

# Introduction to the Season of Easter

The Great Fifty Days of Eastertide form a single festival period in which the Church celebrates the gloriously risen Christ:


The Paschal (Easter) Candle is lit for the first time on Easter Eve and is then lit at services until after the Feast of Pentecost.

Alleluia appears frequently in liturgical speech and song; and white or gold vestments and decorations emphasize the joy and brightness of the season.

On the fortieth day there has from the late fourth century been a particular celebration of Christ's ascension. He commissions his disciples to continue his work, he promises the gift of the Holy Spirit, and then he is no longer among them in the flesh. The ascension is therefore closely connected with the theme of mission.

The arrival of the promised gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (used to be called Whit) completes and crowns the Easter Festival.

## **Welcome**

A **Hymn** may be sung 

*Please remain standing*

**All † In the name of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

## ***Prayer of Preparation***

**All 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.**

## **Confession and Absolution**

Christ died to sin once for all,  
and now he lives to God.  
Let us renew our resolve to  
have done with all that is evil  
and confess our sins in  
penitence and faith.

*cf Romans 6.10*

**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.**

*or*

Jesus Christ, risen Master and  
triumphant Lord,  
we come to you in sorrow for  
our sins, and confess to you our  
weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own  
strength, and not by the power  
of your resurrection.

In your mercy, forgive us.

**Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived by the light of our  
own eyes,

as faithless and not believing.

In your mercy, forgive us.

**Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived for this world  
alone, and doubted our home in  
heaven. In your mercy, forgive  
us.

**Lord, hear us and help us.**

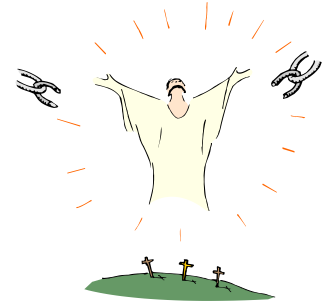
Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you, † pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We say or sing the **Gloria**

*(This may be sung at the end of the service)*

**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** *(Special Prayer for this service)*

*This can be found on the white notices sheet*

Let us pray *(remain standing)*

*At the end we all say* **Amen**

*Please be seated. At 8.30am service the Sunday School gathers at the chancel step for prayer prior to moving to the vestry. A chant may be sung.*



# The Liturgy of the Word

## **Bible Reading(s)**

*These can be found on the white notices sheet*

*At the end the reader may say*  
This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God**



A **Chant** or **Hymn** may be sung



## **Gospel Reading**

*Please stand if you are able*

The Lord be with you  
**All and also with you.**

Alleluia, alleluia.  
I am the first and the last, says  
the Lord, and the living one;  
I was dead, and behold I am alive  
for evermore.

**Alleluia.**

*cf Revelation 1.17,18*

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and  
the life.

Those who believe in me, even  
though they die, will live, and  
everyone who lives and believes in  
me will never die.'

**Alleluia.**

*John 11.25,26*

Alleluia, alleluia.

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

**All Glory to you, O Lord**

*The Gospel reading can be found on the white notices sheet*

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

Please be seated. At the 10am service the Sunday School gathers at the chancel step for prayer prior to moving to the vestry. We normally repeat the previous chant



## **Sermon**

The sermon will be followed by a short time of silence

Please stand for the **Apostles' Creed** or **Affirmation of Faith**

Let us profess our faith together

**I believe in God, the Father  
almighty, creator of heaven  
and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his  
only Son, our Lord, who was  
conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was  
buried; he descended to the  
dead.**

**On the third day he rose  
again; he ascended into  
heaven, he is seated at the  
right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the  
living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the  
resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

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.**

*cf Philippians 2.6-11*

## ***Prayers of Intercession***

In hope and joy let us pray to the Father

*Please sit or kneel*

*The prayers usually include these concerns and may follow this sequence:*

*The Church of Christ*

*Creation, human society, the Sovereign and those in authority*

*The local community*

*Those who suffer*

*The communion of saints*



*These or other responses may be used*

*All*     Lord, in your mercy     *or*     Lord, hear us  
**hear our prayer**                                  **Lord graciously hear us**

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

Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

*All*     **Our Father,**  
**who art in heaven,**  
**hallowed be thy name;**  
**thy kingdom come;**  
**thy will be done;**  
**on earth as it is in heaven.**  
**Give us this day our daily bread.**  
**And forgive us our trespasses,**  
**as we forgive those who 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.**

## **The Peace**

*The Priest may use an introduction followed by: -*

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**All and also with you.**



Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We exchange a sign of peace with those around us.*

## **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

### **The Preparation of the Table**

*during which a **Hymn** may be sung*



*The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

*The gifts of the people are gathered and presented.*

*If you are a UK tax payer please place your gift in a yellow envelope **and** complete the details on the front. This enables your offering to be increased by 25%*



### **Taking of the Bread and Wine**

*Please remain standing if able*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. In your loving care you spread before us the table of life and give us the cup of salvation to drink.

