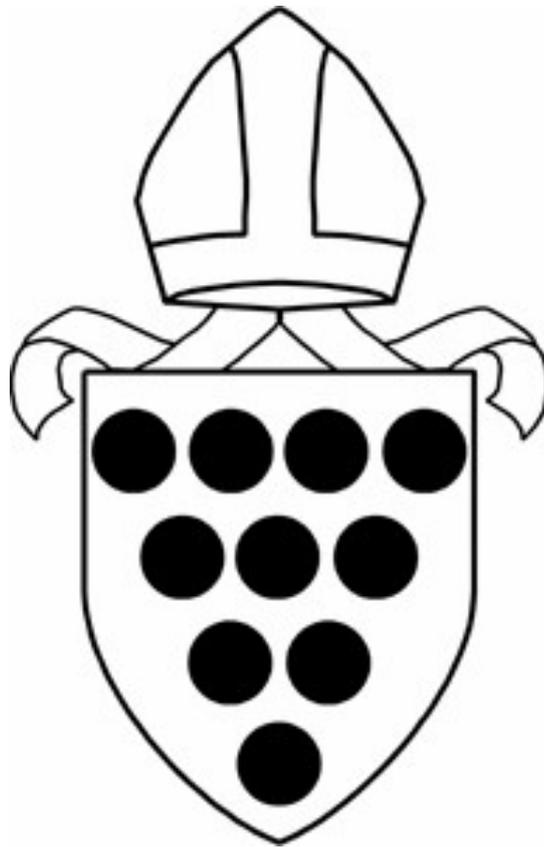


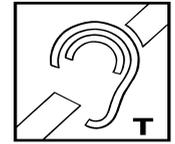
The Diocese of Worcester



The Ordination of Deacons

Sunday 4 July 2021

Welcome to Worcester Cathedral



Welcome to this ordination of five deacons to serve in the diocese of Worcester. The service takes place in accordance with government and Church of England guidelines during the current pandemic.

Please take a moment before the service to pray for the candidates, the parishes where they will serve, and their training incumbents:

Shaun Armstrong, to serve in the Kidderminster Ismere Team

Melissa Beynon, to serve in the Halas Team

Calum Burke, to serve in the parish of Dudley

Fraser Oates, to serve in the parish of St Nicholas and All Saints
with St Helen, Worcester

Richard Sandland, to serve in the Bromsgrove Team

The service is led by the bishop of Worcester, the Right Reverend Dr John Inge, and the candidates will be ordained by the bishop of Dudley, the Right Reverend Martin Gorick. The **preacher** is the Reverend Prebendary Chris Thorpe, vicar of Shifnal, Sheriffhales and Tong, with whom the candidates have spent the last four days in retreat.

The **setting** for the eucharist is the *Missa Brevis* by Sir William Walton (1902–1983), sung by the cathedral choir and conducted by the cathedral's director of music, Samuel Hudson. The organ is played by the cathedral's assistant director of music, Nicholas Freestone.

Please note that unless you are exempt, it is mandatory to wear a **face covering** in the cathedral.

The service is being livestreamed. Please do not take **photographs** during the service or record the service in any way. Photographs of the candidates can be taken after the service outside the north porch.

Please also kindly ensure that your **mobile phone** does not disturb the service.

Toilets are available in the cloisters. Please ask a steward for directions.

Communion will be distributed in one kind (consecrated bread only) from standing stations. All baptised members of churches in which God the Holy Trinity is worshipped are welcome to receive communion here. 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, holding something in their hands as a sign that they wish to receive a blessing. Those coming forward are asked to form a single line, socially distanced from those not in their own household or 'bubble', and return to their seats via the side-aisles, as directed by the stewards and vergers. Please speak to a steward or vergers before the service if you wish to receive gluten-free consecrated bread, or to have communion brought to you in your seat.

As you leave the cathedral at the end of the service, a **collection** will be taken for the mission and ministry of the cathedral. This includes a contactless facility. UK taxpayers are kindly requested to use the gift-aid envelopes available on the stand, completing the front, which enables an additional 25% of their gift to be claimed from the government at no additional cost to the donor. Donations can also be made online via the cathedral website. Thank you for your generosity.

