



# Wychwood Benefice

## Easter Season Zoom Sunday Worship

### Introduction to the Season

The Great Fifty Days of Eastertide form a single festival period in which the tone of joy created at the Easter Vigil is sustained through the following seven weeks, and the Church celebrates the gloriously risen Christ: Early Christians gave the name Pentecost to this whole fifty-day span of rejoicing, which Tertullian calls 'this most joyful period'. It is sometimes also called 'Great Sunday'. In those places where the custom of lighting the Easter Candle at the beginning of Easter is followed, the lit Candle stands prominently in church for all the Eastertide services. The Alleluia appears frequently in liturgical speech and song, and white or gold vestments and decorations emphasise the joy and brightness of the season. On the fortieth day there has from the late fourth century been a particular celebration of Christ's ascension. He commissions his disciples to continue his work, he promises the gift of the Holy Spirit, and then he is no longer among them in the flesh. The ascension is therefore closely connected with the theme of mission. The arrival of the promised gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost completes and crowns the Easter Festival.

### Hymn

### The Greeting

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

## **Confession**

In baptism we died with Christ,  
so that as Christ was raised from the dead,  
we might walk in newness of life.

Let us receive new life in him  
as we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**Father, we have sinned against heaven and against you. We  
are not worthy to be called your children.**

**We turn to you again.**

**Have mercy on us and bring us back to yourself.**

**Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you  
from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## **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**

## 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 human.

**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.

**With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.**

He has spoken through the prophets.

**We believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church.**

We believe in one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

*which may end*

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

### **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**

### **The Blessing**

May Christ, who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future, fill us with his new life;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and all those we love, now and always. Amen.

### **The Dismissal**

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

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