

# Easter Season

## An Order of Service for Holy Communion



The Parish of St Bartholomew  
and St Christopher  
Haslemere

# *The Season of Easter*

In the glorious season of Easter we live not in the shadow of the cross, but in the bright radiance of the resurrection. For forty days the disciples were witness to the fulfilment of God's promises, as Jesus appeared on many occasions and to more than five-hundred people. Never in all of creation, before or since, has such a deed of divine love brought such a transformation in the world.



As we gather in these weeks leading up to Christ's ascension we too can bear witness to all that God has done. In equal faith, therefore let us each lay down our lives at the foot of the cross in confession, and yet be lifted up and restored into the image of the one and only Son. Let us listen to God's word, to offer our prayers in hope, and share in the body and blood of He who is everlasting – Jesus Christ our Lord.

# The Gathering

**Please stand**

*We begin our preparation for communion as we come together before God to greet each other, to reflect on our lives, to ask, receive and celebrate God's forgiveness and to pray.*

## Hymn and Procession

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

**All** Amen.

## The Welcome

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
And the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

**All** and also with you.

## Prayers of Preparation

Jesus said to his disciples, '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.'

*Luke 24:44-45*

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

**All** Let us rejoice and sing God's praise for ever.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**All** Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

## In Confession

We rejoice in the presence of our risen Lord. Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us. Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

*1 Corinthians 5.7,8*

**Sit or  
kneel**

*Silence is kept for us to offer our sins to God.*

We have lived by our own strength,  
and not by the power of your resurrection.  
In your mercy, forgive us.

**All Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,  
as faithless and not believing.  
In your mercy, forgive us.

**All Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived for this world alone,  
and doubted our home in heaven.  
In your mercy, forgive us.

**All Lord, hear us and help us.**

*We receive absolution and the assurance of sins forgiven.*

May the God of all healing and forgiveness  
draw you to himself,  
and cleanse you from all our sins  
that together we may behold the glory of his Son,  
the Word made flesh,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

## The Gloria in Excelsis

### *Please Stand*

Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to God in the highest.  
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.

*Glory to God...*

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.

*Glory to God...*

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.

*Glory to God...*

**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

***Please Sit** The collect or other community prayers may be said.  
After the prayer we all respond:*

**All** Amen.

# The Liturgy of the Word

*Our preparation continues as we hear God's word and reflect on it, responding in trust by declaring our faith and praying for the needs of the world.*

*At the end of the lesson the reader says:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn

*As the gospel book is carried past you, please turn to face it.*

## The Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations  
and believed in throughout the world.

**All Alleluia.**

*1 Timothy 3:16*

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

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

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## The Sermon

***Please Sit***

## The Creed

### Stand

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

**All We 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 We 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 We 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.  
Amen.**

## Our Prayers

*You may wish to kneel as we pray for each other and our communities. The following responses may be used.*

Lord, in your mercy      (or)      Lord, hear us.

**All hear our prayer.      All Lord, graciously hear us.**

*A time of silence may be kept, after which we respond:*

Merciful Father,

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

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## Sharing God's Peace

### *Please Stand*

Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.'

*John 20:20*

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**All** and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Please take time to leave your seat and greet others with the peace*

### **Hymn**

*An offering will be taken up during the hymn.*

*If you are a UK taxpayer please use a Gift Aid envelope.*

*The bread and wine, and the gifts of the people, are brought forward and placed upon the altar.*

## Prayer and Preparation of the Table

Gracious God,  
accept the offering of your Church,  
the hearts of your people  
joined in praise and thanksgiving,  
in the name of Jesus Christ, the Lord.

**All** Amen.



## The Holy Communion

*We remember Christ's offering of himself for us and his last supper with his disciples, blessing the bread and wine to be for us his body and blood.*

### **Stand**

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.**

Almighty God, good Father to us all,  
your face is turned towards your world.  
In love you gave us Jesus your Son  
to rescue us from sin and death.  
We praise you because you raised him  
gloriously from the dead.

He is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us,  
and has taken away the sin of the world.  
By his death he has destroyed death,  
and by his rising to life again  
he has restored to us everlasting life.

