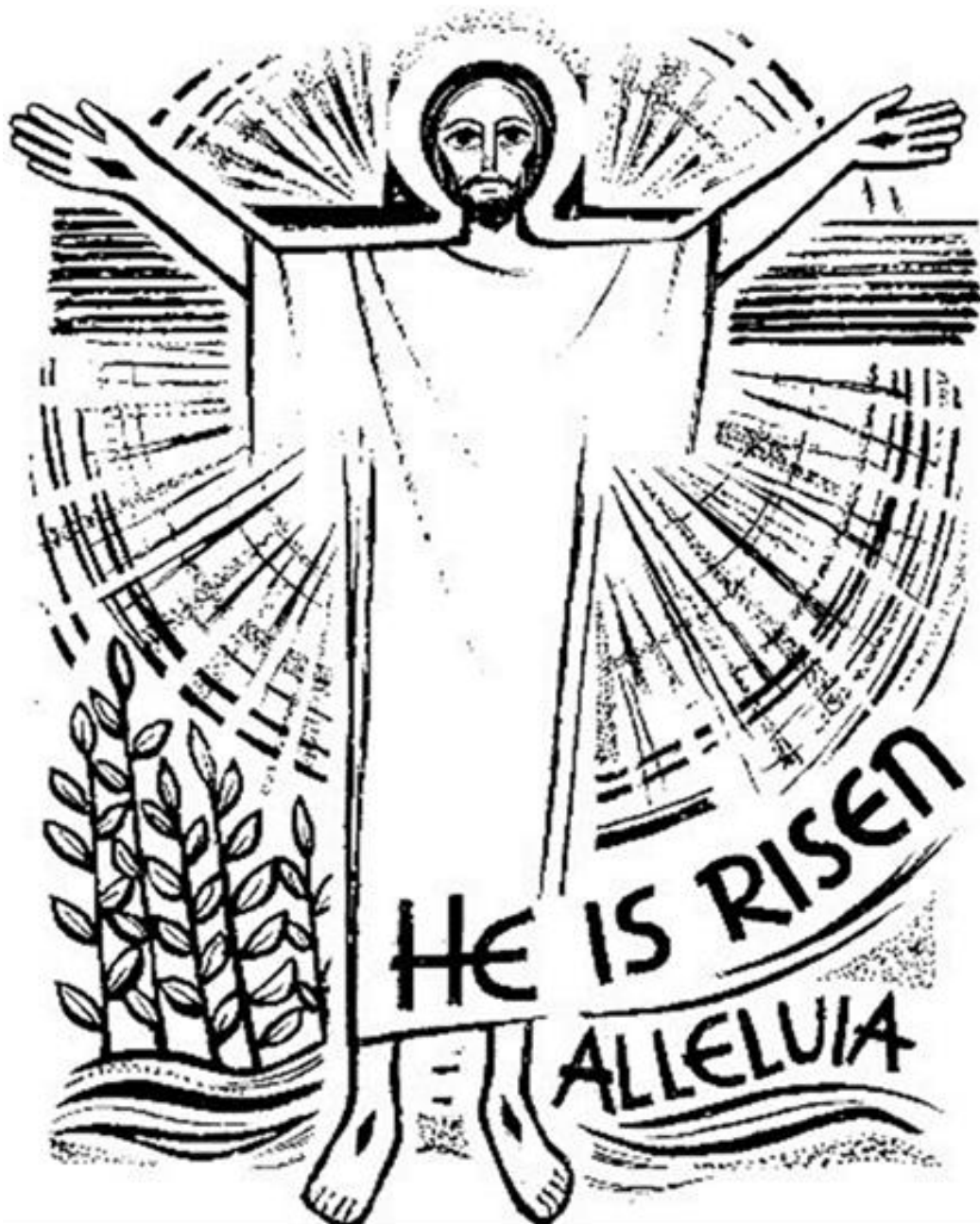


***St Bridget's, West Kirby***  
***with Caldy Church***



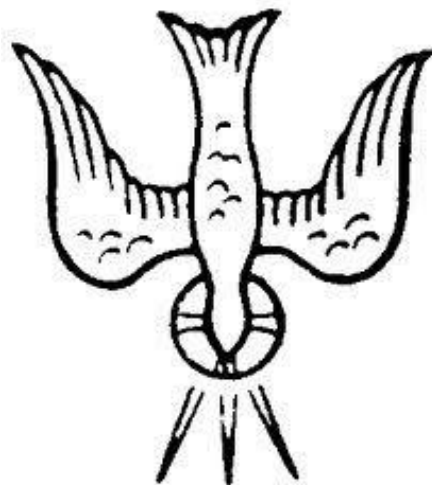
**HOLY COMMUNION  
DURING THE SEASON OF  
EASTER**

Eastertide lasts for 50 days and forms a single festival period in which the tone of joy created on Easter Day is sustained through the following seven weeks, as the Church celebrates the risen Christ.

