



**St. Michael and All Angels  
Amersham on the Hill**



**HOLY EUCHARIST  
THE EASTER LITURGY**

***A warm welcome to this service***

*This booklet is for use at the Easter liturgy and includes guidance notes. Do please ask a "Welcomer" if you need any further help.*

The Easter Liturgy is meant to be a real experience of new life, a passing from darkness to light, which offers hope to all the faithful. The Vigil reminds us that from earliest times the Church would keep watch throughout the night and meditate on the mighty works of God. The Service of Light proclaims the resurrection of Christ from the dead in word and action, in silence and sound. The Easter candle symbolises Christ, the light of the world. The Liturgy of Initiation invites us to re-affirm our baptismal vows, a public declaration of our union with Christ in his death and resurrection. The celebration of the Eucharist is a proper climax to the Easter Liturgy, when we are sacramentally reunited with our risen Lord.

## The Service of Light

*We gather outside, around the new fire.*

### Welcome and Introduction

*Please stand, if able.*

*Words of welcome or introduction may be said.*

*President* Dear brothers and sisters 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.  
We remember his death and resurrection  
by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries,  
confident that we shall share his victory over death  
and live with him for ever in God.

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.

*All* **Amen.**

*The Easter Candle is marked with the sign of the cross.*

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.

*All* **Amen.**

*Incense studs are inserted into the Easter Candle.*

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

*All* **Amen.**

*The Easter Candle is lit.*

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

*The deacon, bearing the Candle, enters the building, followed by the other ministers and the congregation, and they pause just inside the entrance.*

*The deacon raises the candle and sings:*

*Deacon* The light of Christ.  
*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*This is repeated twice more along the nave, getting louder each time. After the Easter Candle has passed, the candles of the congregation are lit.*

**The Exsultet (the Easter Song of Praise)**

*All* **Sing, choirs of heaven! Let saints and angels sing!  
Around God's throne exult in harmony!  
Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave!  
Salute your King in glorious symphony!**

**Sing, choirs of earth! Behold, your light has come!  
The glory of the Lord shines radiantly!  
Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death!  
The night is past, the day of life is here!**

**Sing, Church of God! Exult with joy outpoured!  
The gospel trumpets tell of victory won!  
Your Saviour lives; he's with you evermore!  
Let all God's people sound the long Amen!**

*President* The Lord be with you  
*All* **and also with you.**

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

*President* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*All* **It is right to give thanks and praise.**



*Cantor*

It is truly right that with full hearts and minds and voices  
we should praise the unseen God, our 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 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.

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!

The power of this holy night dispels all evil,  
washes guilt away, restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy:  
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 honour of God.  
Let it mingle with 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.

All

**Amen.**

## The Vigil

*Please sit.*

*President* 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.

### Old Testament Readings

*(Readings on notices sheet)*

*After each of the three Old Testament readings, all sing once:*

All

**Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.**

### The Easter Acclamation

*The acclamation is made three times, the first time in a **whisper**, the second time a **little louder** and the third time in a **great shout**:*

*President*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All

**He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**



## Peruvian Gloria

*All* Glory to God, glory to God, glory to our maker.  
**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to our maker.**

*All* To God be glory for ever.  
**To God be glory for ever.**

*Refrain:*

Alleluia, Amen!

**Alleluia, Amen!**

Alleluia, Amen!

**Alleluia, Amen!**

Alleluia, Amen!

**Alleluia, Amen!**

*All* Glory to Christ, glory to Christ, glory to our brother.  
**Glory to Christ, glory to Christ, glory to our brother.**

*All* To Christ be glory for ever.  
**To Christ be glory for ever.**

*Refrain*

*All* Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit.  
**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit.**

*All* Give us your freedom for ever.  
**Give us your freedom for ever.**

*Refrain*

*President* Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

## The Collect

*The priest gathers together, or collects, our prayers.*

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.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

*Please sit.*

*(Readings on notices sheet)*

### New Testament Reading

Romans 6.3-11

*All* For the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 114

*Please remain seated.*

*All* **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**  
When Israel came out of Egypt,  
the house of Jacob from a people of a strange tongue,  
Judah became his sanctuary,  
Israel his dominion.

*All* **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

The sea saw that, and fled;  
Jordan was driven back.  
The mountains skipped like rams,  
the little hills like young sheep.

*All* **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

What ailed you, O sea, that you fled?  
O Jordan, that you were driven back?  
You mountains, that you skipped like rams,  
you little hills like young sheep?

*All* **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,  
at the presence of the God of Jacob,  
who turns the hard rock into a pool of water,  
the flint-stone into a springing well.

*All* **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## Gospel Reading

*Please stand, if able.*

*Deacon* Alleluia, 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, alleluia, alleluia.**

*All* The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*All* Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N.*  
**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

*The Gospel is proclaimed.*

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

*The Gospel procession moves to the back of the nave.*

## The Liturgy of Initiation

*All turn to face the font, as we are invited to renew our baptismal vows.*

*Deacon* 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:

*All* Do you turn to Christ?  
**I turn to Christ.**

*All* Do you repent of your sins?  
**I repent of my sins.**

*All* Do you renounce evil?  
**I renounce evil.**

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

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

*All*

**I 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?

*All*

**I 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?

*All*

**I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

*All*

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ  
was baptised in the river Jordan,  
we thank you for the gift of water  
to cleanse us and revive us.

