

SOUTHWARK

◆ CATHEDRAL ◆

Eucharist

Corpus Christi

Thursday 3 June 2021

12.45pm

Welcome to Southwark Cathedral

Set on the south bank of the River Thames in one of the most vibrant and diverse communities in London, this building has been a constant witness in a place of change.

The first church was built on this site around the year 606. First a convent, then a monastery, it became in 1106 the Augustinian Priory of St Mary Overie. With Westminster Abbey and St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield it is one of the three remaining great monastic churches of London. At the Reformation the Priory became a parish church and it remains so for the people of Bankside. In 1905, as south London was rapidly expanding, the church was consecrated as the cathedral for the new Diocese of Southwark.

As well as a place of constant witness to our faith in Jesus Christ, this church has a momentous and proud history and has had links with many famous and influential characters including St Thomas Becket, Geoffrey Chaucer, William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens.

In the 20th century this cathedral was at the heart of the new movement in theology termed 'South Bank Religion'. This movement asked challenging questions of people about faith in the modern age which continue to be explored at Southwark Cathedral which describes itself as 'inclusive: faithful: radical'.

Whatever has brought you here today, you are most welcome. Become part of the life here if you can; it will change your life as you encounter with us our living God.

The Feast of Corpus Christi

The Feast of Corpus Christi (Body of Christ) or the Day of Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion is observed in many churches on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday. In a sense it is an extension of Maundy Thursday when we commemorate the Last Supper, but the focus on Christ's Passion on that day makes another celebration desirable.

The origins of the day lie in the 13th century and the influence of Blessed Juliana (d.1258), a devout nun of Liege, in response to a vision. The observance of a day of thanksgiving started in 1264 and in the following century became universal throughout the Western Church. The great theologian and hymn-writer, Thomas Aquinas, composed the liturgy for the day.

Corpus Christi is a day to remember the institution of the Eucharist by Jesus. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke all contain similar narratives of Christ sharing bread and wine with his disciples, and asking them to 'do this in remembrance of me' (Luke 22. 19). John's Gospel describes Jesus as 'the living bread that came down from heaven' (John 6. 51) and records other sayings and events in the life of Christ with possible Eucharistic resonances. In one of the earliest reference to the Eucharist, the Acts of the

Apostles records how the disciples continued to remember Jesus through 'the breaking of bread and the prayers' (Acts 2. 42).

Corpus Christi is also a day to remember the importance of this sacrament in the life of the Church from the very earliest times to our own. Perhaps most of all, it is a day for our hearts to be filled with thanksgiving for the grace we receive through sharing in the body and blood of Christ as members of the Church, also known as Christ's body. It is by receiving Holy Communion that we are drawn into closer union with Our Lord, and helped and strengthened on our Christian journey.

In the Eucharistic celebration, we are also uniting ourselves with the worship of heaven and looking forward to that day when we shall join with all the saints and angels before God's throne. We affirm our hope that we shall one day see clearly before us the Christ whom we worship now in faith and under signs of bread and wine.

*O Christ, whom now beneath a veil we see,
May what we thirst for soon our portion be,
To gaze on thee unveiled, and see thy face,
The vision of thy glory and thy grace.*

From the Latin hymn Adoro te devote
St Thomas Aquinas, 13th century

All stand as the procession enters.

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

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

The President introduces the celebration.

Prayers of Penitence

As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of God's love,
revealed in Word and Sacrament,
let us call to mind and confess our sins.

Like as the hart longs for flowing streams,
so longs my soul for you, O God:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

O send out your light and your truth,
that they may lead me:
Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

May we come to your altar, O God,
the God of our salvation:
Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

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.

Gloria in Excelsis

**All 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.**

The Collect

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ,
we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament
you have given us the memorial of your passion:
grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries
of your body and blood
that we may know within ourselves
and show forth in our lives
the fruits of your redemption;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Please sit.

First Reading

1 Corinthians 11. 23–26

A reading from the First Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, ‘This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel

John 6. 51–58

The Lord be with you.

All And also with you.

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the crowds: 'I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live for ever.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayers of Intercession

These responses are used:

In faith we pray.
All We pray to you, our God.

At the end

Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
All Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Please stand.

The Peace

We are the body of Christ.

In the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.

Let us then pursue all that makes for peace
and builds up our common life.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

Please stand.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and good,
our duty and our salvation
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ our great high priest.

He offered himself to you as the Lamb without blemish,
the acceptable gift that gives you perfect praise.
At the Last Supper, seated with his apostles,
he left this memorial of his passion
to bring us its saving power until the end of time.

In this great sacrament you feed your people
and strengthen them in holiness,
so that through out the world the human family
may be enlightened by one faith
and drawn together in one communion of love.
We come to this foretaste of your heavenly banquet
to be transformed by your grace
and restored in the image and likeness of the
risen Christ.

Therefore earth unites with heaven
to sing a new song of praise;
we too join with angels and archangels
as they proclaim your glory without end:

**All 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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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 Jesus,

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 Lord's Prayer

Jesus taught us to ask for our daily bread
and so in faith and trust 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

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.**

Agnus Dei

**All 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.**

Invitation to Communion

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 President makes their Communion saying

The body of Christ.

All Amen.

The blood of Christ.

All Amen.

Please follow the directions of the Stewards. Communion is given in one kind only and in silence. If you would like to receive a blessing please bow your head. The blessing will be given in silence. Please return to your seat by the central aisle and respect your distance at all times.

Please stand.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

All praise to you, our God and Father,
for you have fed us with the bread of heaven
and quenched our thirst from the true vine:
hear our prayer that, being grafted into Christ,
we may grow together in unity
and feast with him in his kingdom;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

All 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.

Please stand.

The Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

May the Father,
who fed his children with bread and honey in the
wilderness,
strengthen you in your pilgrimage to the
Promised Land.

All Amen.

May the Son,
who gave his flesh for food and his blood for drink,
keep you in eternal life and raise you up on the last day.

All Amen.

May the Holy Spirit,
who leads us into all truth,
help you discern the Lord's body
and empower you to proclaim his death until he
comes.

All Amen.

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

All Amen.

Go in the peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Please leave the Cathedral by the north-west doors and the Millennium Courtyard. Please consider supporting us by giving using the contactless donation points if you have not set up a regular payment. Thank you for joining us. We look forward to welcoming you back.

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Southwark Cathedral
London Bridge
London SE1 9DA

020 7367 6700
southwarkcathedral.org.uk