

Holy Communion for Easter Day



The Stour Valley Benefice

Cavendish, Clare, Hundon, Poslingford, Stoke-by-Clare & Wixoe

- A short introduction to the Season -

The Great Fifty Days of Eastertide from a single festival period in which the tone of joy created at the Easter Vigil is sustained through the following seven weeks, and the Church celebrates the gloriously risen Christ.

During this 'most joyful period' the lit Easter (or Paschal) Candle stands prominently in church for all the Eastertide services. The Alleluia appears frequently.

On the fortieth day, there has from the late fourth century been a particular celebration of Christ's ascension. He commissions his disciples to continue his work, he promises the gift of the Holy Spirit, and then he is no longer among them in the flesh. The ascension is closely connected with the theme of mission. The arrival of the promised Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost completes and crowns the Easter Festival.

This season of joy and brightness is represented in our use of White or gold liturgical decorations and vestments.



Spiritual Communion

The term 'Spiritual Communion' has been used historically to describe the means of grace by which a person, prevented for some serious reason from sharing in a celebration of the Eucharist, nonetheless shares in the communion of Jesus Christ.

In joining with Revd Mark today as he celebrates the Eucharist from his own home, you too are able to join with him in communion. The Book of Common Prayer instructs us that if we offer ourselves in penitence and faith, giving thanks for the redemption won by Christ crucified, we may truly 'eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ', although we cannot receive the sacrament physically in ourselves.

The Church of which we are members is not defined by the walls of a building but by the Body of Christ of which we are members. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, 'I am the Bread of Life'.

Hymn: Jesus Christ is risen today

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*.

Surrexit Christus hodie
Anonymous Latin, Lyra Davidica (1708), Compleat Psalmodist (1749 Arnold),
Charles Wesley (1707-88)

The Gathering

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

All: Amen.

The Greeting

Minister: Alleluia! Christ is risen

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: and also with you.

Prayer of Preparation

**All: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from who 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.**

Minister: In baptism we died with Christ, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, we might walk in newness of life. Let us receive new life in him as we confess our sins in penitence and faith. *(cf Romans 6:4)*

The Kyrie Confession

Minister: Like Mary at the empty tomb, we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Minister: Like the disciples behind locked doors, we are afraid to be seen as your followers.
Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Minister: Like Thomas in the upper room, we are slow to believe.
Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

Minister: Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

All: 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

Minister: 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

The Old Testament reading - Isaiah 25.6–9

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear.

And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

The New Testament reading - Acts 10.34–43

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ - he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Minister: Alleluia, alleluia. I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one; I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore. *(cf Revelation 1:17,18)*

All: Alleluia.

Minister: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were

alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

(Mark 16.1-8)

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Creed

**All: We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from
heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin
Mary and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius
Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic
Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness
of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

As disciples who know that Christ is risen, let us pray for the Church and for the world.

As your Church rejoices this day in the Resurrection of her Lord and Saviour, may her worship be reverent and her proclamation faithful. May every Christian soul respond in faith to the call of the Master and make haste to tell the good news.

Let the Easter hope be known in all the world. Give light to those who seek, assurance to those who doubt, and peace to all. May Christ be known as the only Lord, the only hope of the nations.

Be with our families and friends and all who share with us the wonderful day of Resurrection. May the presence of Christ bring us close to those who are separated from us, in the knowledge that no distance can part us from his love.

Have mercy on those who stand at the open door of faith but are held back by doubt and fear of their unworthiness. Draw them in, that they may begin the new life that Christ has brought. Help and comfort those for whom suffering and sorrow mar the happiness of this day.

We pray for those who, having shared with Christ the death of the body, now share with him the eternal life of his Resurrection. May the

promise that has been fulfilled in them be our hope in this world and our place in the world to come.

We pray in the name of Christ who conquered death that we might live for ever.

Intercessor: Merciful Father,

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Minister: 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. *(John 20:19,20)*

**All: The peace of the risen Christ be always with you
and also with you. Alleluia.**

Preparation of the Altar

Minister: 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.

All: Amen

The Eucharistic Prayer

Minister: The Lord be with you

All: and also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: it is right to give thanks and praise.

Minister: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal

Father, and in these days of Easter 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 gates 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.

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.

Minister: We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**All: Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life:
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Minister: Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with St Mary the Virgin, St Peter, St Paul, St John the Baptist, St Leonard, and All the Saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Minister: Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,**

for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Minister: 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.

The Agnus Dei

All: 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.

Giving of Communion

Minister: Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

All: Most merciful Lord, your love compels us to come in. Our hands were unclean, our hearts were unprepared; we were not fit even to eat the crumbs from under your table. But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation, and share your bread with sinners. So cleanse and feed us with the precious body and blood of your Son, that he may live in us and we in him; and that we, with the whole company of Christ, may sit and eat in your kingdom. Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Minister: God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his

glorious resurrection have 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: **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.**

The Blessing

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

All: **Amen.**

Minister: 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.**

Minister: God the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord, empower you to fill you with Christ's peace.

All: **Amen.**

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

All: **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Minister: With the power that raised Jesus from the dead at work
within you, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Hymn: Thine be the glory

Edmund L Budry (1854-1932), translated by Richard B Hoyle (1875-1939)

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 nought 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.

For more information about our Benefice, including details of upcoming special services, events and activities for all the family, please visit:

www.stourvalley.org.uk



facebook.com/StourValleyCofE



[@StourValleyCofE](https://twitter.com/StourValleyCofE)

Christian Copyright Licence No. 523438

Common Worship: Times & Seasons and New Patterns for Worship, material from which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2006.

Intercessions taken from *Hear our Prayer: Gospel based intercessions for Sundays, Holy Days and Festivals*, © 2003 Raymond Chapman, Published by The Canterbury Press Norwich.

(March 2024)



Although not all of us are able to meet in church for services, it is important to remember that the work of the Church continues, as do many of the ongoing costs in maintaining our historic buildings as well as supporting the ministry in this benefice and the wider church.

Remember that if you are able, please Gift Aid your donation as it means that we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you donate from the Government at no extra cost to you – resulting in your £20 donation now being worth £25!

If you wish to donate regularly to your church, please consider signing up to the Parish Giving Scheme, please ask Revd Mark or one of the churchwardens for a pack or sign up online at:

www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/

Alternatively, you can make an online donation to your chosen church through your smartphone by scanning the relevant QR Code below:

**Clare with
Poslingford**



Wixoe



Cavendish



Hundon



Stoke by Clare

