

THE PARISH EUCHARIST
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Welcome to St John's for this Service.

During these 50 days of Easter we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 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 know eternal life in him.

During these days of uncertainty, anxiety, and, for many, darkness we pray that the light of the risen Christ may bring peace, comfort, reassurance, and guidance.

You might like to light a candle before the Service and place it on a table to remind you of the light of the risen Christ shining among us.

We hope you will be able to join in with the Hymns and everything that is in **bold** type. Whether this is your first time in St John's, or you are a regular member of the congregation, you are most welcome. All the music for today's service, including the Mass setting can be found at <https://stjohnsboxmoor.org.uk/suspended-services-resources>

The posture directions in this order of service are optional. Please stand, sit, or kneel as you prefer. A collection is normally received during the service. Due to the restrictions this is not possible. You might like to set aside your gift and bring it when the restrictions have lifted. UK tax payers are encouraged to complete a GiftAid envelope to enhance the value of your giving.

During these 50 days of Easter, if you are passing St John's on your daily walk,
you might like to place flowers on the large cross outside church
- perhaps in memory of a loved one.

Let us show the community which we love and serve
that Christ and his Church are alive and kicking!

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All sing

The Final Hymn

Thy hand, O God, has guided
thy flock, from age to age;
the wondrous tale is written,
full clear, on every page;
our fathers owned thy goodness,
and we their deeds record;
and both of this bear witness:
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

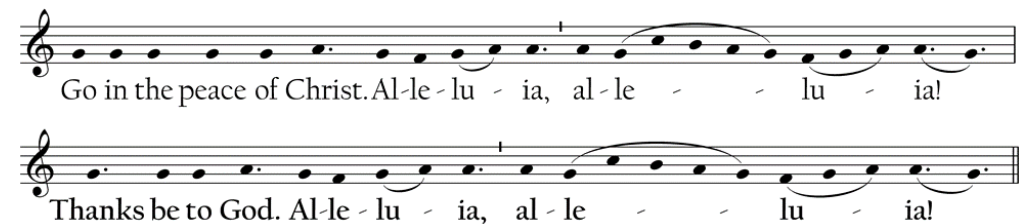
Thy heralds brought glad tidings
to greatest, as to least;
they bade men rise, and hasten
to share the great King's feast;
and this was all their teaching,
in every deed and word,
to all alike proclaiming
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

Through many a day of darkness,
through many a scene of strife,
the faithful few fought bravely,
to guard the nation's life.
Their Gospel of redemption,
sin pardoned, man restored,
was all in this enfolded:
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

Thy mercy will not fail us,
nor leave thy work undone;
with thy right hand to help us,
the victory shall be won;
and then, by men and angels,
thy name shall be adored,
and this shall be their anthem:
one Church, one faith, one Lord.

Thornbury 171 AMNS

The Dismissal



***Our worship has ended; let our service begin.
Thanks be to God!***

During these days of Easter you might like to place flowers
on the large cross outside Church
- perhaps in memory of a loved one.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
 this is the power of Christ in me;
 from life's first cry to final breath,
 Jesus commands my destiny.
 No power of hell, no scheme of man,
 can ever pluck me from his hand:
 till he returns or calls me home,
 Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

678 AM

The Anthem

The Lord is my Shepherd, I'll not want;
 He maketh me down to lie in green pastures.
 He leadeth me besides the still waters.
 Yea though I walk through the valley in the shadow of death
 I will fear no evil;
 For you are with me, you will comfort me.
 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life
 and I will dwell in the house of thy Lord forever.

H Goodall (b. 1958)

The Prayer after Communion

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.

THE DISMISSAL

The Blessing

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

The God of peace,
 who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
 that great shepherd of the sheep,
 through the blood of the eternal covenant,
 make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
 working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
 and the blessing of God almighty,
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

A period of quiet prayer precedes the service.

The Greeting

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

Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia!

A Hymn is sung

Now is eternal life,
 if ris'n with Christ we stand,
 in him to life reborn,
 and holden in his hand;
 no more we fear death's ancient dread,
 in Christ arisen from the dead.

Man long in bondage lay,
 brooding o'er life's brief span;
 was it, O God, for naught,
 for naught, thou madest man?
 Thou art our hope, our vital breath;
 shall hope undying end in death?

