



# Lichfield Bishops' Clergy Conference

## A Service of Holy Communion in the season of Easter

### (Mark the Evangelist)

### Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> 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!**

The light and peace of Jesus Christ be with you  
**and also with you.**

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

**Let us rejoice and sing God's praise for ever.**

#### Confession and Absolution

In baptism we died with Christ,  
so that as Christ was raised from the dead,  
we might walk in newness of life.  
Let us receive new life in him  
as we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

*(cf Romans 6:4)*

**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.**

May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw *us* to himself  
and cleanse *us* from all *our* sins,  
that *we* may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **THE WORD**

*The Collect for Mark the Evangelist is read:*

Almighty God,  
who enlightened your holy Church  
through the inspired witness of your evangelist Saint Mark:  
grant that we, being firmly grounded in the truth of the gospel,  
may be faithful to its teaching both in word and deed;  
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.**

## **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 15:1-11**

*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 affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,**

**he did not cling to equality with God,**

**but made himself nothing.**

**Taking the form of a slave,**

**he was born in human likeness.**

**He humbled himself**

**and was obedient to death,**

**even the death of the cross.**

**Therefore God has raised him on high,**

**and given him the name above every name:**

**that at the name of Jesus**

**every knee should bow,**

**and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,**

**to the glory of God the Father.**

**Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*Either of these responses or an alternative may be used:*

Lord, hear us,

*or*

Lord in your mercy,

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

**hear our prayer.**

*And at the end:*

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

## **The Peace**

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.

*(John20: 19,20)*

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**and also with you.**

*We offer one another a sign of peace.*

## **COMMUNION**

### **The Eucharistic Prayer (Prayer B)**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,  
through whom you have created all things;  
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;  
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,  
he lived on earth and went about among us;  
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;  
he put an end to death by dying for us;  
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;  
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks  
because in his victory over the grave a new age has dawned,  
the long reign of sin is ended,  
a broken world is being renewed  
and humanity is once again made whole.

Therefore with angels and archangels,  
and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:  
**Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

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 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. **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven...**

### **Breaking of the Bread & Invitation to Communion**

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

God's holy gifts  
for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

### **Prayer after Communion**

**Lord God,  
the source of truth and love,  
we thank you for your good gifts to us  
particularly in the joy of communion together.  
Keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching and fellowship,  
united in prayer and the breaking of bread,  
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

### **THE BLESSING & DISMISSAL**

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ  
has given us the victory,  
give you joy and peace in your faith;  
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.*