

Holy Communion for Easter Day

The Service of Light



*The unlit Easter Candle is at the back of church.
All the lights in the building are switched out:*

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 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.

The Easter Candle is lit

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

The candle is carried to the front of church, pausing three times

Christ our light.

Thanks be to God.

At the front of the Church the 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.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

He has brought us out of darkness.

He has made us light to the world.

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



We now sing the hymn Jesus Christ is risen today,

Hymn:

**Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**

**But the pains that he endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

Confession

God is love and we are his children.

There is no room for fear in love.

We love because he loved us first.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith.

God our Father, we confess to you and to our fellow members in the Body of Christ that we have sinned in thought, word and deed, and in what we have failed to do.

We are truly sorry.

Forgive us our sins, and deliver us from the power of evil, for the sake of your Son who died for us

Jesus Christ, our Lord.

God who is both power and love, 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

Gloria in Excelsis

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 for Easter Sunday read by Margaret French

Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

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 of life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ

Amen.

New Testament Reading Acts 10.34-43 read by Kimberly Eyre

Acts 10:34-43

New English Translation

³⁴Then Peter started speaking: “I now truly understand that God does not show favouritism in dealing with people, ³⁵but in every nation the person who fears him and does what is right is welcomed before him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, proclaiming the good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all)— ³⁷you know what happened throughout Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸with respect to Jesus from Nazareth, that God anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, because God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses of all the things he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰but God raised him up on the third day and caused him to be seen, ⁴¹not by all the people, but by us, the witnesses God had already chosen, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to warn them that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³About him all the prophets testify, that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

At the end the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We now sing the hymn Now the green blade riseth

Hymn:

1 Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

2 In the grave they laid Him, Love who had been slain,
Thinking that He never would awake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

3 Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain,
Jesus who for three days in the grave had lain;

Quick from the dead the risen One is seen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

4 When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Jesus' touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Gospel reading John 20.1-18 read by Jayne Hill

When the gospel is announced the reader says

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *John*

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Resurrection

20 Now very early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been moved away from the entrance. ² So she went running to Simon Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out to go to the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down and saw the strips of linen cloth lying there but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter, who had been following him, arrived and went right into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen cloth lying there, ⁷ and the face cloth, which had been around Jesus' head, not lying with the strips of linen cloth but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, came in, and he saw and believed. ⁹ (For they did not yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead.)

Jesus' Appearance to Mary Magdalene

¹⁰ So the disciples went back to their homes. ¹¹ But Mary stood outside the tomb weeping. As she wept, she bent down and looked into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white sitting where Jesus' body had been lying, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" Mary replied, "They have taken my Lord away, and I do not know where they have put him!" ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?" Because she thought he was the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will take him." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabboni" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus replied, "Do not touch me, for I have not yet ascended to my Father. Go to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came and informed the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them what Jesus had said to her.

At the end

This Is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Renewal of Baptismal Vows by Revd Brigid Main

In our baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. We renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ and our rejection of all that is evil. Therefore I ask these questions

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins.

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil.

May almighty God who has given you the desire to follow Christ give you strength to continue in the way.

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together 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

As we affirm our baptismal vows let us renew our commitment to Jesus Christ.

I answer the call of God my creator I trust in Jesus Christ as my Saviour I seek new life from the Holy Spirit

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

Sermon by Revd Steven Poss

He Is Risen!!!

Alleluia Christ is risen, he is risen indeed!

On this Easter day, we celebrate that our Lord has been risen from the dead, in the power of God and reigns in the heavens above, now and forever!

Alleluia Christ is risen, he is risen indeed!

Jesus' resurrection heralds God's new creation, and lifts our hearts and minds that God's power is something more powerful than sin, death and suffering and God can overcome them and bring new life and a life that is eternal with him.

Whilst we may struggle in celebrating the resurrection this year due to the various suffer-ings that we have experienced in the past year, today God wants us to see that though he is with us in our sufferings and comforts us, he does not stop there but shows his great love for us, by bringing us out of them and into new life. It is hard to let go of these suffer-ings, but as Mary meets the risen Lord on that Easter day, he asks her and us to move on from our past lives to the new life he has won for us.

