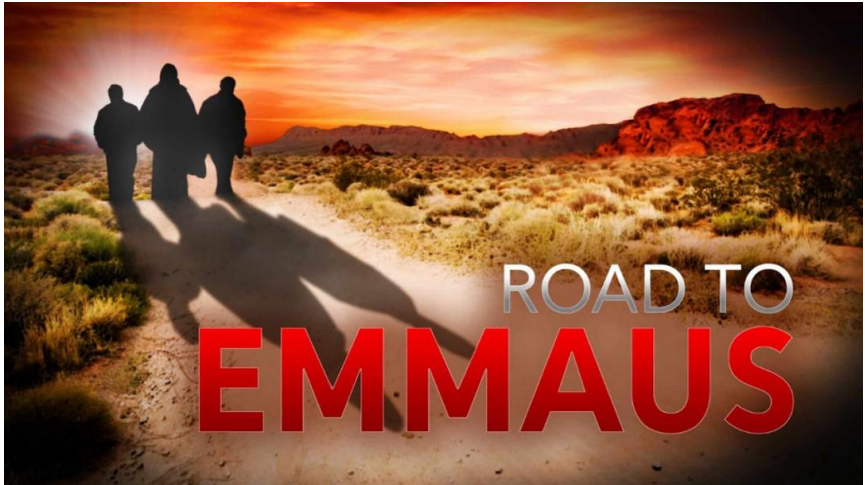


**Holy Communion
for the Third Sunday of Easter**



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 2.14a, 36–41

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd in Jerusalem: 'Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all

who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Minister: This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

The second New Testament reading – 1 Peter 1.17–23

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Minister: 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.

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the

road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. *(Luke 24:13-35)*

Minister: 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

Minister: Let us pray to the Lord revealed to us in word and sacrament.

Help your people to search the Scriptures to bring us nearer to our Lord. May the hearts of Christians burn with faith as they feel his presence. Help us to know and to make him known in the breaking of bread.

Guide the feet that walk in doubt and uncertainty and have lost their way on the long roads of the world. Dispel the anxieties and the false reports that keep people apart: set them free with the good news of salvation.

May Christ be the guest at every table. May we see him in the stranger as well as in those close to us and make the weary and hungry welcome for his sake.

We pray for the homeless and for those who wander without a destination. Grant shelter to the unprotected, bread to the hungry and rest to the weary. Bless those who do the work of relief at home and abroad.

Be with those whose day is far spent and who are near to death. We pray for those who are with Christ in the eternal feast of his love and see him with the eyes of perfect sight.

We pray in the name of Christ, our companion through every day. 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)*

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you

All: 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)

Christian Copyright Licence No. 523438 Streaming Licence No. tbc

Common Worship: Times & Seasons and Services and Prayers for the Church of England, material from
which is included in this service, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000, 2006.

Scripture quotations from *The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible*, is copyright © The Division of
Christian Education of the National Council of Churches in the USA, 1989.

(April 2026)



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!

If you wish to donate regularly to your church, please consider signing up to the Parish Giving Scheme, please ask 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**



Stoke by Clare



Cavendish



Wixoe



Hundon



