

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

Alleluia, alleluia, hearts to heaven and voices raise
 Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise
 He, who on the cross a victim for the world's salvation bled
 Jesus Christ, the King of glory now is risen from the dead.

Christ is risen, Christ, the first fruits of the holy harvest field
 Which will in all it's full abundance at his second coming yield
 Then the golden ears of harvest will their heads before him wave
 Ripened by his glorious sunshine from the furrows of the grave.

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

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
 be all else but naught to me, save that thou art

be thou my best thought, in the day or the night,
both waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
be thou ever with me and I with thee Lord;
be thou my great Father, and I thy true son;
be thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

High King of heaven, thou heaven's bright Sun,
O grant me it's joys after vict'ry is won;
great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

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

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
 your sweetest notes employ,
 the Paschal victory to hymn
 in strains of holy joy.

Triumphant in his glory now
to him all power is given;
to him in one communion bow
all saints in earth and heaven.

All glory to the Father be,
all glory to the Son,
all glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,
while endless ages run.

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

O Jesus, I have promised
to serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou forever near me,
my Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
if Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
if Thou wilt be my Guide.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised
to all who follow Thee
That where Thou art in glory
there shall Thy servant be.
And Jesus, I have promised
to serve Thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.

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!