



EVENING VIGIL  
AND  
FIRST MASS OF EASTER

4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026  
8.00PM

Welcome to Holy Trinity Church, Prestwood for our Easter ceremonies this evening as we celebrate the great feast of the Resurrection. This is the chief celebration of the Church's year as with joyful hearts we shout  
*Christ is Risen! Alleluia!*

Our service this evening is designed to welcome us into God's love and allow him to be present to us. We go out enabled to live a full life in the knowledge that we are cared for and loved by God and one another.

**Our worship celebrates Christ's love for all people.  
We find rest in God's presence.  
The Holy Spirit empowers our lives.  
We enjoy building a loving community.**

We believe in **inclusive church** – a church which **celebrates and affirms every person** and does not discriminate. We will continue to challenge the church where it continues to discriminate against people on grounds of **disability, economic power, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, learning disability, mental health, neurodiversity, or sexuality**. We believe in a Church which **welcomes and serves all people** in the name of Jesus Christ; which is scripturally faithful; which seeks to proclaim the Gospel afresh for each generation; and which, in the power of the Holy Spirit, allows all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Jesus Christ.

A toilet with disabled and baby changing facilities is available next to the vestry.



If you don't already give regularly, you can support us by using the contactless donation box opposite the door as you enter or leave the church. To give regularly please take a **Parish Giving Scheme** leaflet from the rack, or sign up to the **Parish Giving Scheme** by scanning here to get started:



### **Private prayer of preparation**

Lord Jesus, risen from the dead and alive for evermore: stand in our midst tonight as in the upper room; show us thy hands and thy side; speak thy peace to our hearts and minds; and send us forth into the world as thy witnesses; for the glory of thy name.

*John R W Stott*

 **This service will be live-streamed to Facebook.**

# The Easter Vigil

The Vigil begins in the churchyard, around the new fire.

## Introduction

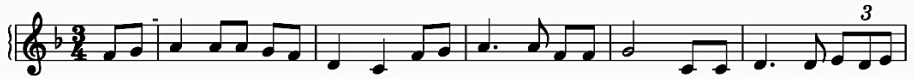
In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from god swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light.

Genesis 1.1

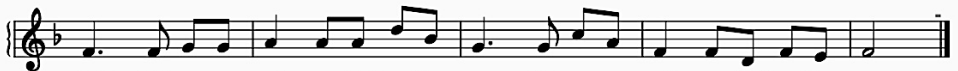
Brothers and sisters in Christ, on this most holy night in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer; for this is the Passover of the Lord, in which through word and sacrament we share in his victory over death.

As we await the risen Christ, let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, recalling how he saved his people in ages past and in the fullness of time sent his Son to be our Redeemer; and let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

(CHON 929)



In the Lord I'll be ev-er thank-ful, in the Lord I will re-joice! Look to God, do not be a-



-fraid, lift up your voi - ces, the Lord is near, lift up your voi - ces, the Lord is near.

## Reading

### Exodus 14:10-end, 15:20-21

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, 'Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, "Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians"? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.' But Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.'

Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I

will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.'

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.'

Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.' So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them: 'Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.'

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Lord God our redeemer, who heard the cry of your people and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery: free us from the tyranny of sin and death and, by the leading of your Spirit, bring us to our promised land through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

In the Lord I'll be ever thank-ful, in the Lord I will re-joice! Look to God, do not be a-  
 -fraid, lift up your voi - ces, the Lord is near, lift up your voi - ces, the Lord is near.

## Reading

### Isaiah 55.1-11

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

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Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

In the Lord I'll be ev-er thank-ful, in the Lord I will re-joice! Look to God, do not be a-

-fraid, lift up your voi - ces, the Lord is near, lift up your voi - ces, the Lord is near.

## Reading

### Proverbs 8.1-8,19-21; 9.4b-6

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: 'To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live.

O simple ones, learn prudence; acquire intelligence, you who lack it. Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right; for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them. My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver.

I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice, endowing with wealth those who love me, and filling their treasuries.

'You that are simple, turn in here!' To those without sense she says, 'Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight.'

