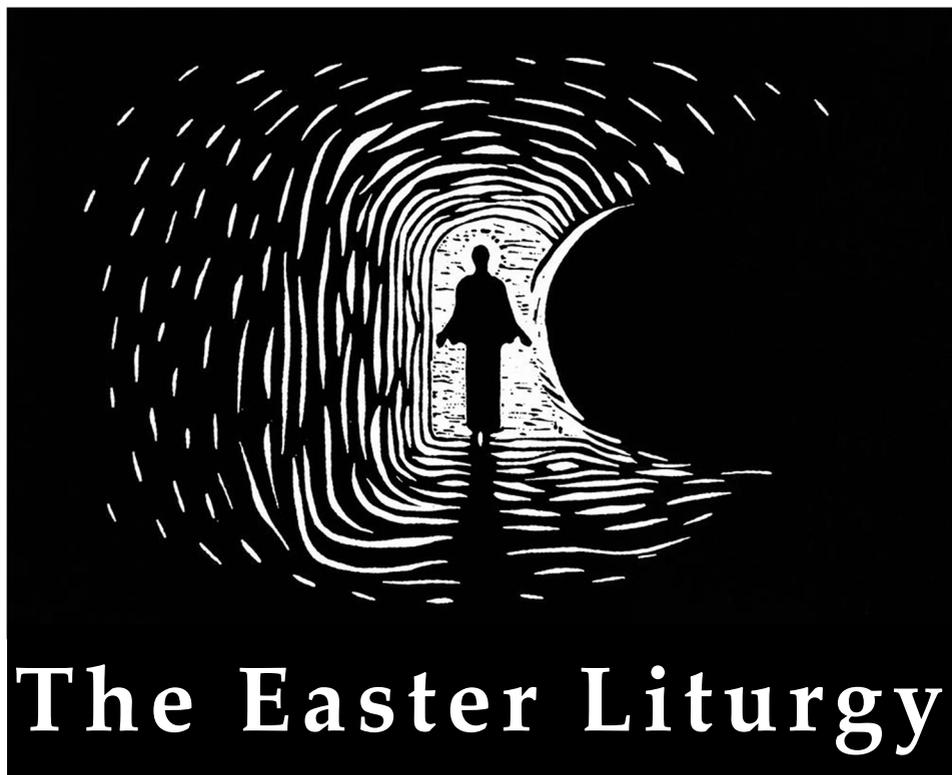




Great St Mary's

THE UNIVERSITY CHURCH CAMBRIDGE



The Easter Liturgy

The Vigil
The Service of Light
The First Eucharist of Easter

Welcome to Great St Mary's, the University Church

Wherever you have come from, and whoever you are, consider yourself at home here with us. If this is your first time here, please introduce yourself after the service. We'd love to get to know you better!

We are delighted that you have come to worship with us to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. After the service, you are encouraged to keep this booklet to guide your reflections and prayers this Eastertide.

This Easter Liturgy is a modern form of ceremonies which date from the very beginning of the life of the Church. Today's service is in three sections:

The Vigil starts outside the church while it is still dark. In ancient times Christians kept watch through the night, nourished and encouraged by passages of scripture which spoke of God's saving acts. Our readings today follow a baptismal theme.

The Service of Light takes place at the West end of the church. The Easter Candle is lit and brought into the sanctuary, symbolising the Light of Christ which even death was not able to put out. The traditional Exsultet is sung: an ancient Easter song of praise to the risen Christ.

The Eucharist is a celebration that the Lord is risen, and none more so than the Eucharist of Easter. The risen Lord Jesus comes among us, and we receive his life in order to live for him in the world.

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The Vigil

Before the service, the people gather outside. If it is raining, we will gather by the font. As far as possible, you are asked to wait in SILENCE.

At 5.25am the clergy and ministers gather. The president offers an informal greeting to the people, before saying

This is the night in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life. The Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which through word and sacrament we share in his victory over death. 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. Let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

THE FIRST READING

The Creation: Genesis 1.1-2.4a

Then the president prays

Let us pray that we may see God's image restored.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.

