

The Parish of Finchampstead and California



Holy Communion

Easter Day

## Easter Season

*The great fifty days should be the greatest, most festive season of the Christian Year and should continue the joy and festivity of Easter Day. These Sundays are not only 'the Lord's Day', they are the season that is to the rest of the Christian Year what the Lord's Day is to the week.*

*A study of the Scripture readings in the lectionary will reveal a rich variety of themes on which the church reflects in this season. We remember the accounts of Jesus' appearances during the forty days between his resurrection and his ascension and then the ten days of waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. However, there is far more to the season. It is also the time when passages are read concerning the Holy Spirit and the life of the earliest church as it was empowered by the Spirit.*

*Thus, we are reminded of the presence of the risen, living Christ in our midst through Word and Sacrament and in the lives of his holy people. We are reminded that it is through the work of the Holy Spirit that we are enabled to be in a living relationship with the risen Christ.*

*Pentecost, the Jewish Feast of Weeks, falls seven weeks after Passover. In the Christian tradition, Pentecost is the fiftieth day of Easter and marks the end of the season. It is the concluding climax of the Easter season, the day on which the church celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit with all God's gifts and commissioning power. This great occasion should be marked with special gatherings and festivity.*

### A prayer to help us prepare to worship

*Dear Lord and Father, we thank you for your Son's promise that where two or three are gathered, you are there in the midst. We welcome you amongst us today and celebrate the gift of life that you have lavished upon each of us. We ask that in our worship you would open our ears so that we may hear your voice; open our minds so that we may receive your eternal wisdom; and open our hearts so that we may experience your wonderful love. We ask this through Jesus, our Lord. Amen.*

# The Gathering

*In this first part of our service we come together for praise, prayer and confession of our sins so that we might prepare ourselves to experience God through Word and Sacrament.*

## Welcome and Introduction

*These or other words of welcome or introduction may be said.*

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

**All** Amen

## The Opening Hymn

### The Greeting

The Lord be with you

**All** and also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

### The Prayer of Preparation

**All** 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.

## The Invitation to Confession

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)*

*A time of silence is observed as we call to mind our sins and prepare to confess and repent of them.*

**All** Like Mary at the empty tomb,  
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Like the disciples behind locked doors,  
we are afraid to be seen as your followers.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Like Thomas in the upper room,  
we are slow to believe.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

## The Absolution

*A declaration of God's forgiveness and a promise of His strength*

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 eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen**

## Gloria in Excelsis



*An early Christian hymn, which has been sung at Holy Communion since the 5<sup>th</sup> Century. 'Gloria in Excelsis Deo' is Latin for 'Glory to God in the highest', words sung by the angels at the birth of Jesus. (Luke 2:14)*

**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

*This is the special prayer for the day, which will be used by Christians throughout the world, uniting us as the Body of Christ. It can be found near the foot of the pew sheet.*

**All** Amen.

# The Liturgy of the Word

*In this second part of the service we listen to what the Holy Spirit might be saying to us through Scripture and the sermon; we declare our faith in the words of the Creed; and we pray together in the intercessions.*

## Readings

*Either one or two readings from Scripture precede the Gospel reading.*

*At the end of each the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**All** Thanks be to God.

## The Gradual Hymn

## Gospel Reading

*The Gospel (which means 'Good news') proclaims the message of Jesus as recorded by one of the four Evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. We turn to face the reader. When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

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.

**All** Alleluia

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.

**All** Glory to you, O Lord.

*At the end the reader says*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All** Praise to you, O Christ.

## The Sermon

## The Creed



*We declare our faith in God by saying together this ancient baptismal creed, used by Christians throughout the world*

Let us declare our faith in God.

**All 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.

## Prayers of Intercession



*Prayers are offered to God for the Church, the world, the parish, the sick, the bereaved and other concerns. These responses may be used*

Let us pray to the Lord, who has conquered death.

Hear us, risen Lord,

**All our resurrection and our life.**

Jesus, bread from heaven,  
you satisfy the hungry with good things:  
grant us a share with all the faithful departed  
in the banquet of your kingdom.

