

Holy Communion



Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Eastertide...

The celebration of Easter is the greatest and oldest feast of the Church, celebrating Christ's saving victory over death. As the Gospel accounts make clear, it took time for this wonderful good news to sink in. As the disciples met with the risen Christ they realised slowly that all he had said was true and that God, in Christ, had overcome death and Hell.

The season of Easter extends for forty days after Easter Day. This gives us time to let this truth sink in and to realise that we are now sent in the power of Christ's Spirit to be his hands and feet in the world.

On Holy Saturday, before Easter Day some Churches sing an ancient prayer called the Exultet which means 'Rejoice!'. It is a prayer that we too can say as we respond to the Good News of this season.

Choirs of angels, stars and planets: all God's people sing and dance. All creation, Church of God: all God's people sing and dance. We praise you Lord of life and death: we glorify your name: all God's people sing and dance. This is the night you set us free, bringing us home in love; holy night, when you led your people through the fearsome sea: all God's people sing and dance.

This is the night you brought your Son through the doors of death; O holy night, when death takes flight and hope is born again: all God's people sing and dance. This is the night our tears of sadness turn to shouts of joy; holy night, when the choirs of earth sing the songs of heaven: all God's people sing and dance.

This is the night when Christ our Light makes the darkness bright: all God's people sing and dance. Christ is the life that knows no end. Christ is the love that burns within. Christ is the peace that floods the world. Christ is the Lord who reigns on high. All God's people sing and dance. Amen.

Gathering

Worship is the work of the whole people of God, so please join in loudly with all of the words printed in bold

The Lord be with you

And also with you

There is a brief welcome to the service followed by our opening hymn.

During the hymn children are invited to follow behind the Choir, collecting a candle to place on the altar.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

There is a brief prayer with the children before they go to their JAM

(Sunday school) session. They will return to re-join us for Communion. The following prayer may be used...

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Confession

As we come to worship God we remember the times when we have turned our back on his love. This will include a time of silent reflection. Following introductory sentences, we join in this response...

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy **Lord, have mercy.**

We hear God's forgiveness of our sins

The Gloria

We stand for the Gloria

ff
Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God in the high - est.

f
Glo-ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo-ple on earth. Lord God,

heav'n-ly King, Al-migh-ty God and Fa - ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we_

praise you for your glo - ry. Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God in the high - est.

mf
Lord, Je - sus Christ, on - ly son of the Fa-ther. Lord God, Lamb of God, you

take_ a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us; you are seat-ed at the right

f
hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer. Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God,

Glo-ry to God in the high-est. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly one, you a - lone are the Lord.

mf
You a-lone are the most high, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the

ff
Glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God, Glo-ry to God in the high - est.

The Collect

We hear the special prayer for this Sunday.

The Liturgy of the Word

We sit to hear our readings and then stand to sing our hymn before the Gospel. At the end of the reading we use this response:

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading

We remain standing and turn to face the reader as we listen to the Good News of Jesus Christ, who came to be amongst us. We all celebrate God's word by singing these words together.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to...

*We sing: **Glory to you, O Lord.***

We hear the Gospel reading for the day

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*We sing: **Praise to you, O Christ.***

Sermon

We sit for the sermon. There will be a time of silent reflection after the sermon.

Confession of Faith

A Minister introduces our Creed with these words...

Sisters and brothers, I invite you to turn to the Font as we affirm our baptismal faith as God's royal priesthood

A member of our congregation continues...

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Prayers of Intercession

We sit or kneel as we pray for the church and the world. The person leading the prayers may use one of the following responses.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

or

Lord hear us

Lord graciously hear us

The prayers may end with the following words

Merciful Father

**Accept these prayers, for the sake of thy Son,
our saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The *Peace*

A minister introduces the peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

We share the peace and then sing our next hymn

The Eucharistic Prayer

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.

We hear of God's saving work in Christ. We then sing the words of the ancient prayer the 'Sanctus' and 'Benedictus'. This Prayer recalls the heavenly vision of the prophet Isaiah and the words sung by the angels as they behold the glory of God...

mf
Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of po-wer and might.

f
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na

mf
in the high - est. Bles-sed is he who comes in the name of the

f *ff*
Lord. Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his +body and his blood; 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.

To you be glory and praise for ever

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.

To you be glory and praise for ever

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

To you be glory and praise for ever

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

The final part of our prayer is sung...

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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 forever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

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.**

Agnus Dei

mp
Lamb of God, you take a-way the

mf
sins of the world: have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you

mp
take a-way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us. Lamb of

p
God, you take a-way the sins of the world: Grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion

Please stand. As we are invited to receive communion, we hear these words and respond...

All here are welcome to gather at this table and share in the heavenly banquet for these are God Holy Gifts, for God's Holy People

Jesus Christ is Holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father

Please come forward to receive Holy Communion or a blessing as directed by the stewards. All, including children, who wish to receive Communion this morning are welcome to do so here. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please keep your head bowed. Gluten free wafers are available, please ask the person offering you communion. Should you be interested in Baptism or Confirmation, please speak to one of the clergy after the service.

Prayer after Communion

Faithful God, in baptism you have adopted us as your children, made us members of the body of Christ and chosen us as inheritors of your kingdom: we thank you that in this Eucharist you renew your promises within us, empower us by your Spirit to witness and to serve, and send us out as disciples of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Or

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Or

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

Or

After Ascension...

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Or at Pentecost...

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Notices

We sit for our Notices.

The Dismissal

We stand for our final hymn. During the hymn the choir and ministers process to the West End and the congregation turn to face the West Doors for a blessing.

We then join in the following responses as we are sent to be Christ's hands and feet in the world.

Christ is risen from the dead...

Alleluia! Amen! We will seek out Christ in the world

In Christ you are a new creation...

Alleluia! Amen. We will be Christ to those whom we meet

Go in peace to love and serve our risen Lord, Alleluia, Alleluia!

In the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen.