

**HOLY
COMMUNION**

EASTER

Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ

Please join in with all the words in **bold** in this service book.

Introduction to the season

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

Alleluias feature frequently in orders of service and hymns, and white or gold are often used to emphasise 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 ten days later on the day of Pentecost completes and crowns, the Easter Festival

A Prayer for Easter

Gracious God,
we praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.

We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.

We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.

Amen.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

The Greeting

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

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
He has given us new life and hope
by raising Jesus from the dead

God has claimed us as his own
He has made us light to the world.

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

Please stand

Hymn

Please sit

Prayer of Confession

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

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.

We keep a short silence to bring to mind our sins.

May the Father of all mercies
cleansing you from your sins,
and restore you in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Gloria

**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

(the special prayer for this week)

WE LISTEN AND RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

After the first Bible reading:

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Please stand

Hymn

Please remain standing

Gospel reading.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,
according to
Glory to you O Lord

At the end of the Gospel

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

Please sit

Sermon

Prayers of Intercession

Lord in your mercy
hear our prayer

At the end

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

Please stand

An Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received,
and this we believe.
Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

Please remain standing

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!

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you!

Please greet those around you and offer a sign of peace

Hymn

After the hymn please remain standing for

The Prayer at the Preparation of the Table

Lord of life, with unbounded joy
we offer you our sacrifice of praise.
As we come to your table,
may we know your resurrection power;
through Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

Please sit

The Eucharistic Prayer - the Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.

When we turned away
you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.
**You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him
and he in us.
**He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all
the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;

he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this
in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper,
taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood
of the new covenant,
which is shed for you
for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this
in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death
and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven

saying

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Lord, we died with you on the cross.
Now we are raised to new life.

We were buried in your tomb.

**Now we share in your resurrection.
Invitation to Communion**

If you are thirsty, come drink the fount of life
If you are hungry, come eat the bread of life
Blessed are all who hunger for this bread
and thirst for this fount

Alleluia! Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia!

Giving of Communion

Whether you are a regular member at St John's or a visitor, a child or an adult, EVERYONE is invited to come to the Lord's Table to receive the bread and the wine, or a blessing.

If you are coming for a blessing, please keep your hands by your side.

Our welcomers will indicate when it is time for you to come forward.

*Gluten free wafers and non-alcoholic wine are available.
Please let us know when you come to Communion if you would like to receive either of these.*

If you would like us to bring Communion to you in your seat, please let one of our welcomers know.

Prayer after Communion

**God of truth,
we have seen with our eyes
and touched with our hands the bread of life:
strengthen our faith
that we may grow in love for you
and for each other;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Please stand

Hymn

WE LEAVE WITH GOD'S BLESSING

The Blessing

May the God whose power breaks through the stone, break into your life and free you from all that binds you;
May the Risen Christ whose love is stronger than death, speak your name, and bring you new life and joy.
May the Spirit who walks the road with you give you wisdom to understand and courage to share God's new life for the whole world,
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit rest on you, and those you pray for, this day and always. **Amen.**

With the risen life of Christ within you,
go in the peace of Christ.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Church notices will be given and you are invited to stay for coffee and fellowship after the service.

Acknowledgements

Copyright material is mainly drawn from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England (2000),

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A Prayer for the Easter Season is by Revd Michaela Youngson

Invitation to Communion is from Celtic Daily Prayer from the Northumbria Community

The Blessing is by Revd Heather Pence Val