Keep us always in the fold of our Saviour and our Shepherd, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Or

Be present, be present,  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
our risen high priest;  
make yourself known in the  
breaking of bread.

**Amen.**



# **The Eucharistic Prayer**

*(Eucharist means Thanksgiving)*

*(Prayer B)*

- 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, our duty and our joy, always and every-where to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory.

He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory.....

*Or*

We give you thanks and praise for the gospel we have received. Christ died for our sins. Alleluia. **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Death comes to all through Adam, and sin reigns for a time. New life without end comes through Christ, and he reigns for ever. Alleluia. **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Death, where is your victory?  
Death, where is your sting?  
Death is swallowed up in victory, the victory you give us in Christ. Alleluia. **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

We have been crucified with Christ, and live his risen life, to praise you for ever with angels and archangels.....

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.**

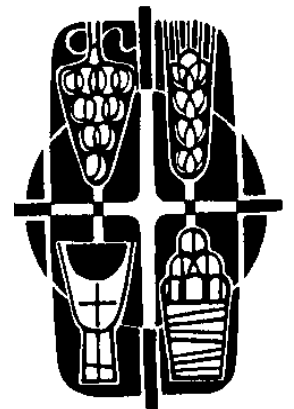
Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord  
Jesus Christ;

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.



Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and  
resurrection  
you have set us free.  
You are the Saviour  
of the world.**

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 Laurence and all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

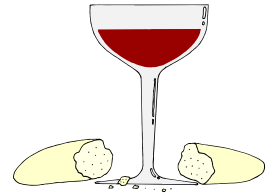
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

*All*    **Amen.**

## ***The 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.**



*We sit or kneel to say or sing the Agnus Dei*

**All** **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
have mercy on us  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
grant us peace.**

*This prayer may be said*

**Most merciful Lord,  
your love compels us to come in.  
Our hands were unclean,  
our hearts were unprepared;  
we were not fit  
even to eat the crumbs from under your table.  
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,  
and share your bread with sinners.  
So cleanse and feed us  
with the precious body and blood of your Son,  
that he may live in us and we in him;  
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,  
may sit and eat in your kingdom.  
Amen.**

## ***Giving of Holy Communion***

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*The president and people receive communion.*

*If you receive communion in any Christian Church you are welcome to receive communion here.*

*Alternatively, please come to the altar to receive a blessing (please bring this booklet with you).*

*Gluten-free wafers are available.*

*Please ask the person administering bread.*

*If you would like communion brought to you in your pew, please let a steward know.*

*During the administration of communion, hymns may be sung. Please join in.*

*The hymn numbers are on the white notices sheet.*



~

## **Prayers for personal use during the administration of Holy Communion**

This is the table, not of the church, but of the Lord.

It has been made ready for those who love Him  
and who want to love Him more.

So come, you who have much faith and you who have little,  
You who have been here often  
and you who have not been for a long time,  
You who have tried to follow and you who have failed.

Come, not because I invite you:  
it is our Lord.

It is His will that those who want Him should meet Him here.

Almighty God,  
let the Eucharist we share fill us with your life.  
May the love of Christ which we celebrate here  
touch our lives and lead us to you. Amen

Roman Missal

Just as the bread which we break  
was scattered over the earth,  
was gathered in and became one,  
bring us together from everywhere  
into the Kingdom of your peace. Amen

Traditional – *The Didache*

Jesus, permeate my heart and mind,  
my attitudes and desires,  
my behaviour and actions.  
Help me to see the world  
and other people as you do.  
Come into the centre of my being;  
fill me with your Spirit and pray in me to the Father.  
Live in me, and I in you. Amen

© Angela Ashwin, *The Wine Danced*, 2002

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen

© Archbishop's Council 2000



## **Post Communion Prayers**

Let us pray: -

*The priest says the post-communion prayer followed by*

**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.**

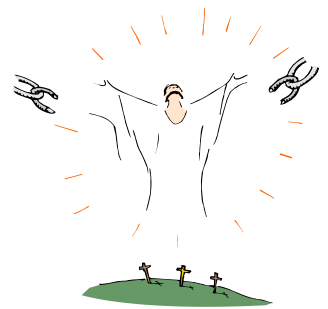
*We say or sing the **Gloria** (if not sung earlier)*

**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 Dismissal

### ***The Notices and Banns of Marriage***

*Please stand for*

#### ***The Blessing***

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**

God the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace;  
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen**

A **Hymn** may be sung 

*Please turn to face the centre of the church as the clergy recess*

We are raised to new life with Christ.  
Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

With the power that raised Jesus from the dead at work within you,  
go in the peace of Christ.  
Alleluia, alleluia.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**