I recall a moment when I chose God – I turned to Jesus – yet really this was simply the beginning of a life-long realisation that my 'choosing' was only possible because God had first chosen me. God chose to create me, to love me, and to invest in me – to the point even of dying for me. The call to ministry is founded there: in acknowledging God's gracious 'Yes' to us, and in doing so to echo our own 'Yes' to God by way of response.

Of course, we do not know the details of where that 'Yes' will lead. But we do know that it involves the privilege of continuing God's work on earth, of being Christ's body – his hands, his feet, his heart – wherever we find ourselves, so that the love of God may be tangible and accessible to everyone. This is the adventure of serving as Jesus served. *Everyone* who follows Jesus is chosen and called in this way.

Don't be afraid to ask others for help, but don't be afraid to jump in wherever you are – at work, in school, at social events, with family – and take the risk of ministering the light and love of Christ.

The Most Reverend Justin Welby, archbishop of Canterbury

The service consists of five sections:

The Gathering (pages 6-8), in which the ministers process into the cathedral, the bishop greets the people and introduces the service, the candidates are presented, the choir sings an ancient hymn of praise, and the bishop leads a 'collect' or gathering prayer.

The Liturgy of the Word (pages 9-13), in which readings from the Bible are read, from the Old Testament and the New Testament, including the Gospels – that part of the Bible that records the words and works of Jesus. The readings are interspersed with a reflective psalm and a sermon, which teach the people about the Church's vocation to serve; and the people respond by declaring their faith in the words of the creed.

The Liturgy of Ordination (pages 14-20), in which the candidates make declarations and the people assent to their ordination and pledge to support them; the people pray for the candidates through a litany of prayers; and the candidates are ordained deacon by the laying on of the bishop's hands in a prayer which the bishop leads, and in which all join in by saying 'Amen'. The candidates are also welcomed as deacons, led by the dean as the senior deacon and priest of the diocese.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist (pages 21-27), in which words of peace are shared; the table is prepared; bread and wine are taken, blessed, broken and distributed, recalling the fourfold action of Jesus at his last supper with his disciples; and Jesus becomes present to the people as they receive his body or a prayer of blessing.

The Sending Out (pages 27-28), in which the new deacons are sent out with the New Testament as a sign of the gospel which they are to proclaim, and all the people are sent out with a blessing from the bishop to fulfil their own ministry of service to the world.

Before this service, the candidates have made this declaration of assent

Preface

The Church of England is part of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, worshipping the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It professes the faith uniquely revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds, which faith the Church is called upon to proclaim afresh in each generation. Led by the Holy Spirit, it has borne witness to Christian truth in its historic formularies, the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion, the *Book of Common Prayer* and the Ordering of Bishops, Priests and Deacons. In the declaration you are about to make, will you affirm your loyalty to this inheritance of faith as your inspiration and guidance under God in bringing the grace and truth of Christ to this generation and making him known to those in your care?

Declaration of Assent

I, A B, do so affirm, and accordingly declare my belief in the faith which is revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds and to which the historic formularies of the Church of England bear witness; and in public prayer and administration of the sacraments, I will use only the forms of service which are authorised or allowed by Canon.

The candidates have also sworn the oath of allegiance to the Queen and the oath of canonical obedience to the bishop.

The Gathering

The people stand at the entry of the ministers, and the choir sings verses of the hymn 'Great God, your love has called us here'.

The Greeting

Bishop Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
All **Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

All There is one body and one spirit.
There is one hope to which we were called;

All one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all.

All Peace be with you
and also with you.

The people sit.

The bishop introduces the service

God calls his people to follow Christ, and forms us into a royal priesthood, a holy nation, to declare the wonderful deeds of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

The Church is the Body of Christ, the people of God and the dwelling-place of the Holy Spirit. In baptism the whole Church is summoned to witness to God's love and to work for the coming of his kingdom.

To serve this royal priesthood, God has given a variety of ministries. Deacons are ordained so that the people of God may be better equipped to make Christ known. Theirs is a life of visible self-giving. Christ is the pattern of their calling and their commission; as he washed the feet of his disciples, so they must wash the feet of others.

The Presentation

The archdeacon of Dudley reads the names of those to be ordained and where they are to serve, first saying

Bishop, I present these persons to be ordained to the office of deacon in the Church of God.

When the candidates have been presented, the bishop asks the Diocesan Director of Ordinands these questions

Have those whose duty it is to know these ordinands and examine them found them to be of godly life and sound learning?

DDO They have.