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O God, forasmuch as without you we are not able to please you; mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

**All: Amen**

In the Lord I'll be ev-er thank-ful, in the Lord I will re-joice! Look to God, do not be a-

-fraid, lift up your voi - ces, the Lord is near, lift up your voi - ces, the Lord is near.

**At the end of the vigil, silence is kept.**



## **The Service of Light**

All stand and face the fire.

### **The Blessing of the Fire And Lighting of the Easter Candle**

**The Fire is blessed**

Let us pray:

Father, we share in the light of your glory through your Son, the light of the world. Make this new fire holy and inflame us with new hope. Purify our minds by this Easter celebration and bring us one day to the feast of eternal light. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

Eternal God, who made this most holy day to shine with the brightness of your one true light: set us aflame with the fire of your love and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

A minister brings the Easter Candle to the President, who traces the cross, the Greek letter Alpha, the Greek letter Omega and the number of the current year . . .and in doing so says the following prayers:

*As the vertical arm of the cross is traced:* Christ yesterday and today ...

*As the horizontal arm of the cross is traced:* ...the beginning and the end ...

*Above the cross:* ...alpha ...

*Below the cross:* ...omega ...

*At the figure 2:* ...all time belongs to him ...

*At the figure 0:* ...and all the ages ...

*At the figure 2:* ...to him be glory and power ...

*At the figure 6:* ...through every age for ever.

**All: Amen**

**When the cross and other marks have been made,  
the President inserts five grains of incense into the candle,  
doing this in the form of a cross, and saying:**

*At the apex (at point 1):* By his holy ...

*In the centre of the cross (at point 2):* ...and glorious wounds...

*At the base (at point 3):* ...may Christ our Lord ...

*At the left extremity (at point 4):* . . .guard us . . .

*At the right extremity (at point 5):* . . .and keep us.

**All: Amen**

**The president lights the Easter Candle with the taper, saying:**

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

**The minister bearing the candle, walks towards the building followed by the other ministers and the people and they pause just outside the entrance.**

The minister bearing the candle raises it and sings:  
The light of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

The procession moves further into the building and then stops.  
The versicle and response are repeated,  
and the candles of the people are lit from the Easter candle.

The procession continues to the centre of the building and stops once  
more. The versicle and response are again repeated.

The Easter candle is placed on a stand in the midst of the building  
and all other candles in the church are now lit.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

(CHON 929)

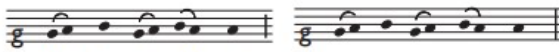
**SING, choirs of heaven! Let saints and angels sing!  
Around God's throne exult in harmony!  
Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave  
Salute your King in glorious symphony!**

**Sing, choirs of earth! Behold, your light has come!  
The glory of the Lord shines radiantly!  
Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death!  
The night is past; the day of life is here!**

**Sing, Mother Church! Exult with joy outpoured!  
Arrayed in light, Christ's mighty victory sing!  
So may this place resound and shake with joy,  
Your voices raised to greet your glorious King!**

vv 1-2 Common Worship: Times and Seasons, 2006  
v 3 Editors

**The remainder of the Exsultet is sung,**



The Lord be with you. **R.** and al-so with you.



Lift up your hearts. **R.** We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **R.** It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is right and good that with hearts and minds and voices we should praise you, Father almighty, the unseen God, through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord; for he paid the price of Adam's sin, pouring out his own dear blood to wash away our sinfulness. For this is the Passover feast, when Christ the true Lamb of God is slain, whose blood consecrates the homes of all God's people.

This is the night when first you saved our ancestors, freeing Israel from her slavery, and leading her dry-shod through the sea. This is the night when Jesus Christ vanquished hell, broke the chains of death, and rose triumphant from the grave. This is the night when all who believe in him are freed from sin, restored to grace and holiness, to share the victory of Christ.

O truly blessed of all nights! O crowning glory of all feasts! When evil and hatred are put to flight, sin is washed away, lost innocence regained, and morning turned to joy. When hatred is cast out, peace and justice find a home, heaven is joined to earth, and all creation reconciled to you.

Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy grant that this Easter Candle may make our darkness light. May this flame mingle with the lights of heaven, and be found still burning by the Morning Star, Christ you Son, who sheds his peaceful light on all the world, who lives and reigns forever and ever!

**All: Amen.**

### ***The Collect***

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.

**All: Amen.**

### ***The Liturgy of the Word***

Please sit

#### **Romans 6:3-11**

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn

Please remain seated  
(MP 857)

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear My light to them?  
Whom shall I send?  
**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?**  
**I have heard You calling in the night.**  
**I will go, Lord, if You lead me.**  
**I will hold Your people in my heart.**

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne My people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak My word to them.  
Whom shall I send?  
**Refrain**

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide,  
till their hearts are satisfied.  
I will give My life to them.  
Whom shall I send?  
**Refrain**

Daniel Schutte (b.1947)

## The Gospel Reading

Please stand

The cantor sings, and all repeat:



O give thanks to the Lord for he is good:  
for his love has no end.



Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.  
**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Matthew 28.1-10**

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

### ***The Sermon***

The Reverend Kayleigh Lucas  
Please sit

### ***Renewal of Baptismal Vows***

Please stand

**During the Surrexit, the ministers and candidates  
make their way to the font, followed by the people.**

(CHON 943)

**Please keep loudly singing the refrain as the Cantor sings the verses.**

Cantor: Ah!... Surrexit Christus, alleluia!  
Ah!... Cantate Domino, alleluia!

**All: Ah!... Surrexit Christus, alleluia!  
Ah!... Cantate Domino, alleluia!**

Cantor: All you heavens, bless the Lord.  
Stars of the heavens, bless the Lord.

Sun and moon, bless the Lord.  
And you, night and day, bless the Lord.

Frost and cold, bless the Lord.  
Ice and snow, bless the Lord.

Fire and heat, bless the Lord.  
And you, light and darkness, bless the Lord.

Spirits and souls of the just, bless the Lord.  
Saints and the humble hearted, bless the Lord.

Jacques Berthier

**At the font the President says:**

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the paschal mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

In baptism God calls us to new life. We die with Christ to all that destroys, and rise to live with him forever.

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn away from sin?

**All: I do.**

Do you reject evil?

**All: I do.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

**All: I do.**

Do you trust in Christ as Lord?

**All: I do.**

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water. Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through water you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we celebrate our fellowship in him in faith.

We pray that all who have passed through the water of baptism may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**The president lowers the paschal candle  
into the water three times and continues:**

We ask you, Father, with your Son, to send the Holy Spirit upon the waters of this font.

**And holding the candle in the water says**

May all who are buried with Christ in the death of baptism rise also with him to newness of life. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

**The candle is taken out of the water.**

Now that we have completed our observance of Lent, and renewed our baptismal vows, brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made the world?

**All: I believe and trust in God the Father.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**All: I believe and trust in God the Son.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**All: I believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All: This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

### ***The Sprinkling with Holy Water***

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all those 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.

**All Amen.**

The president and people return from the font  
and move back to their seats.

### ***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.

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

Bread and wine are brought up and placed on the altar.

Those that wish can make a contactless donation using the contactless donation box, or you can scan here to make a one-off donation from your phone:



## **Offertory Hymn**

(REH 137)

The Lamb's high banquet we await  
in snow-white robes of royal state,  
and now, the Red Sea's channel past,  
to Christ our prince we sing at last.

Upon the altar of the cross  
his body has redeemed our loss,  
and tasting of his precious blood,  
our life is hid with Christ in God.

That Paschal eve God's arm was bared,  
the devastating angel spared;  
by strength of hand our hosts went free  
from pharaoh's ruthless tyranny.

Now Christ our passover is slain,  
the Lamb of God that knows no stain,  
and he, the true unleavened bread,  
is truly our oblation made.

Maker of all, to thee we pray,  
fulfil in us thy joy today;  
when death assails, grant, Lord, that we  
may share thy Paschal victory.

To thee who, dead, again dost live,  
all glory, Lord, thy people give,  
all glory to the Father be  
and Spirit blest, eternally.

