

WELCOME

We welcome you to this beautiful church in the heart of the city for a celebration of the Holy Eucharist. This cathedral is the seat of the Bishop of Chester and the core of a Christian community that has worshipped here and worked together for over 1100 years. It is a place where the mission of the church is to proclaim God's love is central, and your welcome online presence here for worship helps to strengthen this vital act of witness.

EASTER SEASON

The proclamation of Christ's triumph over death opens a season filled with joy and thanksgiving. The great fifty days of Eastertide, from Easter Day to Pentecost, form a unity: thus Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost are not a succession of seasons, but a single season encompassing the three mysteries of the resurrection, the ascension, and the coming of the Holy Spirit. This season enjoys a unique place in the liturgical calendar, focusing our attention upon the central tenets of the Christian faith, and reminding us that our Easter faith is more than simply that God raised Jesus: it is also that Jesus has been taken into glory and the Spirit has been poured out.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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THE GATHERING

BLESSING OF THE EASTER GARDEN

Canon Jeremy says

In the faith of Christ and in your name, O God most holy, bless this garden of Easter, so that those who glory in your creation may know the great love you have for us all in giving your Son, who was crucified, and yet burst from the tomb in the garden and is now alive with us for ever. **Amen.**

HYMN

- 1 **Christ the Lord is risen again,
Christ hath broken every chain.
Hark, angelic voices cry,
singing evermore on high, *Alleluia.***
- 2 **He who gave for us his life,
who for us endured the strife,
is our paschal Lamb to-day;
we too sing for joy, and say *Alleluia.***
- 3 **He who bore all pain and loss
comfortless upon the Cross,
lives in glory now on high,
pleads for us, and hears our cry: *Alleluia.***
- 4 **He who slumbered in the grave
is exalted now to save;
now through Christendom it rings
that the Lamb is King of kings. *Alleluia.***
- 5 **Now he bids us tell abroad
how the lost may be restored,
how the penitent forgiven
how we too may enter heaven. *Alleluia.***
- 6 **Thou, our paschal Lamb indeed,
Christ, thy ransomed people feed;
take our sins and guilt away:
let us sing by night and day *Alleluia.***

GREETING

Canon Jane says

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

OPENING RESPONSES

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed Alleluia!

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

He has brought us out of darkness.

He has made us light to the world.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Dean Tim says

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.

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.

ABSOLUTION

Canon Jane says

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam. Domine Deus, rex coelestis, Deus pater omnipotens, Domine fili unigenite Jesu Christe. Domine Deus, agnus Dei, filius patris. Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad dexteram patris, miserere nobis. Quoniam tu solus sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe. Cum sancto spiritu, in Gloria Dei patris. Amen.

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 upon 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.

COLLECT

Let us pray.

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 NEW TESTAMENT

Canon Sarah says

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

10. 34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL MOTET

Surrexit a mortuis, Christus Dei Filius, pastor bonus, pastor qui animam pro grege suo posuit. Pascha nostrum immolatus est, Christus, Pascha nostrum surrexit a mortuis. Alleluia.

He rose from the dead, Christ, the Son of God, the good shepherd, the shepherd who, for his flock laid down his life. For us he was sacrificed, the Christ, for us he rose from the dead. Alleluia.

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

HOLY GOSPEL

Dean Tim says

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

20. 1-18

Glorify to you, O Lord.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Bishop Keith

NICENE 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 man. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge 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

Canon Jeremy leads the intercessions

After each petition the following response is used

Lord hear us
Lord graciously hear us.

At the end

Jesus Christ, keep the church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at your feet; for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

PEACE

Canon Jane says

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.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY MOTET

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:

*Love is come again,
like wheat that springeth green.*

In the grave they laid him, Love whom men had slain,
thinking that never he would wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain,
quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
thy touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

John Macleod Campbell Crum (1872-1958)
© Oxford University Press

arranged by Simon Lindley (born 1948)

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

Risen Lord Jesus Christ, we believe you, and all we have heard is true.
When you break bread may we recognise you as the fire that burns within
us, that we may bring light to your world. **Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

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 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.

*Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Osanna in excelsis.
Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Osanna in excelsis.*

*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.*

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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 BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

AGNUS DEI

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

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. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

HYMN

- 1 Love has triumphed on the cross,
love has risen from the grave,
love lives on, though hatred thrives,
though earth's tyrants rant and rave.
Love lives on and will increase,
proved in justice, joy and peace.**
- 2 Faith and hope, proclaiming love,
seek earth's final destiny,
not in punishment and shame,
but where love eternally
holds out mercy and forgives,
in the Christ who died but lives.**
- 3 Living God, who with your Son,
bore earth's cruelty in time,
still you share the grief and pain
brought about by war and crime:
yet your resurrection light
goes on rising through earth's night.**
- 4 Holy Spirit, power of God,
breaking through all grief and strife,
raise us up with Christ today:
then, rejoicing, full of life,
we, in all humility,
will proclaim love's victory!**

BLESSING

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

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

God the Holy Spirit, whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples,
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 remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

In the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