Your love cannot be contained

and overflows in the wonder of creation.

You formed the universe out of nothing

and moulded us from the clay of the earth.

All you have made sings of your marvellous deeds,

O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All **Amen.**

THE SECOND READING

The Fall: Genesis 3

Then the president prays

Let us pray that our merciful God will show compassion
on all who fall victim to the power of sin.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.
The sin which we dare not confront breaks your heart
and nothing can be concealed from your sight,
yet you showed mercy to our ancestors.
Show mercy today to all who fall prey to sin's lure,
and shatter the power of evil,
O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All **Amen.**

THE THIRD READING

Crossing the Red Sea: Exodus 14.10-end;15.20-21

Then the president prays

Let us pray that God will give freedom
to his enslaved people.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.
You heard the agony of your people
as they cried out from their slavery,
and you gave them Moses
to lead them to a land flowing with milk and honey.
Hear the cry of the enslaved and the homeless today
and lead us through the turbulent sea of life
to our true home with you,
O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All **Amen.**

Then the president prays

Let us pray that God will breathe new life
into his weary creation.

Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.
You bring life from the darkest valley of death.
When hope is lost and our dry bones are scattered in shame,
speak your word to your broken people,
that we may stand confidently before you,
and breathe your Spirit into us that we might live,
O Lord, our maker and redeemer.

All **Amen.**

The Service of Light

The President and other ministers gather at the Easter fire, where the President prays

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 brought to the President, who traces on it a cross, the Greek letters
Alpha and Omega, and the numbers of the current year.*

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.**

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

The President says

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 newness of life.

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:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

All **I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

All **I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and our neighbour?

All **I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

All **I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

All **I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

All **I come to Christ.**

THE EASTER CANDLE

The President then inserts five grains of incense into the Easter Candle

By his holy (1)
and glorious wounds (2)
may Christ our Lord (3)
guard (4) and keep us (5).



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 right and good that with hearts and minds and voices
we should praise you, Father almighty, the unseen God,
through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who has saved us by his death,
paid the price of Adam's sin,
and reconciled us once again to you.

For this is the Passover feast,
when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain,
whose blood consecrates the homes of all the faithful.

This is the day when you first saved our ancestors,
freeing Israel from her slavery
and leading her safely through the sea.
This is the day when Jesus Christ vanquished hell,
broke the chains of death
and rose triumphant from the grave.
This is the day when all who believe in him are freed from sin,
restored to grace and holiness,
and share the victory of Christ.
This is the day that gave us back what we had lost;
beyond our deepest dreams
you made even our sin a happy fault.

Crowning glory of all feasts!
Evil and hatred are put to flight and sin is washed away,
lost innocence regained, and mourning turned to joy.

The organ fanfare concludes with the organists introducing the **GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

We lift our voices in song:

**Glory be to God in heaven,
And to all his people, peace.
Heav'nly King, almighty Father,
May our worship never cease;
May our voices ever thank you,
Songs of blessing ever send,
May we always live to praise you,
For your glory without end.**

**Jesus, Son of God the Father,
Merciful beyond compare,
All our sin, by you forgiven;
Lamb of God, receive our prayer.
Jesus, you alone are holy,
Jesus, you alone are Lord,
With the Holy Spirit reigning,
And the Father—glorious God!**

tune LUX EOI, Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)

Please **REMAIN STANDING** as the president prays

THE COLLECT

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.**

Please **SIT**

At the end:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Please STAND, as you are able, to sing

ALLELUIA

**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!**

THE GOSPEL

Luke 24.1-12

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



Glo-ry to you, O Lord.

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them.

The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.'

Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

We continue in song:

**Sing we to our God above! Alleluia!
praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
praise him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!**

tune EASTER HYMN with Alleluias, Lyra Davidica, 1708

When invited, please SIT for

THE HOMILY

Death comes to all through Adam,
and sin reigns for a time.

New life without end comes through Christ,
and he reigns for ever. Alleluia!

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting?
Death is swallowed up in victory,
the victory you give us in Christ. Alleluia!