Hear us, risen Lord,

**All our resurrection and our life.**

Jesus, the light of the world,  
you gave the man born blind the gift of sight:  
open the eye of faith  
and bring us from darkness  
to your eternal light and glory.  
Hear us, risen Lord,

**All our resurrection and our life.**

Jesus, Son of the living God,  
you summoned your friend Lazarus from death to life:  
raise us at the last to full and eternal life with you.  
Hear us, risen Lord,

**All our resurrection and our life.**

Jesus, crucified Saviour,  
in your dying you entrusted each to the other,  
Mary your mother and John your beloved disciple:  
sustain and comfort all who mourn.  
Hear us, risen Lord,

**All our resurrection and our life.**

Jesus, our way and truth and life,  
you drew your disciple Thomas from doubt to faith:  
reveal the resurrection faith to the doubting and the lost.  
Hear us, risen Lord,

**All our resurrection and our life.**

May God in his infinite love and mercy  
bring the whole Church,  
living and departed in the Lord Jesus,  
to a joyful resurrection  
and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom.

**All Amen.**

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

*In this third part of the service, after the peace has been exchanged, the gifts are brought to God's table, the altar, and are then taken, blessed, broken, and shared.*

## The Peace



*In these words from the Bible (Ephesians 2:14-16) we are challenged to love our neighbours as ourselves, and to be peacemakers in the world.*

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.

*(Jn 20:19,20)*

The peace of the Lord be always with you. Alleluia. Alleluia

**All and also with you. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

*We shake hands with those around us as a sign of friendship, peace and reconciliation, saying the words **Peace be with you or similar**, echoing those words said by Jesus to his disciples after the resurrection (John 20:19).*

## The Offertory Hymn



*A collection is taken, and during the Hymn the bread, wine and money are presented at the altar*

## The Preparation of the Table

*The celebrant takes the bread and wine as members of the congregation present them at the altar, and blesses the collection. The table is prepared, and the bread and wine are placed upon it.*

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made.

It will become for us the bread of life.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands.

It will become our spiritual drink.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

# The Eucharistic Prayer

*The Eucharistic (Thanksgiving) Prayer is at the heart of the communion service. In it we give thanks for God the Father's goodness, we remember the life and death of Jesus, and we pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

The Lord be with you

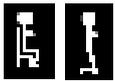
**All** and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All** 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 Sanctus and Benedictus

**All** Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.

*(from Isaiah's vision of God : Isaiah 6:3)*

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest. *(from the people's praises on the first Palm Sunday)***

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.

**All** **To you be glory and praise for ever.**

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.

**All** **To you be glory and praise for ever.**

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his 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.

**All Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

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.

**All To you be glory and praise for ever.**

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** *(Matthew 6 : 9-13 ; Luke 11 : 2 – 4)*

Rejoicing in God's new creation, 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**

*The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread as a symbol of Christ's body which was broken for us on the cross, and to emphasise our unity with Him.*

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.** *(1 Corinthians 10:17)*

**The Agnus Dei** *(Lamb of God) may be SUNG as the bread is broken. This reminds us of the sacrifice of a lamb at Passover – Exodus 12 – and of the way in which John the Baptist acclaimed Jesus as the ‘Lamb of God’ (John 1:29).*

**All** Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

## **The Giving of Communion**

*The celebrant invites the congregation to communion with these words*

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

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

**All** 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.

*All those who receive communion elsewhere in the Anglican Church or in other Christian denominations are most welcome to receive the bread and wine here too. Others are invited to come to the communion rail for a blessing; if so please bring this order of service with you.*

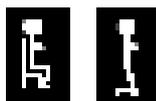
*The bread and wine are distributed using these words, with the communicant responding each time, 'Amen', as below.*

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

*During the distribution of bread and wine a choir anthem and congregational Hymns may be sung. The Hymn numbers are on the right hand Hymn board.*

## Prayer after Communion



*Silence is kept.*

God of Life,  
who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son  
to the death of the cross,  
and by his glorious resurrection  
have delivered us from the power of our enemy:  
grant us so to die daily to sin,  
that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord

**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.**

*Marriage Banns may be called and Notices are given out.*

# The Dismissal

*The service concludes with a Hymn of praise. We then receive God's blessing and are charged to go out and to serve Him in the world.*

## Final Hymn



## The Blessing

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 ...

**All** Amen.

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

**All** Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

*You are warmly invited to stay for refreshments in the Church Centre after the service. If you are joining us for the first time please introduce yourself to the minister(s) and sides-people (welcome team).*

## A Prayer for the week:

*Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours; yours are the eyes through which he is to look with compassion on the world; yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good; and yours the hands with which he is to bless people now.*

St Teresa of Avila

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*For more information see <http://parish.finchampstead.co.uk> or call 0118 973 0133.*

*The office is open Monday – Friday 10.00 am – 12 noon.*