



**For the Feast of St Michael and all Angels, and to mark the
50th Anniversary as the City Church of Oxford**

The Order of the Administration of the Lord's Supper

or

The Holy Communion

Taken from the

Book of Common Prayer



26th September 2021

We warmly welcome everyone, near or far, to this service.

We are grateful to The Rt Rev'd Dr Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford, Sir Tim Stevenson, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, Councillor Mark Lygo, Lord Mayor of Oxford, City Councillors, and Professor Henry Woudhuysen, Rector of Lincoln College, our Patron, for joining us.

The Service Sheet in 1971, marking St. Michael's becoming the City Church, notes that "Some still remember" St. Martin's Church, Carfax, "pulled down in 1896." Some present today remember when All Saints' was the City Church, and were here for the transition service fifty years ago. From generation to generation, the memories are honoured.

It is an honour and responsibility being the City Church; we are part of a rich lineage of sanctuary, hope, prayer, learning and welcome for all who live, work, study and visit.

On this St Michael's day, celebrating the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, we can reflect on the ancient words in the Book of Lamentations: "This I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness."



The service is introduced by the Rev'd Anthony Buckley, Vicar of St. Michael at the North Gate and City Rector.

The service is sung by the Choir of St Michael at the North Gate, conducted by Tom Hammond-Davies, Director of Music.

The organ is played by Dónal McCann, the trumpet by Stephen Cutting.

*We stand for the processional hymn, 'All people that on earth do dwell'.
This hymn was sung at the closing service of St. Martin's, Carfax*

**All people that on earth do dwell,
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,
come ye before him and rejoice.**

**The Lord, ye know, is God indeed
Without our aid he did us make
We are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.**

**O enter then his gates with praise,
approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.**

**For why? The Lord our God is good;
his mercy is for ever sure.
His truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.**

**To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
the God whom heaven and earth adore,
from men and from the angel-host
be praise and glory evermore.**

Tune: old 100th. Words: L. Bourgeois, c1500-61.

There are words of welcome, and we sit or kneel to pray

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Summary of the Law is read

Our Lord Jesus Christ said: This is the first commandment: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.' This is the first and greatest commandment.

And the second is like unto it, namely this: 'Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.' There is none other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these thy laws
in our hearts, we beseech thee.**

Let us pray. Almighty God, whose kingdom is everlasting, and power infinite: Have mercy upon the whole Church; and so rule the heart of thy chosen servant Elizabeth, our Queen and Governor, that she (knowing whose minister she is) may above all things seek thy honour and glory; and that we, and all her subjects (duly considering whose authority she hath) may faithfully serve, honour, and humbly obey her, in thee, and for thee, according to thy blessed Word and ordinance; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth, ever one God, world without end.

Amen

The Collect for Today

O everlasting God, who hast ordained and constituted the services of Angels and men in a wonderful order: Mercifully grant that, as thy holy Angels always do thee service in heaven, so by thy appointment they may succour and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

The Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, Sir Tim Stevenson, speaks

Professor Henry Woudhuysen, Rector of Lincoln College, reads the First Lesson

The First Lesson is taken from the twelfth chapter of the Book of Revelation, beginning at the seventh verse.

There was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not, neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the devil and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world; he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea: for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

Here endeth the First Lesson.

We stand for the Gospel Reading, read by Penelope Warner, Church Warden

The holy Gospel is written in the eighteenth chapter of the Gospel according to Saint Matthew, beginning at the first verse.

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever there-fore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name, receiveth me. But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a mill-stone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto the world because of offences: for it must needs be that offences come: but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh. Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell-fire. Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, that in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Thanks be to thee, O Lord.