Our Paschal (Easter) Candle, lit early on Easter Day stands prominently in church for all the Eastertide services. The Alleluia appears frequently in liturgical speech and song. Flowers return and white or gold vestments and decorations emphasize the joy and brightness of the season.

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 therefore closely connected with the theme of mission.

The arrival of the promised gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost completes and crowns the Easter Festival.



## THE GATHERING

### A hymn may be sung

The Lord be with you  
*All* and also with you.

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

### Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom 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**

### Prayers of penitence

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.  
and live in love and peace with all

*a time of quiet reflection*

*All* **Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word, and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly, love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

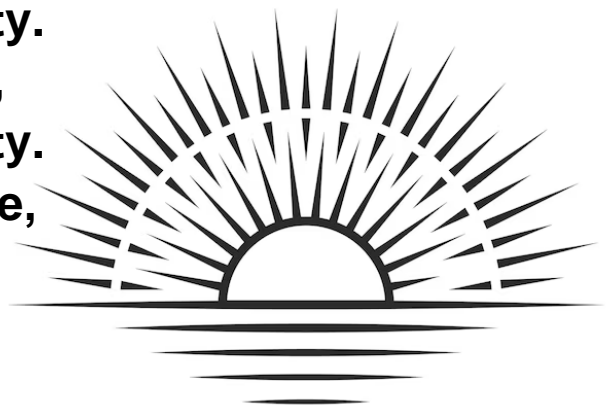
The God of love and power  
forgive you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord

*All* **Amen.**

## **GLORIA**

*The Gloria may be said or sung*

*Sung* **Glory, glory, glory to the Lord,  
Glory to the Lord God Almighty.  
Glory, glory, glory to the Lord,  
Glory to the Lord God Almighty.  
Who was and is and is to come,  
Glory, Glory to the Lord**



*Or* **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 - prayer for the day**

## **The LITURGY of the WORD**

### **Readings**

*One or two readings may follow. After the readings:-*

This is the word of the Lord

*All*      **Thanks be to God**

**A hymn may be sung**

### **The Gospel**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N*

*All*      **Glory to you, O Lord.**

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

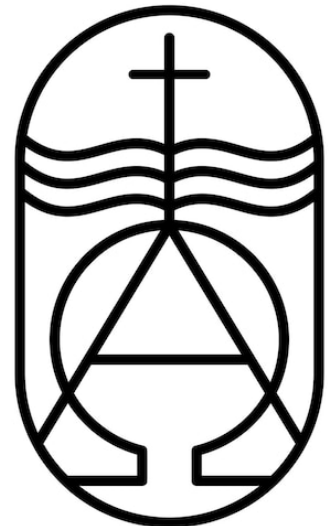
*All*      **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

## Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith  
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*All* **Christ died for our sins  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he was buried;  
he was raised to life on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
afterwards he appeared to his followers,  
and to all the apostles:  
this we have received,  
and this we believe.  
Amen.**



## The Prayers

*We kneel or sit for a time of prayer. This response may be used*

Lord in your mercy

*All* **Hear our prayer**

*and at the end*

Merciful father

*All* **Accept these prayers  
For the sake of your Son our Saviour  
Jesus Christ. Amen**

# The LITURGY of the SACRAMENT

## The Peace

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!

*All* The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## Offertory hymn

## Eucharistic Prayer

*All* The Lord be with you  
**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:

*Sung* **Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,  
Holy is the Lord God Almighty.  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,  
Holy is the Lord God Almighty.  
Who was and is and is to come,  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord**

*Or* **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.  
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 Bridget 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.**

As our saviour taught us, so we pray:

*All* **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.**

*All* **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.**

*All* **Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.**

*Or we sing*

**Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lamb,  
Jesus is the Lamb of God.  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lamb,  
Jesus is the Lamb of God.  
Who was and is and is to come,  
Jesus is the Lamb**

## Invitation to Communion

He who was buried but rose from the dead  
is present to us in this bread

*All* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

*All are now welcome to come for communion. If you would prefer a blessing simply keep your hands lowered and bow your head.*

## Prayer after Communion

*Silence may be kept*

*A prayer suitable for the Sunday or Season may be used*

*All* **Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our  
souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out  
in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work  
to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**



*Notices and Banns of marriage may now be given*

## Blessing

May Christ,  
who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,  
fill you with his new life;  
and the blessing of God,  
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,  
be upon you and remain with you,  
this day and always

*All*     **Amen**

**A hymn may be sung**

## Dismissal

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.**



**Please join us for refreshments immediately after the service.**

If you feel able to support our churches and ministry in the parish, please leave an offering in the plate at the back of church, use the payaz giving station in St Bridget's or visit our website for alternative means of giving.  
[www.stbridgetschurch.org.uk](http://www.stbridgetschurch.org.uk) Thank you.