



EUCHARIST ON EASTER DAY

Whether you are a visitor for the first time or a regular at St Mary's, we warmly welcome you to this celebration of the EUCHARIST as we gather with joy at Christ's resurrection.

All ages are welcome to participate in this service. There is also space at the rear of the church for children, and in the Melvill Room beside the organ. Toilets are available, also through the Melvill Room.

Hearing aid/loop can be accessed by switching your device to position T



THE SEASON OF EASTER

The Great Fifty Days of Eastertide form a single festival period in which the joy of Easter Day is sustained through the following seven weeks, and the Church celebrates the gloriously risen Christ:

Triumphant in his glory now, his sceptre ruleth all, earth, heaven and hell before him bow, and at his footstool fall. (*Fulbert of Chartres*)

Early Christians gave the name Pentecost to this whole fifty-day span of rejoicing, which Tertullian calls 'this most joyful period ' (*laetissimum spatium*). It is sometimes also called 'Great Sunday'. In those places where the custom of lighting the Easter Candle at the beginning of Easter is followed, the lit Candle stands prominently in church for all the Eastertide services. The Alleluia appears frequently in liturgical speech and song; Morning Prayer begins with the traditional collection of Pauline texts known as the Easter Anthems, 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 completes and crowns the Easter Festival.

The choir may sing an anthem

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

The ministers gather by the entrance, one carrying the unlit Easter Candle. The lights may be switched off. Please stand and turn to face the back of the church.

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages; to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever. Amen

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life. Throughout all the world Christians celebrate the awesome power of God. As we hear his word and proclaim all that God has done, we can be confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever.

A minister lights the Easter Candle, saying

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

The minister carrying the Candle raises it, saying

The light of Christ **Thanks be to God.**

THE OPENING HYMN

During the hymn the stewards will help people light their candles from the Easter Candle.

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

WORDS OF WELCOME

THE PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

The congregation's candles are extinguished. A minister uses this Invitation to Confession or other suitable words

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us. Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

Silence is kept.

Like Mary at the empty tomb, we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

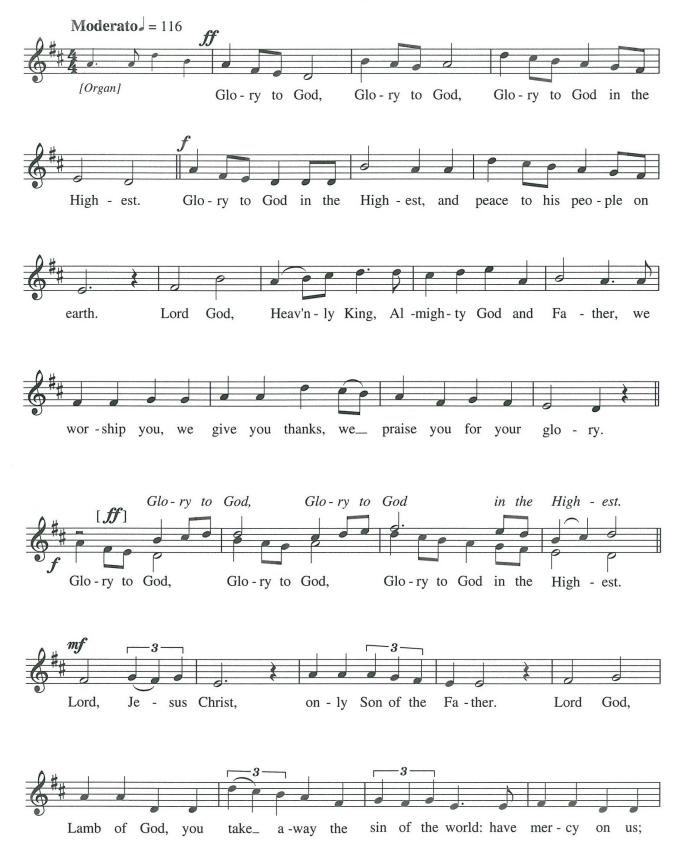
Like the disciples behind locked doors, we are afraid to be seen as your followers. Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.** Like Thomas in the upper room, we are slow to believe. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

The president uses this or another authorized absolution May the God of love and power forgive *you* and free *you* from your sins, heal and strengthen *you* by his Spirit, and raise *you* to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



We stand to sing or say The Gloria

GLORIA





THE COLLECT

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

Silence is kept.

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity.

Amen.

(or) God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Please sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Readings

Either one or two readings from Scripture precede the Gospel reading.

At the end of which may be said: This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Hymn



THE GOSPEL READING

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

Alleluia.

He has defeated the powers of death.

Alleluia.

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing.

Alleluia.