That women are among the first witnesses of Jesus' resurrection overturns assumptions about status – for women were not permitted to be witnesses in Jewish courts. Status has taught us a great deal during this pandemic, when we have had to rely on one another and those key workers who have kept our nation and world running. We hear in our reading from Acts that God has no partiality:-

“34 Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36 You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.”

The great news of the Gospel, is that anyone is acceptable to God who turns to him, people can always make new choices and walk on a new path and Easter day, is a great time to do this as we celebrate what God has done for us in Christ. Everyone who believes in Jesus receives forgiveness of their sins.

One lesson that we are to take from this pandemic and take into the new life into the future, is that we are to have a greater appreciation of each other, know our dependence on each other and the great need to be with each other. The second sentence in this passage is the second lesson that we are to take out of this pandemic, in that we are to do “what is right and acceptable to God”. As we face many challenges in our nation and our world, we are to seek what is right in God's eyes and to take care of one another and our planet.

It is Mary Magdalene who sees the empty tomb first and who alone perceives the divine messengers. It is Mary who meets the risen Christ first and talks to him. And her name is the first one that he speaks, this Good Shepherd who calls by name his own sheep, who knows his voice.

Is this because Mary's loss and her longing are so acute – and so personal (‘They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him’)? Yet verse 17 warns us against drowning in devotion, however strong our emotions. ‘Do not continue to cling to me’, Jesus insists. Whatever the rest of this puzzling sentence means (and one scholar suggests it should simply read: ‘it is true that I have not yet ascended to the Father but I am about to do so’), the next command is clear. Mary is to release her hold on the Lord who has so recently returned, to go and share his words with the other disciples. Like Mary, let us without fear look and follow the risen Lord and share what Jesus has done for us and not hold on to the things of the past.

To quote the poet C Day Lewis, ‘Love is proved in the letting go’.

As we let go, we are reminded that the risen Lord “commanded us to testify that Jesus is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead and that all the prophets testified about him that everyone who believes in him, receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” – Acts 10:40-43.

Let us let go of the sufferings of the past year and enter into the new life where the risen Lord is leading us in the future and do what is right and acceptable to him, **Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession by Theresa Reed

Intercessions for Easter Sunday – 4th April 2021

Christ is Risen, and the power of His resurrection fills the world today with new life, hope and expectation and so we bring him all our needs.

Faithful God, we think of your church today celebrating the Resurrection all over the world. Language race and nationalities may be different but our worship and our joy on the Day of Resurrection make us one in the Gospel. We pray that The Holy Spirit may guide and strengthen us in mission and service praying that day by day we may grow in love for you and for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

We pray for your Churches here in the Dengie Hundred and especially for the new future as we and the rest of the world, hopefully recover from the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Christ is Risen: **He is risen indeed, Alleluia.**

Creator God, we pray for the leaders of the nations of the world that they may give priority to those with greatest need in the distribution of the world’s basic resources. We especially pray on this special day, for a fair and equitable distribution of the Coronavirus vaccine and that all people may be confident in being vaccinated.

We also remember today those involved in the fight against terrorism around the world and for all service personnel in active duty around the world.

Christ is Risen: **He is risen indeed, Alleluia.**

Father God at this joyful Eastertide we pray for our families and friends especially as they are unable to join us during the Easter Holidays as they normally would. We thank you for the joy of sending and receiving Easter cards and messages of love and for modern communication systems which bring our loved ones so close even when we are separated by great distances and by the Pandemic.

We pray for Diane and Den Lystor who celebrated their
Diamond Wedding Anniversary this week.



Happy Anniversary!

Christ is Risen: **He is risen indeed, Alleluia.**

Creator God we pray for those who are in need and ask you to look with pity on those who suffer. We especially pray for all those within our Parishes who have asked for our prayers

Tom Clarke
John Fisher
Bobby McAllister
Jo Cable
Gerry Lewsey
Sadie Russell
Fr Lionel Webber and Jean Webber
Elliott
Sue Wilson
Sue Watmough
Sarah, Diane and Den's daughter
Tony Grinstead

We pray for the broken-hearted, for the sick, for the lonely that your very presence would comfort them in their time of need and give thanks for all who work in the health services.

Christ is Risen: **He is risen indeed, Alleluia.**

Merciful God, we pray that those who have recently died may one day share in the promise of new life won for us all by the resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ and his triumph over death and the grave.

