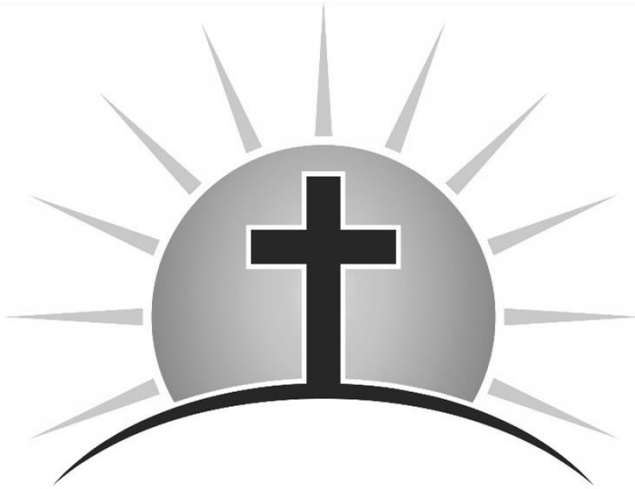


Holy Communion for the EASTER SEASON

Sunday 28th April

5th Sunday of Easter

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

Presiding: ***Canon Simon Stokes***

Preacher: ***Gerda***

Deacon: ***Gill***

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 721 - Love divine

***Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
All thy faithful mercies crown.***

***Jesu, thou art all compassion,
Pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.***

***Come, almighty to deliver,
Let us all thy grace receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Never more thy temples leave.***

***Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve thee as thy hosts above;
Pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
Glory in thy perfect love.***

***Finish then thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in thee.***

***Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee,
Lost in wonder, love and praise.***

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

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,
your wounds declare your love for the world
and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage
to risk ourselves for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

READINGS *(please sit)*

Genesis 22: 1-18 Read by Gill

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt-offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.' So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt-offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.' Abraham took the wood of the burnt-offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, 'Father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' He said, 'The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt-offering?' Abraham said, 'God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt-offering, my son.' So the two of them walked on together. When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.' He said, 'Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.' And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt-offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place 'The Lord will provide'; as it is said to this day, 'On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.' The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that

is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.'

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

1 John 4.7- end Read by Samuel

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 348 - O perfect love

*O perfect love, all human thought transcending,
Lowly we kneel in prayer before thy throne,
That theirs may be the love which knows no ending,
Whom thou for evermore dost join in one.*

*O perfect life, be thou their full assurance
Of tender charity and steadfast faith,
Of patient hope, and quiet brave endurance,
Wot childlike trust that fears not pain nor death.*

*Grant them the joy which brightens earthly sorrow,
Grant them the peace which calms all earthly strife;
And to life's day the glorious unknown morrow
That dawns upon eternal love and life.*

Please remain standing for the **GOSPEL READING**

John 15.1-8

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.

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can

you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Gerda

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 Charles

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 494 - I, the Lord of sea and sky

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

***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?***

***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 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 be satisfied.
I will give my life 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.***

DANIEL L. SCHUTTE (B. 1947)

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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**

EUCCHARISTIC 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: Now the green blade rises

Hymn: 471 - *We pray thee, heavenly Father*

***We pray thee, heavenly Father,
to hear us in thy love,
and pour upon thy children
the unction from above;
that so in love abiding,
from all defilement free,
we may in pureness offer
our Eucharist to thee.***

***Be thou our guide and helper,
O Jesus Christ, we pray;
so may we well approach thee,
if thou wilt be the Way:***

***thou, very Truth, hast promised
to help us in our
strife,
food of the weary pilgrim,
eternal source of Life.***

***And thou, creator Spirit,
look on us, we are thine;
renew in us thy graces,
upon our darkness shine;
that, with thy benediction
upon our souls outpoured,
we may receive in gladness
the body of the Lord.***

***O Trinity of Persons,
O Unity most high,
on thee alone relying
thy servants would draw nigh:
unworthy in our weakness,
on thee our hope is stayed,
and blessed by thy forgiveness
we will not be afraid.***

Vincent Stuckey Stratton Coles (1845–1929)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

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 453 - *Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour*

*Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
first-begotten from the dead.
Thou alone, our strong defender,
liftest up thy people's head.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Jesu, true and living bread!*

*Here our humblest homage pay we,
here in loving reverence bow;
here for faith's discernment pray we,
lest we fail to know thee now.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou art here, we ask not how.*

*Though the lowliest form doth veil thee
as of old in Bethlehem,
here as there thine angels hail thee,
branch and flower of Jesse's stem.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
We in worship join with them.*

*Paschal Lamb, thine offering, finished
once for all when thou wast slain,*

***in its fullness undiminished
shall for evermore remain.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Cleansing souls from every stain.***

***Life-imparting heavenly Manna,
stricken Rock with streaming side,
heaven and earth with loud hosanna
worship thee, the Lamb who died.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Risen, ascended, glorified!***

GEORGE HUGH BOURNE (1840-1925)

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**