And God, the living God,
 stooped down to man's estate;
 by death destroying death,
 Christ opened wide life's gate.
 He lives, who died; he reigns on high;
 who lives in him shall never die.

Unfathomed love divine,
 reign thou within my heart;
 from thee nor depth nor height,
 nor life nor death can part;
 my life is hid in God with thee,
 now and through all eternity.

Christchurch 402 AMNS

All kneel or remain seated for

Prayer of Preparation

As the Lord welcomes us into his presence, we pray together:

**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

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

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Absolution

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.
Amen.

A Prayer to receive Spiritual Communion

**In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every Altar of thy Church
where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated,
I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving.
I present to you my soul and body
with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you.
And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart.
I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul.
Let nothing ever separate you from me.
May I live and die in your love. Amen.**

Communion Hymn

In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the love of God was glorified
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine—
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

All sit and kneel to say

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour has taught us,
so we are bold to pray:

**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 for ever. Amen.**

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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia. Alleluia!

The Giving of Communion

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those
who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word,
and I shall be healed.**

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 Christ
died for you, and feed on him in your
heart by faith with thanksgiving.

All remain kneeling or seated. All sing, after the Choir have sung it through once,

Agnus Dei

♪ **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.**

All stand to give praise to God for the resurrection of his Son, as we sing

The Gloria

♪ **Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest. (* Repeated as a refrain)**

**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

Following a moment of quiet, a special Prayer for the Day is said.

Almighty Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

All sit for the

Bible Readings

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Many were baptized and were added to the community. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Acts 2: 42–47

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

Brothers and sisters: It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, where is the credit in that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. 'He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.' When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

1 St Peter 2: 19–end

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.

Great is the mystery of faith: or Praise to you, Lord Jesus:	
Christ has died:	Dying you destroyed our death,
Christ is risen:	rising you restored our life:
Christ will come again.	Lord Jesus, come in glory.

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 [N 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.

♪ **Amen.**



The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

♪ **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

♪ **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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 gate 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.

♪ **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.**

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.

The Gradual Hymn

Loving Shepherd of thy sheep,
keep thy lamb, in safety keep;
nothing can thy power withstand,
none can pluck me from thy hand.

Loving Saviour, thou didst give
thine own life that we might live,
and the hands outstretched to bless
bear the cruel nails' impress.

I would praise thee every day,
gladly all thy will obey,
like thy blessed ones above
happy in thy precious love.

Loving Shepherd, ever near,
teach thy lamb thy voice to hear;
suffer not my steps to stray
from the straight and narrow way.

Where thou ledest I would go,
walking in thy steps below,
till before my Father's throne
I shall know as I am known.

Buckland 134 AMNS

The Gospel

All turn to where the Gospel is proclaimed.

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

Alleluia!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.

♪ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.' Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

St John 10: 1–10

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

♪ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

All stand to say

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

All sit or kneel for

The Prayers of Intercession

Father, we continue to rejoice in the resurrection of your Son and the life and forgiveness he brings. Help us in these days of National Emergency to be resolute in faith, active in service, and joyful in witness.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We pray that your Church, his body here on earth, may be faithful in sharing and living his risen life in every community. We pray especially for your blessing on our witness to the peoples of this Parish. May we bring life, light, and love to this community.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Father, help us all to hear the voice of the Good Shepherd and turn away from the dangers and temptations which are so easy to follow. Give us your strength to work for a fairer society where resources are better shared and the voice of greed is drowned out by the voices of compassion, kindness, and generosity.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Father, may the light of the Risen Christ's presence bring comfort and strength to the sick, the weak, and the dying. We pray for all named on our Newsletter, for all who are sick in hospital, and for all who care for them. And we give thanks for those who have been restored to health and wholeness.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Father, have mercy on all whose days on earth are now over and who now rest in Christ. We remember with thanksgiving those who have died recently

and are named on our Newsletter; for those who died alone or unprepared; for those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time. May they all share in the glory of your eternal city where death is no more.

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

In a moment of quiet let us bring our own prayers and praises before the throne of heavenly grace.

A time of quiet is kept.

Confident that we do not pray alone, but in communion with all the saints and martyrs, we offer these our prayers saying, merciful Father,

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Peace

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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!

St John 20: 19-20

The peace of the Lord be always with you

and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

The Preparation of the Table

Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ, our risen high priest; make yourself known to us in the breaking of bread. **Amen.**

