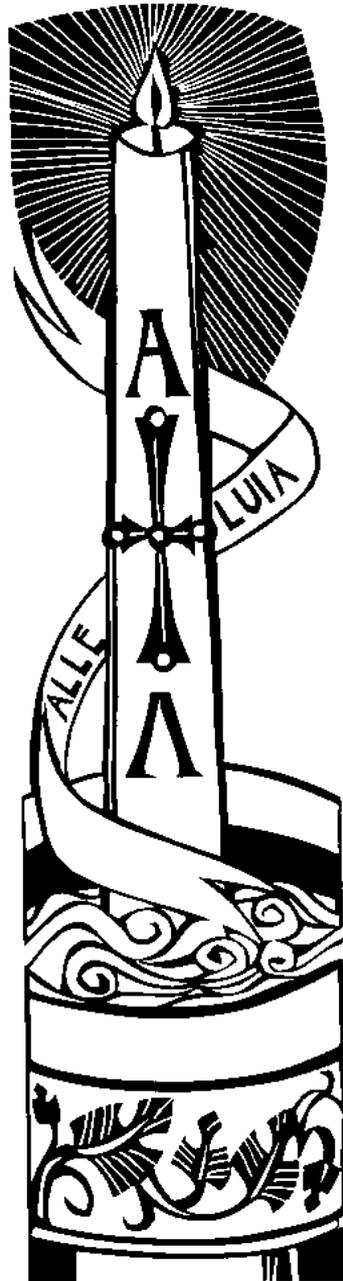


PARISH OF ABINGDON-ON-THAMES



THE EASTER LITURGY
2020

CHURCH OF ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

The **Easter Liturgy** is arguably the most important liturgy in the Church's year. It can be thought of as a liturgy with several parts.

The **Easter Ceremonies** in which a new fire is kindled outside the church, the Paschal Candle, symbolising the light of Christ, is blessed and lit and processed into church, pausing three times to proclaim: The Light of Christ, Thanks be to God.

The **Exultet** – the great Paschal Proclamation – sung by the deacon, recalling in brief the history of salvation and telling of the triumph of Christ's conquest over death.

With the church still in darkness, lit only by the Paschal Candle and the acolytes candles, **the Vigil** follows. This is a series of readings, psalms or canticles and collects, that tell from Old Testament scriptures the story of salvation. We hear familiar stories, but told by the light of the Paschal Candle, the symbol of the Risen Christ.

At the end of the Vigil the altar candles are lit, the bells ring out for the first time since the Gloria on Maundy Thursday, the organ thunders, and we sing the **Gloria**. The **Liturgy of the Word** follows.

We then process to the font for the **Liturgy of Initiation**, recalling the tradition in the early church of baptising and confirming but once a year in the Easter Liturgy, and we renew the promises we made, or were made for us, at our own baptism.

We then return to our seats in the nave and the **Liturgy of the Eucharist** continues as usual, concluding with the great Easter alleluia!

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The Easter Ceremonies

¶ We assemble outside the west door of the church. The new fire is kindled and the priest introduces the Vigil in these words:

Priest Dear Friends in Christ,
on this most holy night,
when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life,
the Church invites her children throughout the world
to come together in vigil and prayer.
This is the Passover of the Lord:
if we commemorate his death and resurrection
by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries,
then we shall share his victory over death
and live with him forever in God.

¶ The new fire is blessed.

Priest Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
set us aflame with the fire + of your love,
and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

¶ The Paschal Candle is blessed and inscribed and lit from the fire.

Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega all time belongs to him, and all ages; to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever. **Amen.**

By his holy + and glorious + wounds + may Christ our Lord guard + us and keep us +. **Amen.**

¶ The priest lights the Paschal candle with a taper, saying.

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

¶ The Paschal candle is carried in procession into the church. Please join the procession. The Easter light is spread after each of the three stations at which the deacon sings:

Deacon The Light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

¶ When everyone is in their places, the EXULTET – the Paschal Proclamation – is sung.

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Exult, all creation around God's throne!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor,
radiant in the brightness of your King!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!
Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!
The risen Saviour shines upon you!
Let this place resound with joy,
echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

My dearest friends,
standing with me in this holy light,
join me in asking God for mercy,
that he may give his unworthy minister
grace to sing his Easter praises.

Deacon The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Deacon Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Deacon Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

It is truly right
that with full hearts and minds and voices
we should praise the unseen God, the all-powerful Father,
and his only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

For Christ has ransomed us with his blood,
and paid for us the price of Adam's sin to our eternal
Father!

This is our passover feast,
when Christ, the true Lamb, is slain,
whose blood consecrates the homes of all believers.

This is the night
when first you saved our fathers:
you freed the people of Israel from their slavery
and led them dry-shod through the sea.

This is the night
when the pillar of fire destroyed the darkness of sin!

This is the night
when Christians everywhere,
washed clean of sin and freed from all defilement,

are restored to grace and grow together in holiness.

This is the night
when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death
and rose triumphant from the grave.

