

A Service of Eucharist for Eastertide

Welcome

We welcome you warmly. If you are a visitor today, please make yourself known to us. If you have any questions or need any help, look for one of the welcomers who met you at the door.

Should young ones become restless there are toys and books available for them in the breakout space in the church. But they are welcome to participate in the service however they wish.

All are welcome to receive communion at God's table. If you require gluten free bread, or non-alcoholic wine, please indicate so to one of the sidespeople. If you would prefer a Blessing, please indicate this to the Priest when you come to the Altar by folding your arms across your chest.

Refreshments are served after the service in the Church Room. When you hear the organ begin playing before worship begins, please use the time to pray quietly.

Introduction to the Season

The Great Fifty Days of Eastertide form a single festival period in which the tone of joy created on Easter Sunday 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.*

Early Christians gave the name Pentecost to this whole fifty-day span of rejoicing. The 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 comes the 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 arrival of the promised gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost completes and crowns the Easter Festival.

The Gathering

The minister introduces the service.

Opening Hymn

Rejoice, the Lord is King

sung by St Martin's Voices

- 1 Rejoice, the Lord is King,
your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks and sing,
and triumph evermore:
*Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*
- 2 Jesus the Saviour, reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above:
Chorus
- 3 His kingdom cannot fail;
he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given:
Chorus
- 4 He sits at God's right hand
till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command,
and fall beneath his feet:
Chorus
- 5 Rejoice in glorious hope;
Jesus the judge shall come,
and take his servants up
to their eternal home.
*We soon shall hear the archangel's voice
the trump of God shall sound: rejoice!*

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788) and John Taylor (1750-1826)
(Public Domain)*

The Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit:

All **Amen.**

The Lord be with you:

All **And also with you.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen:

All **He is risen indeed, Alleluia**

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

All **He has given us new life and hope
by raising Jesus from the dead**

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 & Absolution

Please sit or kneel

In Baptism we died with Christ, so that as Christ was raised from the dead we might walk in newness of life.

Let us therefore confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

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.

All Amen.

The Gloria

Please stand as we say or sing:

**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 sins 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

Let us pray

Risen, ascended Lord,
as we rejoice at your triumph,
fill your Church on earth with power and compassion,
that all who are estranged by sin
may find forgiveness and know your peace,
to the glory of God the Father.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading(s)

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

¹⁵ In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶ “Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus— ¹⁷ for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.”

²¹ So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²² beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” ²³ So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵ to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶ And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

I John 5: 9-13

⁹ If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. ¹⁰ Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God^[a] have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. ¹¹ And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

Acclamation

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

All **Alleluia**

He has defeated the powers of death.

All **Alleluia**

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing.

All **Alleluia**

He has the words of eternal life.

All **Alleluia**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 17: 6-19

⁶ “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on

behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I protected them in your name that^[a] you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost,^[b] so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves.^[c] ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵ I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one.^[d] ¹⁶ They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

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

Creed

Please stand

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

All **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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Please sit or kneel

This response, or another, may be used:

Lord in your mercy

All Hear our prayer

At the end we may say:

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ,

Amen

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Please stand

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

All And also with you

Let us offer one another a sign of peace

All may exchange a sign of peace

The Preparation of the Table

Risen Lord Jesus Christ,

we believe you, and all we have heard is true.

When you break bread

may we recognize you as the fire that burns within us,

that we may bring light to your world.

All Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Please remain standing

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

You are worthy of our thanks and praise,

Lord God of truth,

for by the breath of your mouth

you have spoken your word,

and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image

and placed us in the garden of your delight.

Though we chose the path of rebellion

you would not abandon your own.

Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace.

You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets

to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace.

As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth,

we echo the song of the angels in heaven,

evermore praising you and *saying*:

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 God, you are the most holy one,

enthroned in splendour and light,

yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ

you reveal the power of your love

made perfect in our human weakness.

All Amen. Lord, we believe.

Embracing our humanity,
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;
loving us to the end,
he gave himself to death for us;
dying for his own,
he set us free from the bonds of sin,
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.
All Amen. Lord, we believe.

On the night he gave up himself for us all
he 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.
All Amen. Lord, we believe.

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.
All Amen. Lord, we believe.

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,
we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb,
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high
and we long for his coming in glory.
All Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption,
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
form us into the likeness of Christ
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.
All Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Look with favour on your people
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.
Bless the earth,

heal the sick,
let the oppressed go free
and fill your Church with power from on high.
All Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth
to feast with [*N and*] all your saints
at the table in your kingdom,
where the new creation is brought to perfection
in 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 Lord's Prayer

Kneeling or sitting

Rejoicing in God's new creation
As our Saviour taught us we are bold to say:

**All 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.

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei

All **Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

All **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The president and people receive communion.

Prayer after Communion

A period of silence may be kept.

All **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.**

Notices

Recessional Hymn

Please stand

Crown him with many crowns

sung by St Martin's Voices

- 1 Crown him with many crowns,
 the Lamb upon his throne;
 Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
 all music but its own:
 Awake, my soul, and sing
 of him who died for thee,
 and hail him as thy matchless King
 through all eternity.
- 2 Crown him the Lord of Love!
 Behold his hands and side,
 those wounds yet visible above
 in beauty glorified:
 no angel in the sky
 can fully bear that sight,
 but downward bends his burning eye
 at mysteries so bright.
- 3 Crown him the Lord of peace,
 whose power a sceptre sways
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease,
 and all be prayer and praise:
 his reign shall know no end,
 and round his piercèd feet
 fair flowers of Paradise extend
 their fragrance ever sweet.
- 4 Crown him the Lord of years,
 the Potentate of time,
 Creator of the rolling spheres,
 ineffably sublime.
 all hail, Redeemer, hail!
 for thou hast died for me;
 thy praise shall never, never fail
 throughout eternity.

Matthew Bridges (1800-94)

(Public Domain)

Blessing

Remain standing

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

All **Amen**

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

All **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.

All **Amen**

He is not here. He is risen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.**