Let us pray to the Lord.

That we, with those who have died in faith,
may find mercy in the day of Christ.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Sylvia Chapman. We pray for her daughters Carina and Nicky and all Sylvia's family and friends. Her funeral is on Thursday 8th April at St Thomas' Church.

Matthew Lee. We pray for his parents June and Joe all Matthew's family and friends who will dearly miss him. Matthew's funeral is on Friday 30th April.

Beryl Dixon. We pray for Jan and Ron and all Beryl's family at this sad time. Beryl's funeral is on the 9th April at Southend Crematorium

Sally Stewart we pray for her brother Roderic and family, and for Penny Lucas.

Tony Hutson whose funeral is at St Thomas on Tuesday April 6th. We pray for his wife Haley and for Sophia and Luke at this difficult time.

Christ is Risen: **He is risen indeed, Alleluia.**

Faithful God as we go out into the world, we pray that we may reflect your love in our families, our church and our community; so that the world can witness that we are followers of Christ and draw others into his loving care.

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

At the end we say:

Merciful Father

Accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

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, greeting one another with these words

Christ is risen.

Hymn:

1 The day of resurrection!

Earth, tell it out abroad;

the passover of gladness,

the passover of God.

From death to life eternal,

from earth unto the sky,

our Christ hath brought us over,

with hymns of victory.

2 Our hearts be pure from evil,

that we may see aright

the Lord in rays eternal

of resurrection light;

and listening to his accents,

may hear, so calm and plain,

his own "All hail!" and, hearing,
may raise the victor strain.

**3 Now let the heavens be joyful!
Let earth the song begin!
Let the round world keep triumph,
and all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen
their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord hath risen,
our joy that hath no end.**

The gifts of the people are gathered and presented.

Revd Steven

Preparation of the Table and taking of the Bread and Wine

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

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. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

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 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

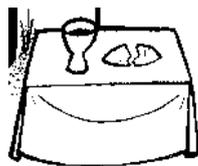
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.

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:



**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.**

We recall the Last Supper:

.... as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

The prayer continues, and ends... 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.

Breaking of the Bread

Jesus says, I am the bread of life, whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

Lord, our hearts hunger for you;

give us this bread always.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

All are invited to gather round the table for communion. If you would like to come for a blessing please bring this service booklet with you to indicate the fact.

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. **Amen.**

God of our salvation, we thank you for our communion with the risen Christ and with all who love him in earth and heaven.

We pray that, strengthened by his grace, we may serve you faithfully all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Dismissal Blessing by Revd Steven

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He Is risen indeed. Alleluia!

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn:

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

No more we doubt thee, glorious prince of life;
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Go in peace to love and serve the risen Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!
In the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Many Thanks to all who took part in this service.

Happy Easter

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Notices

Bishop Peter's Easter message – [Click here](#)

Easter Sunday Spiritual Communion

Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Spiritual Communion

Time: Apr 4, 2021 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87236976931?pwd=MEpPTmVqV09Od3VYdDRkYVJTcTN4dz09>

Meeting ID: 872 3697 6931

Passcode: 508685

St Lawrence Virtual Coffee Meeting

Steven Poss is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: St Lawrence Virtual Coffee Meeting

Time: Apr 7, 2021 02:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82085620728?pwd=WURQSC85Y1pjL1RlVGxhQzZKTk50Zz09>

Meeting ID: 820 8562 0728

Passcode: 435949

Bishop's Lent Appeal

Continuing from the 2020 Lent Appeal, over the next year we will be walking alongside Elema and the women of Marsabit, in our link Diocese in Kenya, as they continue to challenge the prevailing gender norms by training and equipping local people in savings schemes, literacy, numeracy and business skills. Tools that transform lives. To donate, click below:- <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6203/news/45585/bishops-lent-appeal/>

A Foundation Course in Pastoral Care

Following the success of the last two Resourcing Pastoral Carers course, carried out on zoom, we are arranging another to take place starting on 14th April. Via the online Zoom App. Tuesdays from 7.00pm to 9.30pm, April 13th, 20th, 27th May 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th June 1st, 8th, 15th. If you are interested in this course, please contact Revd Steven.