What good would life have been to us,
had Christ not come as our Redeemer?

Father, how wonderful your care for us!
How boundless your merciful love!
To ransom a slave you gave away your Son.

O happy fault,
O necessary sin of Adam,
which gained for us so great a Redeemer!

Most blessed of all nights,
chosen by God to see Christ rising from the dead!

Of this night scripture says:
"The night will be as clear as day:
it will become my light, my joy."

The power of this holy night dispels all evil,
washes guilt away, restores lost innocence,
brings mourners joy;
it casts out hatred, brings us peace,
and humbles earthly pride.

Night truly blessed when heaven is wedded to earth
and man is reconciled with God!

Therefore, heavenly Father,
in the joy of this night,
receive our evening sacrifice of praise,
your Church's solemn offering.

Accept this Easter candle,

a flame divided but undimmed,
a pillar of fire that glows to the honor of God.

[For it is fed by the melting wax,
which the mother bee brought forth
to make this precious candle.]

Let it mingle with the lights of heaven
and continue bravely burning
to dispel the darkness of this night!

May the Morning Star which never sets
find this flame still burning:
Christ, that Morning Star,
who came back from the dead,
and shed his peaceful light on all mankind,
your Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

¶ *Please extinguish your candle.*

The Vigil

¶ *The priest introduces the Vigil.*

Priest As we await the risen Christ, let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, recalling how he saved his people in ages past and in the fullness of time sent his Son to be our Redeemer; and let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

FIRST READING Genesis 1.1-2.2

PSALM 136 **R.** *Give thanks to the Lord.*

COLLECT Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

SECOND READING Genesis 7.1-5, 11-18; 8.6-18; 9.8-13

PSALM 46

COLLECT Grant, Lord,
that we who are baptized into the death
of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
may continually put to death our evil desires
and be buried with him;
through his merits,

who died and was buried and rose again for us,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THIRD READING Exodus 14.10-31; 15.20-21

CANTICLE *from Exodus 15* NEH 518

COLLECT Lord God our redeemer,
who heard the cry of your people
and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of
slavery:
free us from the tyranny of sin and death
and, by the leading of your Spirit,
bring us to our promised land;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FOURTH READING Ezekiel 36.24-28

PSALM 42 NEH 530

R. *As the running deer seeks the flowing brook,
Even so my soul longs for you my God.*

COLLECT Heavenly Father,
by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give to your faithful people new life
in the water of baptism.
Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit,
that we who are born again
may serve you in faith and love,
and grow into the full stature of your Son,
Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you

in the unity of the Holy Spirit now and for ever.
Amen.

¶ Please keep silence while the altar candles are lit. The priest then intones THE GLORIA. All the church candles are lit, and lights switched on.

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

Priest Let us pray

¶ *After a moment's silence, the priest sings the collect:*

Priest 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 Readings

¶ *The Epistle.* Romans 6.3-11

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

¶ Psalm 114

R. *Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

¶ *Gospel Acclamation*



¶ *When the Gospel is announced the **deacon** says:*

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to

Year A: *Matthew* 28.1-10

Year B: *Mark* 16.1-8

Year C: *Luke* [24.1-12]

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

¶ *At the end of the Gospel:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you O Christ.**

The Liturgy of Initiation

¶ *We sing the Litany of the Saints as we process to the font.*

Kyrie eleison

Christe eleison

Kyrie eleison

Kyrie eleison

Christe eleison

Kyrie eleison

Holy Mary, Mother of God

Pray for us

Holy Michael, Prince of the Angels

Pray for us

Holy Gabriel, Bearer of Good Tidings

Pray for us

Holy Raphael, Angel of healing and journeys

Pray for us

Holy Guardian Angels

Pray for us

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| All you holy Angels and blessed Spirits | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| All you holy Patriarchs and Prophets | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Holy Joseph, Guardian of God's Son | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Holy John the Baptist, Forerunner of Christ | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Holy Peter | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Holy Paul | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Holy Thomas the doubter | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Holy Andrew, Patron of Scotland | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| All you Holy Apostles and Evangelists | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Holy Mary of Magdala, first witness of the Resurrection | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Holy Mary, Martha and Lazarus, friends of our Saviour | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Holy Helen, founder of the true cross | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Holy Nicolas the wonderworker | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Holy Gregory, Basil, John Chrysostom, Augustine and the Fathers of the Church | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Holy Alban, first Martyr of Britain | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Holy Patrick, Apostle of the Irish | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Holy David, Apostle of the Welsh | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Holy George, Patron of England | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Holy Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Holy Ethelwold of Abingdon, the glorious Martyr | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Holy Edmund of Abingdon, Monk and Bishop | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Holy Frideswide, foundress of Oxford | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Holy Benedict, monastic leader | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Holy Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Holy Dominic the preacher | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Holy Francis, the Poor Friar | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Holy John and Charles Wesley, priests and evangelists | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Holy Richard Benson, Vicar of Cowley | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| Holy Charles Gore, monk and bishop | <i>Pray for us</i> |
| All you holy men and women | <i>Pray for us</i> |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Lord, be merciful | <i>Lord, save your people</i> |
| From all evil | <i>Lord, save your people</i> |
| From every sin | <i>Lord, save your people</i> |
| From everlasting death | <i>Lord, save your people</i> |
| By your coming as man | <i>Lord, save your people</i> |
| By your death and rising to new life | <i>Lord, save your people</i> |

By your gift of the Holy Spirit

Lord, save your people

Be merciful to us sinners

Lord, hear our prayer

O Christ, hear us

O Christ, hear us

THE BLESSING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

¶ The priest prays over the water:

Praise God who made heaven and earth.

