

St Mary's
Primrose
Hill



**Parish Eucharist
in Eastertide**

Welcome!

Open hearts, open minds and open doors.

We welcome all who come to share in our worship. We welcome all who come seeking a deeper knowledge of God. We welcome those who seek to serve others in the spirit of love. We welcome those who seek a place to belong. We welcome those who are questioning and want to explore more about the life of faith.

In the name of the risen Christ, we bid you welcome.

Easter Day is rightly called the Sunday of Sundays, the first day of a new creation. As it says in the Psalms, 'This is the day that the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad in it'. In the early Church new converts were baptised at the Easter liturgy. From ancient times, therefore, the readings during Eastertide have mediated not only on the resurrection of Christ, but also on the calling of the Church to live his resurrection as a baptised community.

The **Great Fifty Days** of Eastertide runs from Easter Day until and including the Day of Pentecost. Throughout the season, the great paschal candle burns proudly proclaiming the presence of the risen Lord. The liturgy of Eastertide resounds with the cries of alleluia. Within Eastertide, the feast of the Ascension enjoys a special status as a celebration of Christ's triumphant exaltation; and the nine days that follow it are observed as a time of preparation for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The Feast of **Pentecost** concludes Eastertide. It was, and still is, the Jewish Feast of Weeks, falling on the fiftieth day after Passover. It marked the completion of the barley harvest, and was also observed as the anniversary of the giving of the law on Mount Sinai. It was in commemoration of this that the disciples assembled in Jerusalem. Whereas the giving of the law was accompanied by thunder and lightning, the birth of the Church was accomplished when the new law of love was written with the fire of the Holy Spirit upon the pages of the human heart.

'We are an Easter people and alleluia is our song.'

THE GATHERING

An **Entrance Hymn** *is sung as the choir and ministers enter.*

On Festivals, the Eucharist begins with a procession. Please join in the procession, following the clergy and choir.

The Greeting

The President greets the people. Children are welcome to go to Sunday School for the first part of the Liturgy if they wish.

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

All **Amen**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

The President welcomes the people and may briefly introduce the service.

The Prayers of Penitence

After a period of silent reflection the Deacon invites all present to call to mind their sins in these or other words.

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 sincere and true heart.

All **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.**

President

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

On Festivals, the choir may sing the Gloria in English or Latin. Please sit if you wish.

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

The President introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray' and gathers up the prayers of the people in the Collect (the prayer for the day), to which all respond 'Amen'.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Please sit for the readings.

The First Reading

At the end of the reading, the following response is used:

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All Thanks be to God.

The choir sings the Psalm.

The Second Reading

At the end of the reading, the following response is used:

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All Thanks be to God.

The **Gradual Hymn** *is sung and all turn to face the Gospel reader.*

The Gospel

We face the Gospel and sing:

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Choir sings a Gospel acclamation.

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Deacon The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

When the Gospel is announced:

All Glory to you, O Lord.

After the Gospel reading, the Deacon says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon. *Please be seated.*

After a short period of silence for reflection, please stand, as you feel able, for the Creed or Affirmation of Faith.

The Nicene 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.**

An Affirmation of Faith

The President says:

Let us affirm, together with all who have been baptised, our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, the 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 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.

The Prayers of Intercession

The President introduces the intercessions.

Please kneel, sit, or remain standing as you prefer.

During the prayers, these or other responses may be made:

Reader Lord, in your mercy,

All hear our prayer.

Or

Reader Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

The reader concludes the intercessions by saying:

Merciful Father,

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

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Please stand for the Peace.

The Peace

The President introduces 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.

Or, from Ascension Day until Pentecost:

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. If you love me, rejoice because I am going to the Father'. Alleluia.

Or, on the Day of Pentecost:

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us, and as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

During the singing of the hymn, the bread and wine are brought to the altar and a collection is taken. Gift Aid envelopes are available from the Stewards at the back of church.

*Please remain standing for the **Eucharistic Prayer**, as you feel able.*

The Eucharistic Prayer

President The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

President Lift up your hearts.

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

President Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The President sings the preface.

Please remain standing, while the choir sings the Sanctus and Benedictus in English or Latin:

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.

The President continues the prayer, with the blessing of the bread and wine.

Deacon Great is the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died:**

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

President Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise; and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love, and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

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

The Lord's Prayer

The President introduces the Lord's Prayer:

As our Saviour has 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 for ever.
Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The President breaks the consecrated bread, saying either:

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.**

Or

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,

All **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

The Communion

The President invites the people to communion saying:

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

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

Please sit.

