



Wychwood Benefice

Easter Sunday
Holy Communion

Introduction to the Season

From earliest times Christians have gathered through the night of Easter to recall the story of God's saving work, from creation through to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. However, the Easter Liturgy is not merely a presentation of God's work. It is meant to be a real experience of new life for the worshipper, a passing from darkness to light which offers hope to all the faithful.

It is therefore important that the preparation is prayerful and thorough. Christian baptism is a participation in the death and resurrection of Christ, a dying to sin in order to be reborn in him, and the Easter Vigil was from early Christian times a preferred occasion for baptism. It is fittingly a time when those who are already Christians may repeat with renewed commitment the promises of their own baptism, and strengthen their sense of incorporation into the royal and priestly ministry of the whole people of God. The Easter Gospel is proclaimed with all the joy and splendour that the church can find.

All the resources of the church – music, flowers, bells, colours – are used to celebrate Christ's resurrection. The 'Alleluia', which has been silent throughout Lent, returns.

The Lighting of the Easter Candle

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

We light the Easter candle

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God

The Greeting

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Hymn

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

First Reading

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Gospel Reading

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. Alleluia.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

and at the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Renewal of Baptism Vows

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil

Prayer over the Water

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

We praise you, loving Father, for the gift of your Son Jesus.

On him you poured your Spirit at his baptism in the River Jordan.

He sent his followers to baptise all who turn to him.

And so, Father, we ask you to bless this water,

may be cleansed in the water of life,

filled with your Spirit and know themselves loved as your children,

safe in Christ for ever. Amen.

Profession of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

We 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?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Hymn

Prayers of Intercession

which may end

**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.

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord of life, with unbounded joy we offer you our sacrifice of praise.
As we are fed with the bread of heaven may we know your resurrection
power; through Christ our risen Lord. Amen.

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

the prayer continues...

And so we join the angels to celebrate and sing:

**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 prayer continues...

Do this to remember me.

Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.

You are the Saviour of the world.

the prayer continues...

one God, for ever and ever.

Blessing and honour and glory and power

be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

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

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Agnus Dei

**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.**

Giving of Communion

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Prayer after Communion

Faithful God, in baptism you have adopted us as your children, made us members of the body of Christ and chosen us as inheritors of your kingdom:

we thank you that in this Eucharist you renew your promises within us, empower us by your Spirit to witness and to serve, and send us out as disciples of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

Commission

All who have been baptised are to answer;

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

With the help of God, I will

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

With the help of God, I will

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?

With the help of God, I will

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

With the help of God, I will

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit

Amen

The Blessing

God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates 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 all those whom you love, now and always.

Amen.

The Dismissal

With the risen life of Christ within you, go in the peace of Christ.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, Alleluia.