

St Lawrence Church
Abbots Langley

**PARISH COMMUNION
FOR
EASTER DAY**



**Sunday 4th April 2021
9.30 am**

***Setting:
Communion Service in 'F' by Herbert Sumsion***

WELCOME
ON THIS EASTER MORNING

Happy Easter! This is the day of days, when Christians gather to bear witness to the empty tomb, and to receive the light of the risen Christ into their lives. The Paschal candle, symbol of the resurrection light and life of Christ is lit, and becomes a focus in our worship.

Easter Day gives way to a 'week of Sundays' as each day is celebrated with joy in the Risen Lord and the new life promised to us all through him.

Someone said that Lent this year feels like it has lasted about a thousand days. It has been a rough year! And one of the sad things about it has been our inability to sing together.

Change is at last coming. We're thrilled to have the choir back in action this morning. What's more, after this service ends, we'll gather in the churchyard (keeping social distance please!), and legally sing out with all available voices the great Easter hymn 'Thine be the Glory, Risen Conquering Son.'

May God bless you on this Easter Day and always.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

THE GATHERING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The new Paschal Candle is lit and these words are said

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ was raised gloriously from the dead, crushing the power of sin and destroying the sting of death. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the mighty power of God as Christ calls us out of darkness to share in his marvelous light. May we, and all Christ's people, shine as lights in the world to the glory of God.
Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore keep the feast 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.

*We remain standing to say **the GLORIA:***

**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.**

We remain standing for the COLLECT

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The New Testament Reading: Acts 10.34-43

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*The choir sing the **GRADUAL MOTET** 'This Joyful Eastertide' (arr. Philip Ledger)*

This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow.
My Love, the Crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow.

*Had Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain: but now hath Christ arisen.*

My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a season slumber:
Till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number.

Death's flood hath lost his chill, since Jesus crossed the river:
Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver.

*We stand for **the GOSPEL** (John 20:1-18)*

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Please sit for the SERMON

Please stand

THE NICENE 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.**

*Please kneel or sit for **the** INTERCESSIONS*

At the end of each section:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

*Please stand for **the PEACE***

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said,
'Peace be with you.'

Then they were glad, when they saw the Lord.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this bread to set before you, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation: through your goodness we have this wine to set before you, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory,
the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

***All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.***

We remain standing throughout

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.

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:

The choir sing:

*Holy holy holy Lord God of hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most High. Amen
Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!*

Lord, you are holy indeed,
the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us
the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father,
calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand
in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Alban, Lawrence and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours,
almighty Father, for ever and ever.
Amen.

After the bell has rung three times, please kneel or sit

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

**Lord, our hearts hunger for you;
give us this bread always.**

The choir sing the AGNUS DEI

*O Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
O Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
O Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world, grant us thy
peace.*

GIVING OF COMMUNION

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

**We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord,
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body,
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

*During the distribution of Communion there will be sung the **SOLO**: "I know that my Redeemer liveth" (from Part III, Messiah, by Georg Frederic Handel):*

*I know that my redeemer liveth,
And that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth.
And though worms destroy this body,
yet in the flesh shall I see God.
For now Christ is risen from the dead, the first fruits of them that sleep.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Silence is kept, after which the Post Communion prayer is said by the priest followed by this prayer said together.

**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.**

Please stand

THE BLESSING

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

God the Holy Spirit,
who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord, empower you and fill you
with Christ's peace.

Amen.

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

Amen.

We reassemble in the churchyard to sing:

**Thine be the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son,
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where thy body lay.**

*Thine be the glory,
risen, conqu'ring Son,
endless is the vict'ry
thou o'er death hast won.*

**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 has lost its sting**

**No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of Life;
life is naught without thee:
aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conqu'rors
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above.**

French, 19th Century, Edmund Budry 1854-1932
Tr. Richard Hoyle 1875-1939

He is not here. He is risen!

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

In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia.