



Lichfield Bishops' Clergy Conference

A Service of Holy Communion in the season of Easter

Tuesday 24th 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 the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

**he has given us new life and hope
by raising Jesus from the dead.**

Confession and Absolution

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

(1 Corinthians 5: 7,8)

Like Mary at the empty tomb,
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Like the disciples behind locked doors,
we are afraid to be seen as your followers.
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Like Thomas in the upper room,
we are slow to believe.
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May the Father of all mercies cleanse *you* from *your* sins,
and restore *you* in his image to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus 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 10:22-30

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

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ:
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. *cf 1 Corinthians 15:3-7*

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

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

Lord of all life, help us to work together
for that day when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with [N and] all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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.

Jesus is 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.**

Prayer after Communion

This prayer or another suitable prayer may be used:

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen 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.