Your Word goes out to call us home  
to the city where angels sing your praise.  
We join with them in heaven's song:

**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.

Father of all, we give you thanks  
for every gift that comes from heaven.  
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.  
With signs of faith and words of hope  
he touched untouchables with love  
and washed the guilty clean.

This is his story.

**All** This is our song:  
Hosanna in the highest.

The crowds came out to see your Son,  
yet at the end they turned on him.  
On the night he was betrayed  
he came to table with his friends  
to celebrate the freedom of your people.

This is his story.

**All** This is our song:  
Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;  
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:  
This is my body, given for you all.  
Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;  
he took the cup, gave it and said:  
This is my blood, shed for you all  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

This is our story.

**All This is our song:  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup  
we celebrate the cross  
on which he died to set us free.  
Defying death he rose again  
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

This is our story.

**All This is our song:  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Send your Spirit on us now  
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ  
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.  
May we and all who share this food  
offer ourselves to live for you  
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven  
where all creation worships you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**All Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

# The Lord's Prayer

*Sitting or kneeling, we pray:*

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.

# The Breaking of the Bread

*The president breaks the consecrated 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.

**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.

Or:

**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.

## The Giving of Communion

**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.

Draw near with faith.  
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.  
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*The choir sings an anthem.*

*If you are a visitor, and receive communion in a church you usually attend, whether it is in the Church of England or not, please feel welcome to receive communion here today.*

*If you prefer, you may receive a blessing instead: please bow your head and keep your hands by your sides as you come forward.*

## The Prayer after Communion

*The Post Communion prayer is said by the President.*

**All** God of truth,  
we have seen with our eyes  
and touched with our hands the bread of life:  
now strengthen our faith  
that we may grow in love for you  
and for each other;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## The Dismissal

Do please remain with us after the service  
for refreshments.

Hymn

## The Blessing

Jesus came amongst them and said: 'All authority in Heaven and on Earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations. And surely I am with you until the end of the age.'

**All Amen.**

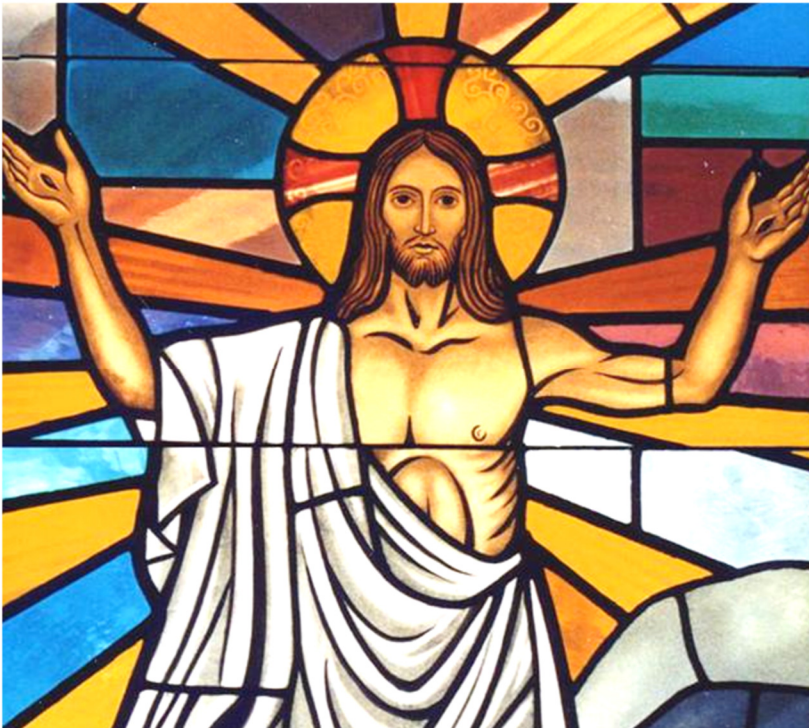
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ.**

**Amen**

*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.*

*Taken from 'Thine be the Glory'*



*Common Worship, material from which is included in this service, is copyright  
© The Archbishops' Council*