

Holy Communion for the **EASTER SEASON**

Please feel free to sit or stand as you feel most comfortable. Congregational responses are usually shown in **bold type**, where these are also in *italics* they are normally sung.



WELCOME & Introduction

Deacon Sarah

Visiting Preacher Rev Melanie Hider

Presiding Canon Simon Stokes

Lord of all life, God of Easter
all living things reflect your glory.
Restore and heal all that is wounded
Roll back the stone of prejudice and fear
Release the signs of spring

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

HYMN 650 - *Great is thy faithfulness*

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with thee;
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed thy hand hath provided;
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

In the light of the risen son
We worship today

**Faithful one, whose word is life:
come with saving power
to free our praise,
inspire our prayer
and shape our lives
for the kingdom of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Invitation to CONFESSION

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.

Confession (please sit or kneel)

When we do not live in the joy of the resurrection
but are caught up in the demands of the world

Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

When there are no signs of spring in our hearts
And we neglect to care for our world

Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy

When we fail to see Christ in friend and stranger
And we fail to see Christ in ourselves

Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord **Amen.**

Please stand to sing the Gloria

***Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.
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.
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.***

***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.***

***Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.
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.
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.***

THE COLLECT (*Prayer of the week - found on the pew sheet*)

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

READINGS (*please sit*)

Acts 4: 5-12 - Read by Margaret

The Jewish rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone." There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

1 John 3: 16-end Read by Jennifer T

We know love by this, that the Son of God laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 800 - The Lord's my shepherd

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want.

He makes me lie in pastures green.

He leads me by the still, still waters,

his goodness restores my soul.

And I will trust in you alone.

And I will trust in you alone,

for your endless mercy follows me,

your goodness will lead me home.

He guides my ways in righteousness,

and he anoints my head with oil,

and my cup, it overflows with joy,

I feast on his pure delights.

And I will trust in you alone.

And I will trust in you alone,

for your endless mercy follows me,

your goodness will lead me home.

And though I walk the darkest path,

I will not fear the evil one,

for you are with me, and your rod and staff

are the comfort I need to know.

And I will trust in you alone.

And I will trust in you alone,

for your endless mercy follows me,

your goodness will lead me home.

Stuart Townend (b. 1963) based on Psalm 23

Please remain standing for the **GOSPEL READING**

John 10: 11-18

Jesus is risen from the dead

Alleluia!

He has defeated death

Alleluia!

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing

Alleluia!

He has the words of eternal life.

Alleluia!

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the Pharisees:

'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Rev Melanie Hider

We stand to affirm our Faith

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

We 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?

We 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?

We 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. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION led by Pam (*Please sit or kneel*)

These responses may be used

Risen Christ Jesus

Open the tombs of our hearts

at the end

God of the Easter faith

**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Banns of Marriage, Notices and time of sharing

THE PEACE (*please stand*)

These words may be used

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.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you

And also with you. Alleluia.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN 678 - In Christ alone

(During the hymn the bread & wine are brought forward and the altar is prepared)

**In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone! — who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine
bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**4 No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!**

Stuart Townend (b. 1963) and Keith Getty (b. 1974)

Risen Lord Jesus Christ, we believe you, and all we have heard is true.
When you break bread
**May we recognise you as the fire that burns within us
that we may bring light to your world. Amen**

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

(Please sit or kneel - The choir may remain standing)

*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.

We praise you for Jesus Christ,
risen to life, eternal as your love.
With the women at the tomb,
we raise the strain of gladness.

Lord of all life,
you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

You sent your Son to live among us,
Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.
He suffered on the cross;
he died to save us from our sins;
he rose in glory from the dead,
and we share his risen life.

You send your Spirit
to bring new life to the world,
and clothe us with power from on high.

And now we give you thanks that
The day of resurrection has come,
scattering fear and gloom.
And so we rejoice with all your people of every time and place,
and with angels and archangels,
to proclaim the glory of your name

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, in the highest.

Father, on the night before he died,
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.
He took the bread, and thanked you.
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood,
the new promise of God's unfailing love.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,
and remember his death and resurrection,
send your Holy Spirit,
that we who share these gifts
may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Pour your Spirit on us
that we may love one another,
work for the healing of the earth,
and share the good news of Jesus,
as we wait for his coming in glory.

For honour and praise belong to you, Father,
with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit:
one God, for ever and ever praising you and singing

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

Amen.

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 forever.

Amen.

THE 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.

The Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,

grant us peace.

Come to this table, because Jesus loved you and gave himself for you.

Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body.

All are welcome to come forward to receive the bread and the wine or a blessing, it is helpful for us if you say your name when you come to the front.

An anthem is usually sung by the Choir and then a **HYMN** is also sung during Communion. (Please remain seated)

Anthem: Loving shepherd of thy sheep (Ledger)

Hymn: 464 - Sweet sacrament divine

**Sweet Sacrament divine,
hid in thine earthly home;
lo! round thy lowly shrine,
with suppliant hearts we come;
Jesus, to thee our voice we raise
In songs of love and heartfelt praise
sweet Sacrament divine.
sweet Sacrament divine.**

**Sweet Sacrament of peace,
dear home of every heart,
where restless yearnings cease,
and sorrows all depart.
there in thine ear, all trustfully,
we tell our tale of misery,
sweet Sacrament of peace.
sweet Sacrament of peace.**

**Sweet Sacrament of rest,
ark from the ocean's roar,
within thy shelter blest
soon may we reach the shore;
save us, for still the tempest raves,
save, lest we sink beneath the waves:
sweet Sacrament of rest.
sweet Sacrament of rest.**

**Sweet Sacrament divine,
earth's light and jubilee,
in thy far depths doth shine
the Godhead's majesty;
sweet light, so shine on us, we pray
that earthly joys may fade away:
sweet Sacrament divine.
sweet Sacrament divine.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Said by a minister and found on the weekly pew sheet.

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

**Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life.
We are fed by your love,
we are strengthened by your life.
We are sent forth into this world to live your way and share your joy.
We are now commissioned to:
feed as we have been fed,
forgive as we have been forgiven,
love as we have been loved.
Thanks be to God.
Amen.**

HYMN 507 - We have a gospel

**We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for all throughout the earth;
the gospel of a Saviour's name:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.**

**Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,
not in a royal house or hall,
but in a stable dark and dim,
the Word made flesh, a light for all.**

**Tell of his death at Calvary,
hated by those he came to save;
in lonely suffering on the cross:
for all he loved, his life he gave.**

**Tell of that glorious Easter morn,
empty the tomb, for he was free;
he broke the power of death and hell
that we might share his victory.**

**Tell of his reign at God's right hand,
by all creation glorified.
He sends his Spirit on his Church
to live for him, the Lamb who died.**

**Now we rejoice to name him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel message we proclaim:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed Alleluia!

THE BLESSING

The God of peace,
Who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
That great shepherd of the sheep,
Through the blood of the eternal covenant,
Make us perfect in every good work to do his will,
Working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you,
be upon those you love, pray for and care for
now and for evermore. **Amen.**
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
Alleluia, Alleluia

In the name of Christ
Alleluia, Alleluia