All **Who keeps his promise for ever.**

Priest Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ was baptized in the river
Jordan,
we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse us
and revive us;
we thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea
you led your people out of slavery
to freedom in the promised land;
we thank you that through the deep waters of death
you brought your Son,
and raised him to life in triumph.
Bless + this water, that your *servants* who are
washed
in it may be made one with Christ in his death
and resurrection,
to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.
For all might, majesty, authority, and power are
yours,
now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

Priest As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the paschal mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life within the family of his Church. Now that we have completed our observance of Lent, we renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil. Therefore I ask these questions:

Do you turn to Christ?

All **I turn to Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins?

All **I repent of my sins.**

Do you renounce evil?

All **I renounce evil.**

And now I ask you to make the profession of Christian faith into which you were baptised, and in which you must live and grow.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made the world?

All **I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ, who redeemed mankind?

All **I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God?

All **I believe and trust in him.**

All This is the faith of the Church.
**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

Almighty God,
we thank you for our fellowship in the household
of faith
with those who have been baptized in your name.
Keep us faithful to our baptism,
and so make us ready for that day
when the whole creation shall be made perfect
in your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*¶ The priest sprinkles all present with blessed water. The choir sing
the VIDI AQUAM.*

I saw water flowing from the right side of the temple,
alleluia. It brought God's life and his salvation and
the people sang in joyful praise: alleluia, alleluia.

The Peace

Priest 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.

All The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.
And also with you. Alleluia!

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

¶ *We then return to our places after the ministers and servers have moved away.*

¶ *Offertory HYMN NEH 117*

The Day of Resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness,
The Passover of God!
From death to life eternal,
From earth unto the sky,
Our Christ hath brought us over
With hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil,
That we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal
Of resurrection-light;
And, listening to his accents,
May hear so calm and plain
His own, 'All hail,' and, hearing,
May raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful,
And earth her song begin,
The round world keeps high triumph,
And all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen
Their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord hath risen,
Our joy that hath no end.

*Greek, St John of Damascus c 750
Tr J. M. Neale 1816-66*

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

All The Lord be with you
And also with you.

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All 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 on this night of our redemption
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:

All

**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.**

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 [*N 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.

The Lord's Prayer

Deacon 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 priest breaks the consecrated bread and says*

Priest 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.**

¶ *All then sing together* AGNUS DEI,

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy upon us.**
**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy upon us.**
**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

¶ *The priest invites us to receive Holy Communion.*

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

¶ *Priest and people receive Holy Communion.*

¶ HYMN NEH 271

Alleluia, sing to Jesus!
His the sceptre, his the throne.
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark, the songs of peaceful Zion
Thunder like a mighty flood.
Jesus out of every nation
Hath redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia, not as orphans
Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia, He is near us,
Faith believes, nor questions how;
Though the cloud from sight received him
When the forty days were o'er
Shall our hearts forget his promise,
'I am with you evermore'?

Alleluia, Bread of Angels,
Thou on earth our food and stay!
Alleluia, here the sinful
Flee to thee from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
Earth's Redeemer, plead for me.
Where the songs of all the sinless
Sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia, King eternal,
Thee the Lord of lords we own;
Alleluia, born of Mary,
Earth thy footstool,
heaven thy throne.
Thou within the veil hast entered,
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest.
Thou on earth both Priest and Victim

In the Eucharistic Feast.

W. Chatterton Dix (1837-98)

¶ HYMN NEH 286

From glory to glory advancing, we praise thee, O Lord;
Thy name with the Father and Spirit be ever adored.
From strength unto strength we go forward on
Zion's highway,
To appear before God in the city of infinite day.

Thanksgiving, and glory and worship, and blessing
and love,
One heart and one song have the saints upon
earth and above.
Evermore, O Lord, to thy servants thy presence be nigh;
Ever fit us by service on earth for thy service on high.

*Liturgy of St. James
Tr. Charles Humphreys (1840-1921)*

Prayer after Communion

¶ *Silence is kept. The priest invites us, Let us pray. The priest says the post communion prayer. We all then pray together:*

All **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**

The Easter Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord,

bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin to newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

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

Deacon

Go in the peace of Christ, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia.

Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia.

The musical score consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: 'Go in the peace of Christ, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' and 'Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The piano accompaniment features a simple harmonic pattern with a bass line and a treble line.

FINAL HYMN NEH 110

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Lyra Davidica 1708