

SUMMARY: The document below is the record of the religious ceremony at which Queen Elizabeth received Holy Communion on Easter Sunday in 1593, a ceremony at which Oxford was one of the four Earls who laid the communion cloth on the Queen's cushion.

The modern spelling transcript below was prepared from the transcript in Rimbault, Edward F., ed., *The Old Cheque-Book or Book of Remembrance of the Chapel Royal from 1561 to 1744*, (London: Camden Society, 1872), pp. 150-1 at:

<http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=hvd.32044081106148;view=1up;seq=182>.

See also Cole, Jan, 'Canopy, Cloth and Communion - Sonnet 125', *DVS Newsletter*, Vol. 19, No. 3, (November 2012), pp. 33-40.

The Bishops assisting at the service were John Aylmer, Bishop of London; Richard Fletcher, Bishop of Worcester; and Gervase Babington, Bishop of Llandaff.

The noblemen and officials assisting were Oxford; Edward Seymour, 1st Earl of Hertford, eldest son of the Protector Somerset; Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex; Charles Howard, 2nd Baron Howard of Effingham, Lord Admiral; Henry Carey, 1st Baron Hunsdon, Lord Chamberlain; Edward Somerset, 4th Earl of Worcester; Sir John Puckering, Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England.

LM: April 15, Easter Day, 1593

The princely coming of her Majesty to the Holy Communion at Easter

The most sacred Queen Elizabeth upon Easter Day, after the Holy Gospel was read in the Chapel of St James, came down into her Majesty's traverse. Before her Highness came the Gentlemen Pensioners, then the Barons, the Bishops London and Llandaff, th' Earls, and the honourable Council in their colours of state, the Heralds at Arms, the Lord Keeper bearing the Great Seal himself, and the Earl of Hereford [=sic?] bearing the sword before her Majesty. Then her Majesty's royal person came most cheerfully, having as noble supporters the right honourable th' Earl of Essex, Master of her Majesty's Horse, on the right hand, and the right honourable the Lord Admiral on the left hand, the Lord Chamberlain to her Majesty (also next before her Majesty) attendant all the while. Dr Bull was at the organ playing the Offertory. Her Majesty entered her traverse most devoutly, there kneeling. After some prayers she came princely before the table, and there humbly kneeling did offer the golden obeisant, the Bishop the honourable Father of Worcester holding the golden basin, the Sub-Dean and the Epistler in rich copes assistant to the said Bishop, which done her Majesty returned to her princely traverse sumptuously set forth until the present action of the Holy Communion continually exercised in earnest prayer, and then the Blessed Sacrament first received of the said

Bishop and administered to the Sub-Dean, the Gospeller for that day, and to the Epistler, her sacred person presented herself before the Lord's table, royally attended as before, where was set a stately stool and cushions for her Majesty, and so humbly kneeling with most singular devotion and holy reverence did most comfortably receive the most Blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood, in the kinds of bread and wine, according to the laws established by her Majesty and godly laws in Parliament, the bread being wafer bread of some thicker substance which her Majesty in most reverend manner took of the Lord Bishop in her naked right hand, her satisfied heart fixing her semblant eyes most entirely upon the worthy words sacramental pronounced by the Bishop etc., that with such an holy aspect as it did mightily add comforts to the godly beholders (whereof this writer was one very near). And likewise her Majesty received the cup, having a most princely lined cloth laid on her cushion pillow and borne at the four ends by the noble Earl of Hereford, the Earl of Essex, the Earl of Worcester and th' Earl of Oxford. The side of the said cloth her Majesty took up in her hand, and therewith took the foot of the golden and now sacred cup, and with like holy reverend attention as before to the sacramentaon words did drink of the same most devoutly (all this while kneeling on her knees) to the confirmation of her faith and absolute comfort in her purged conscience by the holy spirit of God in the exercise of this Holy Communion of her participation of and in the merits and death of Christ Jesus Our Lord, and the perfect communion and spiritual food of the very body and blood of Christ, Our Lord Saviour. And so returning to her said traverse, there devoutly stayed the end of prayers, which done her Majesty royally ascended the way and stairs into her presence [+chamber], whom the Lord bless forever and ever, Amen. Anthony Anderson, Sub-Dean. [f. 14b]