



Lichfield Bishops' Clergy Conference

A Service of Holy Communion in the season of Easter

Thursday 26th April 2018

WELCOME & PREPARATION

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

Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Praise God! For the Lord our God the almighty reigns!

Let us rejoice and be glad and give him the glory.

Happy are those who have been invited to the wedding-feast of the Lamb.

Amen. Praise the Lord!

(cf Revelation 19:6,9)

Confession and Absolution

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.

(cf Romans 6:10)

**O King enthroned on high,
filling the earth with your glory:**

holy is your name,

Lord God almighty.

In our sinfulness we cry to you

to take our guilt away,

**and to cleanse our lips to speak your word,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

(cf Isaiah 6)

May the God of love and power
forgive *you* and free *you* from *your* sins,
heal and strengthen *you* by his Spirit,
and raise *you* to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE WORD

The Conference Collect

Almighty God
who gives us a living hope
through the resurrection of Christ from the dead:
refresh and inspire us again
with renewed vision and confidence,
that your gift of hope might shine through our living
and awaken hope in all we serve;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

Gospel Reading – John 13:16-20

When the Gospel is announced the reader says:
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end:
This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

After the Gospel reading, there will be roughly two minutes of silence, to allow reflection on God's word to us.

Affirmation of Faith

We say together in faith
Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.

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 right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away
you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.

**You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death
and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

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

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

Our Father in heaven...

Breaking of the Bread & Invitation to Communion

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

The God whom the universe could not contain
is present to us in this bread.

The Saviour who redeemed us and calls us by name
now meets us in this cup.

So take this bread and this wine.

In them, God comes to us
so that we may come to God.

Prayer after Communion

**Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

May Christ,
who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,
fill you with his new life;

and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

We are raised to new life with Christ.

Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

This service includes elements from: Common Worship (2000), Common Worship: Times and Seasons (2006), and New Patterns for Worship (2008), all © The Archbishops' Council.