He has the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.

(or)

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.**

When the Gospel is announced the reader says Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N*.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

Please sit

THE SERMON

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Please stand and turn to face the font

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the mystery of his death on the cross we have died and been buried with him in baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life within the family of the church. Now that we have completed our observance of Lent, we renew our promises made at baptism.

The water is blessed

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The president addresses the congregation Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church. Do you believe and trust in God the Father? I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ? 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. Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit? 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.

The priest sprinkles the people with water and we say together

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all who have been baptized in your name. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The ministers return from the font

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *Please sit or kneel*

The following form may be used. In joy and hope let us pray to the Father. That our risen Saviour may fill us [and ...] with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection ... we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter ... we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That God may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love ... we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That he may provide for those who lack food, work or shelter ... we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That by his power war and famine may cease through all the world ...

we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak and the dying,

to comfort and strengthen them ...

we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That, according to his promises,

all who have died in the faith of the resurrection

may be raised on the last day ...

we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people,

so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection, we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:

grant that, as his death has recalled us to life,

so his continual presence in us

may raise us to eternal joy;

through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Please stand

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE PEACE

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia. The peace of the risen Christ be always with you **and also with you. Alleluia.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace

Hymn

We will not have a cash collection during the service, but please go to the back page for details of how to donate. The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

One of these prayers may be said Creator of all, you wash away our sins, you give us new birth by the Spirit, and redeem us in the blood of Christ. As we celebrate the resurrection, renew your gift of life within us. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. **Amen.** (or)

Be present, be present,

Lord Jesus Christ,

our risen high priest;

and make yourself known in the breaking of bread.

Amen.

The president takes the bread and wine.

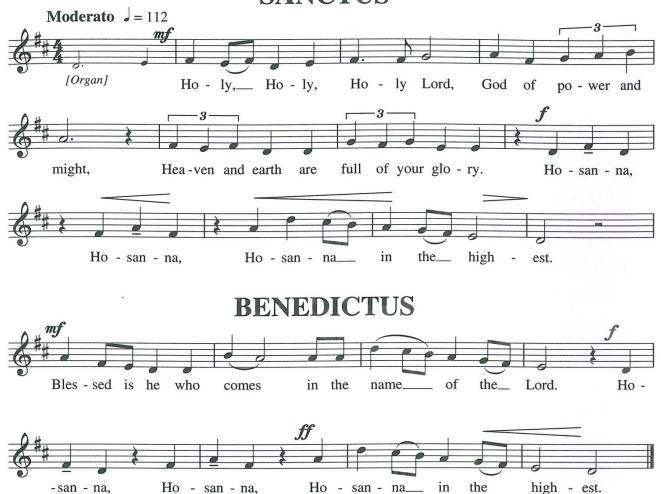
THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and on this day of our redemption 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:



SANCTUS

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son. On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory. Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world. Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with St Mary and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Please sit or kneel

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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. THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD The president breaks the consecrated bread. Jesus says, I am the bread of life, whoever eats of this bread will live for ever. Lord, our hearts hunger for you; give us this bread always.

AGNUS DEI



The Giving of Communion

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us. **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

All are invited to receive communion or a blessing (please fold your arms across your chest at the altar rail if you prefer a blessing). At the distributions these words are said to each communicant:

The body of Christ The blood of Christ You reply each time: **Amen**

During the distribution hymns and anthems may be sung.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

This Post Communion or another suitable prayer is said

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All may say one of these prayers

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.

(or)

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

Hymn

THE SENDING OUT

THE BLESSING

Alleluia. Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

God the Father,

by whose love Christ was raised from the dead, open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.

Amen.

God the Son,

who in bursting the grave has won a glorious victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

Amen.

God the Holy Spirit,

whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

(or)

The God of peace,

who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep,

through the blood of the stornal cover

through the blood of the eternal covenant,

make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

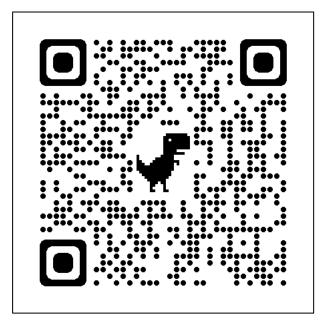
Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

We wish everyone a very Happy Easter



PLEASE DONATE



'God loves a cheerful giver' (2 Corinthians 9:7) At St Mary's we depend on the generous giving of individuals. Please scan the QR code above using your phone camera. Alternatively use our contactless card machines by the main entrance, where you will also find a cash collection plate and gift aid envelopes. If you are a regular member of the church family, please consider joining our planned giving scheme. Please speak to a steward or churchwarden for further advice.

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