Bless this water, that your servants  
may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection,  
to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

*All*

**Amen.**

*The waters of baptism are sprinkled over the people.*

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all those who have been baptised 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.

*All*

**Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

*Please stand, if able.*

*For those who would like to, you are welcome to join hands as we sing or say the Peace.*

*All* My peace I give you, my peace I leave you.  
Trouble not your hearts.  
My peace I give you, my peace I leave you.  
Be not afraid.

*President* 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 Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

*Deacon* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.  
*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

### Offertory Hymn

*The gifts of the people are gathered and presented.  
The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.  
The President takes the bread and wine.*

### Preparation of the Table

*President* 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.

*All* **Amen.**

## **Eucharistic Prayer D**

*Please remain standing, if able.*

*All* The Lord is here.  
**His Spirit is with us.**

*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.**

Almighty God, good Father to us all,  
your face is turned towards your world.  
In love you gave us Jesus your Son  
to rescue us from sin and death.

Your Word goes out to call us home  
to the city where angels sing your praise.  
We join with them in heaven's song:

*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.**

Father of all, we give you thanks  
for every gift that comes from heaven.

To the darkness Jesus came as your light.  
With signs of faith and words of hope  
he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.

*All sing* This is his story.  
**This is our song:  
Hosanna in the highest.**

The crowds came out to see your Son,  
yet at the end they turned on him.  
On the night he was betrayed  
he came to table with his friends  
to celebrate the freedom of your people.

*All sing* This is his story.  
**This is our song:**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;  
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:  
This is my body, given for you all.

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;  
he took the cup, gave it and said:  
This is my blood, shed for you all  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

*All sing* This is our story.  
**This is our song:**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup  
we celebrate the cross  
on which he died to set us free.  
Defying death he rose again  
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

*All sing* This is our story.  
**This is our song:**  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

Send your Spirit on us now  
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ  
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.

May we and all who share this food  
offer ourselves to live for you  
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven  
where all creation worships you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

*All sing* **Blessing and honour and glory and power**  
**be yours for ever and ever.**  
**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Please sit or kneel.*

In our own language, rejoicing in God's new creation,  
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

*All*

**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 Breaking of the Bread**

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

*All*

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

## **Agnus Dei**

*All*

**O Lamb of God, come cleanse our hearts  
and take our sins away.  
O Lamb of God, your grace impart,  
and let our guilty fear depart,  
have mercy, Lord, we pray,  
have mercy, Lord, we pray.**

**O Lamb of God, our lives restore,  
our guilty souls release.  
Into our lives your Spirit pour  
and let us live for evermore  
in perfect heav'nly peace,  
in perfect heav'nly peace.**

## **Invitation to Communion**

*All* Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

## **Giving of Communion**

*All are welcome to receive communion or a blessing.  
After receiving the bread and the wine, please respond "Amen"  
or, if you would like a blessing, please place your hands across  
your chest.*

## **Post Communion Hymn**

*Please stand, if able.*

## **Post Communion Prayer**

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.

*All* **Amen.**

## **Prayer after Communion**

*All* **Heavenly Father,  
you have delivered us from the power of darkness,  
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:  
grant that, as his death has recalled us to life,  
so his continual presence in us  
may raise us to eternal joy.  
Amen.**

## The Dismissal

*Please remain standing, if able.*

### Easter Blessing

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

*All*

**Amen.**

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

*All*

**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.

*All*

**Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you and with all those whom you love  
wherever they may be  
now and for all eternity.

*All*

**Amen.**



## **Surrexit Christus**

*(O Christ is risen, alleluia! Sing to the Lord, alleluia!)*

*All*            **O O O O surrexit Christus, alleluia!**  
**O O O O, cantate Domino, alleluia!**

*All*            Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,  
**Surrexit Christus, alleluia!**  
For his love knows no end.

*All*            **Cantate Domino, alleluia!**  
The Lord is my strength, the Lord is my song.

*All*            **Surrexit Christus, alleluia!**  
He has been my Saviour.

*All*            **Cantate Domino, alleluia!**  
I shall not die, I shall live.

*All*            **Surrexit Christus, alleluia!**  
I shall live and recount his deeds.

*All*            **Cantate Domino, alleluia!**

*All*            **O O O O surrexit Christus, alleluia!**  
**O O O O, cantate Domino, alleluia!**

## **Easter Dismissal**

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

*All*            **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Material from the following may be included in this service: *Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England* (2000), *Patterns for Worship* (1995), *New Patterns for Worship* (2002), *Times and Seasons* (2006), *The Promise of His Glory* (1991) all copyright © The Archbishops' Council; *Celtic Daily Prayer Book 1 & 2* (2015) © The Northumbria Community Trust; *Enriching the Christian Year* (SPCK, 1993) compilation © Michael Perham. CCL No 908682.

