

United Benefice of Berrow with Pendock Eldersfield, Hollybush and Birtsmorton



Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?" 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, "Rabboni!"

John 20:15-16

Holy Communion at Easter

THE SEASON OF EASTER

The celebration of Jesus' Resurrection at Easter reminds us of God's glorious triumph over death and despair, disease and destruction. By raising Jesus from the dead, God gives us the possibility of new hope, new beginnings, new starts and the promise of eternal life. But every Sunday should be a Day of Resurrection.

Christians carry in them the story of the suffering and death of Jesus. But they also carry within them the living knowledge that Jesus Christ has risen from the dead and that he is alive and with us for evermore. This Good News, which lies at the heart of the Gospel message, is enough to make us sing and shout 'Alleluia'!

The dawn of the spring light, the sight of lambs in our fields, the fresh buds and new leaves on the trees, and the defeat of the death of winter in our own climate, all give Easter an added resonance. We know the Easter story of new life out of death is true because we can see it bursting out for us in the springtime garden of the countryside which is all around us.

The celebration of Easter is the pinnacle of the Christian faith and we pray that in our celebration together today we may capture some of that Resurrection hope and wonder, and that we will be enabled to lift up to God heartfelt praise and thanksgiving for all he has won for us. May we become people of Easter such that in our lives we may show that we are springtime signs of God's life-giving Resurrection hope and power.

A Prayer for Openness to God

Lord, open our eyes and we shall behold your glory.

Lord, open our ears and we shall hear you call.

Lord, open our hearts and we shall know your love.

Lord, open our hands and we shall show your generosity.

Lord, open our lives and we shall reveal your glory.

Risen Lord, come stand among us,

awaken us to your presence,

open to us the gate of glory,

show us the path of life,

help us to know you are with us

now and always.

THE WELCOME

THE FIRST HYMN

1 Baptised in water,
sealed by the Spirit
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king;
heirs of salvation,
trusting his promise -
faithfully now God's praise we sing.

2 Baptised in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our king;
one with his rising,
freed and forgiven
thankfully now God's praise we sing.

3 Baptised in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our king;
born of one Father,
we are his children -
joyfully now God's praise we sing.

Michael Saward (born 1932)
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The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

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 Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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.

**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.**

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.

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

**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

We sit to hear the Bible readings

THE OLD TESTAMENT AND EPISTLE READINGS

At the end of the Readings the Reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GRADUAL HYMN

God is love, let heav'n adore him;
 God is love, let earth rejoice;
 let creation sing before him,
 and exalt him with one voice.
 He who laid the earth's foundation,
 He who spread the heav'ns above,
 He who breathes through all creation,
 He is love, eternal love.

God is love, and though with blindness
 sin afflicts the souls of men,
 God's eternal loving-kindness
 holds and guides them even then.
 Sin and death and hell shall never
 o'er us final triumph gain;
 God is love, so love for ever
 o'er the universe must reign.

THE GOSPEL READING

I am the first and the last says the Lord, and the living one;
 I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

Alleluia!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N.*
Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

THE CREED

**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.

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition the Intercessor says:

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

At the end of the prayers:

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

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!

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

HYMN

1. Love is His word, Love is His way,
Feasting with all, fasting alone,
Living and dying, rising again
Love only love is His way.

Chorus

*Richer than gold is the love of my Lord.
Better than splendour and wealth.*

2. Love is His way, love is His mark,
Sharing His last Passover feast.
Christ at the table, host to the twelve Love,
only love, is His mark.

3. Love is his mark, love is His sign,
Bread for our strength, wine for our joy,
This is my body, this is my blood
Love, only love is His sign.

4. Love is His sign, love is His news,
Do this He said Lest you forget
All my deep sorrow, all my dear blood,
Love, only love, is His news.

7. Love is His law, Love is His word,
Love of the Lord, Father, and Word,
Love of the Spirit, God ever one,
Love, only love, is His word.

Antony Milner (b1925)

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Wise and gracious God, you spread a table before us;
nourish your people with the word of life and the bread of heaven.

Amen

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.

Let us pray

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.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,

and as we follow his example and obey his command,

grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit

these gifts of bread and wine

may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,

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, heavenly Father, we remember this offering of himself made once for all
 upon the cross, we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
 we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup
 we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

**Dying you destroyed our death,
 rising you restored our life:
 Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

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

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray.

**Our Father,
 which art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name;
 thy kingdom come;
 thy will be done ;
 in 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

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.**

**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.**

THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

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

Please walk to collect the bread in both hands at the altar and resume your seat before consuming. If you wish to receive a blessing please indicate this by holding your arms by your sides.

THE PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us in this physical and spiritual sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples. Amen.

THE FINAL HYMN

Name of all majesty,
fathomless mystery,
King of the ages
by angels adored;
power and authority,
splendour and dignity,
bow to his mastery,
Jesus is Lord!

Child of our destiny,
 God from eternity,
 love of the Father
 on sinners outpoured;
 see now what God has done
 sending his only Son,
 Christ the beloved One,
 Jesus is Lord!

Saviour of Calvary,
 costliest victory,
 darkness defeated
 and Eden restored;
 born as a man to die,
 nailed to a cross on high,
 cold in the grave to lie,
 Jesus is Lord!

Source of all sovereignty,
 light, immortality,
 life everlasting
 and heaven assured;
 so with the ransomed, we
 praise him eternally,
 Christ in his majesty,
 Jesus is Lord!

by Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926) © Timothy Dudley-Smith

THE BLESSING

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

God the Son, who in bursting the grave has won a glorious victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

God the Holy Spirit, whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

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

Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks to be God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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