Latin, probably 7<sup>th</sup> cent  
trans. John Mason Neale (1818-66), altered

Lord of life, with unbounded joy we offer you our sacrifice of praise. As we are fed with the bread of heaven may we know your resurrection power; through Christ our risen Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

Please stand

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 night 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.

4



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and  
 God of might, heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the  
 high - est; ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the  
 high - est; ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the  
 high - est. Bles-sed is he, bles-sed is he, bles-sed is he who  
 comes in the name, he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the  
 high - est; ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;

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.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:



Christ has died: Christ is ri - sen: Christ will come a - gain.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise.

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

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

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 president breaks the consecrated bread.**

We break the bread of life and that life is the Light of the World.

**All:** God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

### ***The Agnus Dei***

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have  
mer - cy, have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world: Grant us, grant us peace.

## ***The Giving of Communion***

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

Everyone in church is now asked to come forward  
to receive either communion or a blessing.

If you wish to receive the communion wine from the common cup,  
please receive communion at the chancel step.

If you wish to receive communion by intinction of the wafer in the wine  
please receive communion from the side-aisle.

### ***Private devotion before Communion***

Christ our life, you are alive: in the tenderness of touch, in the heartbeat of  
intimacy, in the insights of solitude. Alleluia!

*Iona Community*

### ***After Communion***

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only begotten Son to the death  
of the cross and by his glorious resurrection has 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.

**All:** Amen.

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.

### ***Final Hymn***

Please stand

***Hail thee, festival day,  
blest day that art hallowed forever;  
day wherein Christ arose,  
breaking the kingdom of death.***

Lo, the fair beauty of earth,  
from the death of the winter arising,  
every good gift of the year  
now with its Master returns.

***Refrain***

Daily the loveliness grows,  
adorned with the glory of blossom;  
green is the woodland with leaves,  
bright are the meadows with  
flowers.

***Refrain***

He who was nailed to the cross  
is Lord and ruler of all things;  
all things created on earth  
worship the maker of all.  
**Refrain**

God of all pity and power,  
let thy word be assured  
to the doubting;  
lo, he breaks forth from the tomb!  
See, he appears to his own.  
**Refrain**

***Hail thee, festival day,  
blest day that art hallowed forever;  
day wherein Christ arose,  
breaking the kingdom of death.***

Words: Venantius Fortunatus (530-609);  
trans. Maurice Frederick Bell, 1906

## ***The Dismissal***

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**All: 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.

**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.**

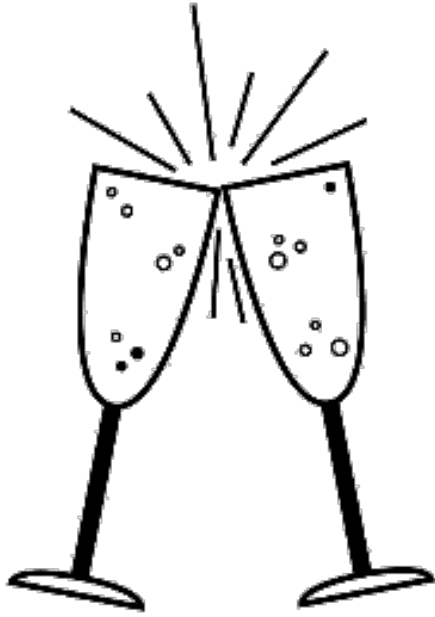
And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy  
Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**All: Amen.**

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

Alleluia! Alleluia!

**All: Thanks be to God.  
Alleluia, alleluia.**



*Please stay to celebrate the Easter Feast!*

HE IS NOT HERE,  
FOR HE IS

Risen

HAPPY EASTER

Thank you for all those who helped make this a memorable Holy Week and Easter in both churches. Thank you to the SEARCH catering team for the reception on Holy Saturday. Thanks, too, to all the readers, servers and others who supported our worship. We had some amazing music in Prestwood and Great Hampden, and some stunning Easter Flowers. Thank you and Happy Easter.

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