Do they believe them to be duly called to serve God in this ministry?

DDO They do.

Will you confirm that the ordinands have taken the necessary oaths and made the Declaration of Assent?

DDO They have duly taken the oath of allegiance to the Sovereign and the oath of canonical obedience to the bishop. They have affirmed and declared their belief in 'the faith which is revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the catholic creeds and to which the historic formularies of the Church of England bear witness'.

The bishop turns to the candidates and says

Do you believe that God is calling you to this ministry?

Candidates **I do so believe.**

The people stand.

Gloria in Excelsis

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

Bishop Let us pray for these ordinands, and for the ministry of the whole
people of God.

God our Father, Lord of all the world,
through your Son you have called us into the fellowship
of your universal Church:
hear our prayer for your faithful people
that in their vocation and ministry
each may be an instrument of your love,
and give to your servants now to be ordained
the needful gifts of grace;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

The people sit for the readings and psalm.

Old Testament Reading

This reading is read by the Reverend Dr Michael Volland, principal of Ridley Hall, Cambridge

A reading from the prophecy of Isaiah.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said:

‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.’

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: ‘Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a person of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!’

Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: ‘Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.’ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I; send me!’

Isaiah 6.1-8

All

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

Choir

Bow down thine ear, O Lord, and hear me :
for I am poor, and in misery.

Preserve thou my soul, for I am holy :
my God, save thy servant that putteth his trust in thee.

Be merciful unto me, O Lord :
for I will call daily upon thee.

Comfort the soul of thy servant :
for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

For thou, Lord, art good and gracious :
and of great mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

Teach me thy way, O Lord, and I will walk in thy truth :
O knit my heart unto thee, that I may fear thy name.

I will thank thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart :
and will praise thy name for evermore.

Psalm 86.1-5,11,12

New Testament Reading

This reading is read by the Reverend Dr Allison Fenton, tutor for Anglican admissions at the Queen's Foundation, Birmingham

A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death —
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2.5-11

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

Gospel Reading

*The people stand for this acclamation which heralds the Gospel reading,
read by the archdeacon of Worcester*

Reader Alleluia, alleluia.
The words that I have spoken to you are spirit
and they are life, says the Lord.

cf John 6.63

All **Alleluia.**

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' Jesus said to him, 'One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.' For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord – and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.'

John 13.1-17

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.

The Liturgy of Ordination

The Declarations

The people sit, and the candidates stand before the bishop.

Bishop

Deacons are called to work with the bishop and the priests with whom they serve as heralds of Christ's kingdom. They are to proclaim the gospel in word and deed, as agents of God's purposes of love. They are to serve the community in which they are set, bringing to the Church the needs and hopes of all the people. They are to work with their fellow members in searching out the poor and weak, the sick and lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless, reaching into the forgotten corners of the world, that the love of God may be made visible.

Deacons share in the pastoral ministry of the Church and in leading God's people in worship. They preach the word, and bring the needs of the world before the Church in intercession. They accompany those searching for faith and bring them to baptism. They assist in administering the sacraments; they distribute communion and minister to the sick and housebound.

Deacons are to seek nourishment from the Scriptures; they are to study them with God's people, that the whole Church may be equipped to live out the gospel in the world. They are to be faithful in prayer, expectant and watchful for the signs of God's presence, as he reveals his kingdom among us.

The bishop addresses the candidates directly

We trust that you are fully determined, by the grace of God, to give yourself wholly to his service, that you may draw his people into that new life which God has prepared for those who love him.

And now, in order that we may know your mind and purpose, you must make the declarations we put to you.

Do you accept the Holy Scriptures as revealing all things necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ?

Candidates **I do so accept them.**

Will you be diligent in prayer, in reading Holy Scripture, and in all studies that will deepen your faith and fit you to bear witness to the truth of the gospel?

Candidates **By the help of God, I will.**

Do you believe the doctrine of the Christian faith as the Church of England has received it, and in your ministry will you expound and teach it?

Candidates **I believe it and will so do.**

Will you strive to make the love of Christ known through word and example, and have a particular care for those in need?

Candidates **By the help of God, I will.**

Will you be a faithful servant in the household of God, after the example of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve?

Candidates **By the help of God, I will.**

Will you endeavour to fashion your own life and that of your household according to the way of Christ, that you may be a pattern and example to Christ's people?

