

# **Holy Communion for the Third Sunday of Easter**



## ***The Stour Valley Benefice***

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

### - A short introduction to the Season -

The Great Fifty Days of Eastertide form 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.



### **Hymn: Light of the minds that know him**

- 1 Light of the minds that know him,  
may Christ be light to mine!  
My sun in risen splendour,  
my light of truth divine;  
my guide in doubt and darkness,  
my true and living way,  
my clear light ever shining,  
my dawn of heaven's day.
- 2 Life of the souls that love him,  
may Christ be ours indeed!  
The living bread from heaven  
on whom our spirits feed;  
who died for love of sinners  
to bear our guilty load,

and make of life's brief journey  
a new Emmaus road.

3 Strength of the wills that serve him,  
may Christ be strength to me,  
who stilled the storm and tempest,  
who calmed the tossing sea;  
his Spirit's power to move me,  
his will to master mine,  
his cross to carry daily  
and conquer in his sign.

4 May it be ours to know him  
that we may truly love,  
and loving, fully serve him  
as serve the saints above;  
till in that home of glory  
with fadeless splendour bright,  
we serve in perfect freedom  
our strength, our life, our light.

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (born 1926) from a prayer of Saint Augustine*

## **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: Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: give us such knowledge of his presence with us, that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**All: Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

The first New Testament reading – Acts 3.12–19

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man

strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

'And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.'

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

The second New Testament reading - 1 John 3.1–7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

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 Luke.

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

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

*(Luke 24.36b–48)*

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**

Let us pray for the peace of Christ in the Church and in the World.

Give grace to the Church to witness through faith to the message of salvation which the Apostles received by sight. As he ate with them in his risen body, may the sacrament of his body and blood bring life and healing to all who come.

Grant that the peace of Christ shall bring to an end all disharmony in the world. Where there is strife between nations, hostility between



ances, disputes between individuals, may his presence bring a new and fuller life.

When we gather with our families and friends, keep us open to feel the presence of Christ among us. In this community and in all that we do, make us witnesses of the grace we have received.

Have mercy on all who suffer. We pray for those, known to us or unknown, who are sick in body or mind, for the lonely, the homeless, the bereaved. May the wounds of Christ's Passion, borne through death to his risen body, be their healing.

We pray for all who have died in the faith of Christ and risen to new life in him. May we in our time rejoice with them in seeing him as he is, no ghostly image but the living power of God.

We offer our prayers through Christ in whom the Scriptures are fulfilled.

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: Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread: open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his redeeming work; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.

**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**

1 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.*

2 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.  
*Refrain*

3 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.  
*Refrain*

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

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

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(April 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. If you are able to make a gift please contact your church warden or Revd Mark.

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!

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