We remain standing for the Creed

**I believe in one God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
And of all things visible and invisible:
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten son of God,
Begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God,
Begotten, not made,
Being of one substance with the Father,
By whom all things were made:
Who for us men, and for our salvation came down from heaven,
And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
And was made man,
And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried,
And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
And ascended into heaven,
And sitteth on the right hand of the Father.
And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead:
Whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and giver of life,
Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified,
Who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one Catholick and Apostolick Church.
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins.
And I look for the Resurrection of the dead,
And the life of the world to come.
Amen**

The Sermon is given by The Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Rev'd Dr Steven Croft

We stand to sing the hymn, 'The Church's one foundation'

**The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
by water and the Word:
From heav'n He came and sought her
to be His holy Bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
and for her life He died.**

**Elect from every nation,
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy Name she blesses,
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with every grace endued.**

**'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
Till, with the vision glorious,
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.**

**Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly,
in love may dwell with Thee.**

Tune: Aurelia. Words: S.S. Wesley, 1810-76.

We sit or kneel for our prayers, read by Pat Earl, Daniel Martin-Thomas and Atinuke Olu-Lutherking

The opening prayer was used on 6th June 1971

O Holy and Eternal God, who art to be praised for evermore in the congregation of all saints: we yield thee hearty thanks for our founders and benefactors, through whose liberality we have been enabled to worship thee in this Holy Place: and we pray thee so to assist us, who are alive this day, that we may follow the steps of those who have lived and served thee here, and gone before in the confession of Thy name, and with them may enter into thine unending joy: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

We give thanks for Elizabeth our Queen. We pray for her and all that are put in authority under her. We pray for the leaders of our Church and of our City, that they may walk in the ways of justice and compassion, of wisdom and honesty. May they be an example and sure guide.

Amen

We pray for St. Michael's, and for those who come through these doors. May we weep with the sorrowful and rejoice with the joyful. May we encourage the downcast and give hope to the needy. Bless us with a Christ-like welcoming to all those who draw near.

Amen

The invitation to Confession

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbours, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways;

Draw near with faith, and take this holy Sacrament to your comfort; and make your humble confession to Almighty God, meekly kneeling upon your knees.

**Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, judge of all men;
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness,
Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed,
By thought, word, and deed, against thy Divine Majesty,
Provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.**

**We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us;
The burden of them is intolerable.
Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past;
And grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of
life, to the honour and glory of thy Name;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen**

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him; Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith
unto all that truly turn to him.

Come unto me all that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

St. Matthew 11. 28.

So God loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end
that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

St. John 3. 16.

Hear also what Saint Paul saith.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received,

That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1. 15.*

Hear also what Saint John saith.

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the
righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins.

1 St. John 2. 1.

The Lord be with you

And with thy Spirit

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up unto the Lord

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God

It is meet and right so to do

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in
all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting
God.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we
laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and singing,

The Choir Sings

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory:
Glory be to thee, O Lord most High.

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.

Amen

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there (by his one oblation of himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death, until his coming again;

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood: who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took Bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake 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.

Likewise after supper he took the Cup; and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.

Amen

During the receiving of Communion the choir will sing the Agnus Dei and the Motet, 'Factum est silentium', by Dering

All are welcome to come forward to receive Communion or a prayer of blessing

Prayer after Communion

Our Father, which art in heaven,

Hallowed be thy Name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;

But deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.

Amen

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee, for that thou dost vouchsafe to feed us, who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favour and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of thy everlasting kingdom, by the merits of the most precious death and passion of thy dear Son. And we most humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end.

Amen

The Lord Mayor, Councillor Mark Lygo, makes a presentation on behalf of the City of Oxford

We stand for the Gloria

**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, 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 Bishop shall say the Blessing

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and
minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his son Jesus Christ our Lord:
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,
be amongst you and remain with you always.

Amen

We sing the recessional hymn, 'Praise my soul the King of Heaven'

**Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who like me his praise should sing?
Alleluia, alleluia,
Praise the everlasting King.**

**Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress.
Praise him, still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Glorious in his faithfulness.**

**Father-like he tends and spares us,
well our feeble frame he knows.
In his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Widely as his mercy flows.**

**Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face.
Sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space;
Alleluia, alleluia,
Praise with us the God of grace!**

Tune: Sir J Goss. Words: H.F.Lyte 1793-1847.



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