Candidates **By the help of God, I will.**

Will you work with your fellow servants in the gospel for the sake of the kingdom of God?

Candidates **By the help of God, I will.**

Will you accept the discipline of this Church and give due respect to those in authority?

Candidates **By the help of God, I will.**

Will you then, in the strength of the Holy Spirit, continually stir up the gift of God that is in you, to grow in holiness and grace?

Candidates **By the help of God, I will.**

The people stand and the candidates turn and face them.

Bishop Brothers and sisters, you have heard how great is the charge that these ordinands are ready to undertake, and you have heard their declarations. Is it now your will that they should be ordained?

All **It is.**

Will you continually pray for them?

All **We will.**

Will you uphold and encourage them in their ministry?

All **We will.**

The candidates turn back to face the bishop, who continues

In the name of our Lord, we bid you remember the greatness of the trust in which you are now to share: the ministry of Christ himself, who for our sake took the form of a servant. Remember always with thanksgiving that the people among whom you will minister are made in God's image and likeness. In serving them you are serving Christ himself, before whom you will be called to account.

You cannot bear the weight of this calling in your own strength, but only by the grace and power of God. Pray therefore that your heart may daily be enlarged and your understanding of the Scriptures enlightened.

Pray earnestly for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The people kneel or sit to pray, and silence is kept.

The Litany

This litany is led by the precentor

In the power of the Spirit, and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world,
for the welfare of the Holy Church of God,
and for the unity of all,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For all the members of the Church in their vocation and ministry,
that they may serve God in truth and love,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For John our bishop, for Martin, bishop of Dudley,
and for all bishops, presbyters and deacons,
that they may hunger for truth and thirst after righteousness,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For Shaun, Melissa, Calum, Fraser and Richard,
called to be deacons in God's Church,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For the mission of the Church,
that in faithful witness we may proclaim the gospel of reconciliation
 to the ends of the earth,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For the unity of the Church,
that we may be one in Christ, according to his will,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who do not yet believe,
that they may receive the light of the gospel,
and for those whose faith has grown cold,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For the sick and suffering,
for the aged and infirm,
for the lonely and neglected,
and for all who remember and care for them,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For the poor and the hungry,
for the homeless and the oppressed,
for all prisoners and captives,
and for our brothers and sisters who are persecuted for their faith,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For Elizabeth our Queen,
for the leaders of the nations,
and for all in authority,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

For ourselves,
for grace to repent and amend our lives,
that we may be pardoned and absolved from all our sins,
let us pray to the Lord.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Remembering all who have gone before us in faith,
and in communion with the Blessed Virgin Mary,
St Dunstan, St Oswald, St Wulfstan and all the saints,
we commit ourselves, one another,
and our whole life to Christ our God;

All **to you, O Lord.**

The Ordination Prayer

The choir quietly chants an invocation of the Holy Spirit while the bishop stretches out his hands towards the candidates and says

We praise and glorify you, almighty Father,
because in your infinite love you have formed throughout the world
a holy people for your own possession,
a royal priesthood,
a universal Church.

We praise and glorify you
because you sent your only Son Jesus Christ
to take the form of a slave;
he humbled himself for our sake,
and in obedience accepted death,
even death on a cross.

We praise and glorify you
because in every age you send your Spirit
to fill those whom you have chosen,
to equip your holy people for the work of ministry,
for the building up of the body of Christ.

And now we give you thanks
that you have called these your servants,
whom we ordain in your name,
to share as deacons in the ministry of the gospel of Christ,
who came not to be served but to serve,
and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Therefore, Father, through Christ our Lord we pray:

Here the bishop lays his hands on the head of each candidate, saying

Send down the Holy Spirit on your servant N
for the office and work of a deacon in your Church.

When the bishop has laid hands on all of them, the prayer continues

Through your Spirit, heavenly Father,
give these your servants grace and power to fulfil their ministry.
Make them faithful to serve
and constant in advancing your gospel in the world.
May they follow the example of Jesus Christ your Son,
who washed the feet of his disciples,
and set the needs of others before his own.

May their life be disciplined and holy,
their words declare your love
and their actions reveal your glory,
that your people may walk with them in the way of truth
and be made ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ;

The chant ceases as the bishop concludes

to whom, with you and your Holy Spirit,
belong glory and honour, worship and praise, now and for ever.
Amen.

All

The people sit, and the newly ordained deacons vest in their stoles.

