

DIOCESE IN EUROPE

THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Easter Morning Holy Communion with Baptism

The Service of Light

The ministers go in silence to the main entrance, one of them carrying the unlit Easter Candle. All the lights in the building are switched off.

Christ yesterday and today,
All **the beginning and the end,**
Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages;
All **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.

A minister lights the Easter Candle, saying

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

The minister carrying the Candle raises it and says

The light of Christ.
All **Thanks be to God.**

The people light their candles from the Easter Candle. The procession moves further into the building and then stops. The versicle and response are repeated.

When the minister carrying the Candle arrives at the front of the church it is placed on a stand in the midst of the building, and all other candles in the church are now lit.

Choirs of angels, stars and planets:

All **all God's people sing and dance.**

All creation, Church of God:

All **all God's people sing and dance.**

We praise you Lord of life and death:
we glorify your name:

All **all God's people sing and dance.**

This is the day you set us free,
bringing us home in love;
holy feast, when you led your people
through the fearsome sea:

All **all God's people sing and dance.**

This is the day you brought your Son
through the doors of death;
O holy feast, when death takes flight
and hope is born again:

All **all God's people sing and dance.**

This is the day our tears of sadness
turn to shouts of joy;
holy feast, when the choirs of earth
sing the songs of heaven:

All **all God's people sing and dance.**

This is the day when Christ our Light
makes the darkness bright:

All **all God's people sing and dance.**

Christ is the life that knows no end.
Christ is the love that burns within.
Christ is the peace that floods the world.
Christ is the Lord who reigns on high.

All **All God's people sing and dance. Amen.**

The Easter Acclamation

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

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

Let us pray.

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.**

Please sit

The Liturgy of the Word

A reading from Acts of the Apostles (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.”

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

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

2 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!

3 But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured, Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!

Please remain standing for the Gospel

Hear the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John (20.1-18)

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

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 removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.

Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

All sit

Sermon

THE BAPTISM

THE PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE

The minister addresses the whole congregation

Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome Sherman Peabody and uphold his life in Christ?

All: **With the help of God, we will**

The minister says to the parents and godparents

Parents and friends, the Church receives Sherman with joy. Today we are trusting God for his growth in faith. Will you pray for him, draw him by your example into the community of faith and walk with him in the way of Christ?

Parents and Godparents: **With the help of God, we will**

In baptism Sherman begins his journey in faith. You speak for him today. Will you care for him and help him to take his place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

Parents and Godparents: **With the help of God, we will**

THE DECISION

The minister of baptism addresses the candidate directly or through the parents and godparents

In 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. Therefore I ask:

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins.

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil.

THE SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

The minister makes the sign of the cross in the forehead of the candidate, saying, Sherman, Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of the cross.

The minister invites parents and friends to also sign the candidate with the cross. The minister then says

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

All: Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin, The world and the devil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.

May almighty God deliver you from the power of darkness, Restore in you the image of his glory, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

All: **Amen.**

We go to the font

THE PRAYER OVER THE WATER

The minister stands before the water of baptism and says

Praise God who made heaven and earth.

All: who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise for your gift of water in creation; for your Spirit, sweeping over the waters, bringing light and life; for your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, baptised in the river Jordan. We bless you for your new creation, brought to birth by water and the Spirit, and for your grace bestowed upon us your children, washing away our sins.

May your holy and life-giving Spirit move upon these waters. Restore through them the beauty of your creation and bring those who are baptised to new birth in the family of your Church.

Drown sin in the waters of judgement, anoint your children with power from on high, and make them one with Christ in the freedom of your kingdom. For all might, majesty, dominion and power are yours, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

The minister addresses the congregation

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together with Sherman the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All: I 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?

All: **I 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?

All: **I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

All: **This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

BAPTISM

The minister baptises the candidate, saying

Sherman, I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

The minister anoints the baptised with consecrated oil and says

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

All: **Amen.**

Intercessions are offered.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Please stand

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 Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All share a sign of peace

Offertory Hymn

1 Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hearts to heaven and voices raise;
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise:
he who on the cross a victim
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
now is risen from the dead.

2 Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits
of the holy harvest field,
which will all its full abundance
at his second coming yield;
then the golden ears of harvest
will their heads before him wave,
ripened by his glorious sunshine,
from the furrows of the grave.

3 Christ is risen, we are risen;
shed upon us heavenly grace,
rain, and dew, and gleams of glory
from the brightness of thy face;
that we, with our hearts in heaven,
here on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel-hands be gathered,
and be ever, Lord, with thee.

4 Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory be to God on high;
Alleluia to the Saviour,
who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
to the Triune Majesty.

Preparation of the Table

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
In your loving care you spread before us the table of life
and give us the cup of salvation to drink. Keep us always
in the fold of our Saviour and our Shepherd, your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

All remain standing.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

You are worthy of our thanks and praise, Lord God of truth, for by the breath of your mouth you have spoken your word, and all things have come into being. You fashioned us in your image and placed us in the garden of your delight. Though we chose the path of rebellion you would not abandon your own. Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace. You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace. As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth, we echo the song of the angels in heaven, evermore praising you and saying:

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.**

Lord God, you are the most holy one, enthroned in splendour and light, yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ you reveal the power of your love made perfect in our human weakness. Embracing our humanity, Jesus showed us the way of salvation; loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us; dying for his own, he set us free from the bonds of sin, that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave up himself for us all he took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying: 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.

Therefore, we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross, we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb, we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high and we long for his coming in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died; Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.**

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption, Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; form us into the likeness of Christ and make us a perfect offering in your sight. Look with favour on your people and in your mercy, hear the cry of our hearts.

Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free and fill your Church with power from on high.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints at the table in your kingdom, where the new creation is brought to perfection in Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence, as our Saviour has taught us
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

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.**

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

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

All **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Church of England invites to Holy Communion all baptised persons who are communicant members of other Churches which subscribe to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity

Prayer after Communion

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ you have assured your children of eternal life and in baptism have made us one with him: deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All **Amen.**

The chaplain / Warden addresses the congregation and gives any notices.

Please stand

Blessing

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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

All **Amen.**

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.**

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

All **Amen.**

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

All **Amen.**

With the risen life of Christ within you,
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Final Hymn

- 1 Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry 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, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won.*
- 2 Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb.
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let His church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the 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 conqu'rors, through Thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home above. [*Refrain*]