All Christians in full communion with their own church are warmly invited to receive communion. (You are also welcome to come forward for a blessing instead. Please fold your hands as a sign that you would like this.) We ask that you do not dip the host/wafer into the wine.

During the distribution the choir sings the Agnus Dei in Latin or English and other anthems.

*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.*

After communion, silence is kept.

Post Communion Prayer

Please stand for the prayers after communion.

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.**

Notices, *please sit.*

The **Final Hymn** *is sung.*

THE DISMISSAL

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

President 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.

All Amen.

Or, from Ascension Day until Pentecost:

Christ our ascended King pour upon you the abundance of his gifts and bring you to reign with him in glory; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Or, on the Day of Pentecost:

The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth, give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and strengthen you to proclaim the word and works of God; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

The Deacon then dismisses the people, singing:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

All In the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

An organ voluntary is played.

Please stay for refreshments and fellowship at the back of church.

Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Eastertide

Yesterday I was crucified with Christ;
today I am glorified with him.
Yesterday I was dead with Christ;
today I am sharing in his resurrection.
Yesterday I was buried with him;
today I am walking with him from the sleep of death.

Gregory of Nazianzus

If we have been aware of resurrection in this life,
then and only then, shall we be able or ready to receive the hopes of final
resurrection after physical death.

Resurrection as our final and ultimate future
can be known only by those who perceive resurrection
with us now encompassing all we are and do.

For only then will it be recognised as a country
we have already entered
and in whose light and warmth we have already lived.

Harry Williams, True Resurrection

MOST glorious Lord of Lyfe! that, on this day,
Didst make Thy triumph over death and sin;
And, having harrowd hell, didst bring away
Captivity thence captive, us to win:
This joyous day, deare Lord, with joy begin;
And grant that we, for whom thou diddest dye,
Being with Thy deare blood clene washt from sin,
May live for ever in felicity!

And that Thy love we weighing worthily,
May likewise love Thee for the same againe;
And for Thy sake, that all lyke deare didst buy,
With love may one another entertayne!
So let us love, deare Love, lyke as we ought,
—Love is the lesson which the Lord us taught.

Edmund Spenser, Easter

Christ is risen:
The world below lies desolate.
Christ is risen:
The spirits of evil are vanquished.
Christ is risen:
The angels of God are rejoicing.
Christ is risen:
The tombs of the dead are empty.
Christ is risen indeed from the dead,
the first of the sleepers to awake.
Glory and power are forever.

Hippolytus of Rome

God of terror and joy,
you arise to shake the earth.
Open our graves
And give us back the past;
so that all that has been buried
may be freed and forgiven,
and our lives may return to you
through the risen Christ.

Janel Morley

Rise heart; thy Lord is risen. Sing his praise
Without delays,
Who takes thee by the hand, that thou likewise
With him mayst rise:
That, as his death calcined thee to dust,
His life may make thee gold, and much more, just.

Awake, my lute, and struggle for thy part
With all thy art.
The cross taught all wood to resound his name,
Who bore the same.
His stretched sinews taught all strings, what key
Is best to celebrate this most high day.

George Herbert, Easter

Bring us, O Lord God,
at our last waking into the house and gate of heaven,
to enter into that gate and dwell in that house,
where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light;
no noise nor silence, but one equal music;
no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession;
no ends nor beginnings, but one equal eternity;
in the habitation of thy glory and dominion world without end.

John Donne

There are nights that are so still
that I can hear the small owl calling
far off and a fox barking
miles away. It is then that I lie
in the lean hours awake listening
to the swell born somewhere in the Atlantic
rising and falling, rising and falling
wave on wave on the long shore
by the village, that is without light
and companionless. And the thought comes
of that other being who is awake, too,
letting our prayers break on him,
not like this for a few hours,
but for days, years, for eternity.

R.S. Thomas, The Other

Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your word
be deaf to clamour and dispute;
May the tongues which have sung your praise
be free from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love
shine with the light of hope;
And may the bodies which have been fed with your body
be refreshed with the fullness of your life;
Glory to you for ever. Amen

From the Liturgy of Malabar, Syrian, 4th century.

**Please return this booklet to the stewards at the end of the service.
You are welcome to take the weekly insert away with you.
Thank you.**

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