The Welcome

The dean of Worcester says to the newly ordained deacons

We preach not ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord,
and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.

All

**We welcome you as fellow servants in the gospel:
may Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,
that you may be rooted and grounded in love.**

The people welcome the newly ordained with applause.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Peace

The people stand.

Bishop

We are all one in Christ Jesus.

All

**We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.**

All

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

Taking of the Bread and Wine

The people remain standing as the choir sings the following motet and the table is prepared

Steal away, steal away, steal away to Jesus,
O steal away, steal away home,
I han't got long to stay here.

My Lord, he calls me, he calls me by the thunder,
the trumpet sounds within-a my soul,
I han't got long to stay here.

Green trees a-bending, poor sinner stands a-trembling,
the trumpet sounds within-a my soul,
I han't got long to stay here.

*Words: traditional spiritual
Music: Michael Tippett (1905–1998)*

The bishop takes the bread and wine and says

Heavenly Father,
as we set before you these gifts of bread and wine,
bless also the gift of our hearts and minds
as we offer our lives in your service;
for Jesus Christ's sake.

All

Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The people remain standing for the eucharistic prayer, in which the choir, on behalf of the people, sings the opening responses

Bishop The Lord be with you
Choir and also with you.

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

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

Bishop It is indeed right and good,
our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise
through your servant, Jesus Christ our Lord.
At his baptism he was revealed as your beloved Son.
Coming among us as one who serves,
he taught us that the greatest in your kingdom
are those who make themselves least and the servants of all.
Although he was their teacher and their Lord,
he washed the feet of his disciples
and commanded us to do the same,
that we might reveal the power of your love,
made perfect in our human weakness.
Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

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.

Bishop 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:

All

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Bishop

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 Mary the Mother of our Lord and God,
St Dunstan, St Oswald, St Wulfstan 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.

All **Amen.**

The people kneel and silence is kept.

The Lord's Prayer

Bishop As our Saviour taught, 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 bishop breaks the consecrated bread, saying

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.**

Giving of Communion

The bishop invites the people to communion, saying

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.**

The bishop 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 those not of their own household or 'bubble', 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 sings this anthem

Let all mortal flesh keep silence
and stand with fear and trembling,
and lift itself above all earthly thought.

For the King of kings and Lord of lords, Christ our God,
cometh forth to be our oblation,
and to be given for food to the faithful.

Before him come the choirs of angels
with every principality and power;
the Cherubim with many eyes, and wingèd Seraphim,
who veil their faces as they shout exultingly the hymn:
Alleluia!

*Words: Liturgy of St James
Music: Sir Edward Bairstow (1874–1946)*

Prayer after Communion

The bishop invites the people to stand for these prayers

Bishop Holy and blessed God,
you have fed us with the body and blood of your Son
and filled us with your Holy Spirit:
may we honour you,
not only with our lips
but in lives dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

All **We thank you, gracious Father,
for welcoming your children to feast in your kingdom;
by your love unite us
and with your Spirit send us,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Sending Out

The Giving of the New Testament

*The bishop of Dudley gives the New Testament to each newly ordained
deacon, saying*

Receive this book,
as a sign of the authority given you this day
to speak God's word to his people.
Build them up in his truth
and serve them in his name.

The Blessing

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

God who has called you is faithful.

May the Father, whose glory fills the heavens,
cleanse you by his holiness
and send you to proclaim his word.

All **Amen.**

May Christ, who has ascended to the heights,
pour upon you the riches of his grace.

All **Amen.**

All May the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
equip you and strengthen you in your ministry.
Amen.

All And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Dismissal

Deacons Go in the light and peace of Christ.
All **Thanks be to God.**

The bishop leads the newly ordained deacons through the cathedral to sustained applause, while the organist plays Tu es Petra by Henri Mulet (1878–1967).

Please leave the cathedral at the direction of the stewards and vergers, taking this order of service away with you, and continue to pray for all those who have been ordained today.

As you leave the cathedral, a collection will be taken for the mission and ministry of the cathedral. This includes a contactless facility. UK taxpayers are kindly requested to use the gift-aid envelopes available on the stand, completing the front, which enables an additional 25% of their gift to be claimed from the government at no additional cost to the donor. Donations can also be made online via the cathedral website.

Photographs with the newly ordained deacons may be taken outside the north porch in College Yard.

*This service contains material from Common Worship: Ordination Services
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