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

We have been crucified with Christ, and live his risen life,
to praise you for ever with angels and archangels:

Everyone sings

SANCTUS

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of love, by all adored:
All in earth and heaven sing
Glad hosannas to our King.**

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.

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.

The deacon proclaims

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

Dy-ing you des-troyed our death, ris-ing you re-stored our life: Lord
 Je - sus, come in glo - ry!

The president continues

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 all the saints,
 may praise and glorify you for ever,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord:

Everyone sings

**By your risen, conquering Son:
In your Spirit, we are one.
Glory, Father, yours shall be,
Now and to eternity.**

tune SAVANNAH,
John Wesley's Foundery Collection, 1742

Everyone KNEELS, and SILENCE is kept.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The President introduces the Lord's Prayer

As our Risen Saviour taught us, so we pray
All **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 president breaks the consecrated bread

Lord, we died with you on the cross.
All **Now we are raised to new life.**
We were buried in your tomb.
All **Now we share in your resurrection.**
Lord, our hearts hunger for you;
All **give us this bread always.**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The President says

Alleluia! Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

THE GIVING OF COMMUNION

The president gives directions about how to receive communion.

This is God's table and all are welcome. If you would prefer a blessing instead of the sacrament, please cross your arms in front of your chest when you come forward.

As communion is distributed organ music may be played.

Everyone KNEELS or SITS, and silence is kept

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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:

All 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.

Please stand to sing

HYMN

**Light's glittering morn bedecks the sky;
heav'n thunders forth its victor-cry:**

Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Glad earth now shouts her triumph high,
and vanquished hell makes wild reply:**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

His tomb of late the threefold guard
that watch and stone and seal had barred; *Alleluia &c.*
but now, in might and triumph high,
he comes from death to victory: *Alleluia &c.*

The pains of hell are loosed at last,
the days of mourning now are past; *Alleluia &c.*
an angel robed in light hath said,
'The Lord is risen from the dead:' *Alleluia &c.*

All praise be thine, O risen Lord,
from death to endless life restored; *Alleluia &c.*
all praise to God the Father be
and Holy Ghost eternally: *Alleluia &c.*

Aurora lucis rutilat, Latin 4th century, trans. John Mason Neale (1818-66), alt.
tune LASST UNS ERFREUEN, melody from an Easter hymn
in *Geistliche Kirchengesang*, 1623, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

The Dismissal

THE BLESSING

The President exclaims

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Everyone responds, with increasing volume

All **He is risen indeed!**

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

The President says

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

All **Alleluia! Amen!**

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

All **Alleluia! Amen!**

God the Holy Spirit,
whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples, empower
you and fill you with Christ's peace.

All **Alleluia! Amen!**

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

All **Alleluia! Amen!**

The deacon says

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

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

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Jubilate (Op. 67, No.2) – William Mathias (1934-1992)

Please SIT for the Organ Voluntary after the clergy and ministers have processed to the back of the church.

You are invited to give generously to today's retiring collection. To learn more about our special Easter collections and how to contribute, please see the back page.

Breakfast will be served at the west end of the church after the service. Please do join us.

Our Easter Collections

After the service there will be a retiring collection for **humanitarian aid for Ukraine**, via the UNHRC. You can also give online at easydonate.org/GSMUKR or by SMS: to donate £10, just text GSMUKR to 70191.

The **Wider Concerns Easter Envelopes collection** will be for:

The Ntunungwe School, which does remarkable work in Zimbabwe including taking in many orphans. There is an urgent need for another supply of the nutritious e-pap porridge which plays a life-saving role for many children and also greatly helps their learning ability. The area is suffering severely, from crop failure caused by global warming, and from high inflation.



Cambridge Aid, which works with local charities and agencies who refer those in need for emergency funding, to help them through a crisis period and to avoid resorting to money-lenders. Support is wide-ranging including for homeless people, victims of domestic violence, children's needs, and those suffering from physical or mental health difficulties. Overheads are minimal as the Trustees give their time voluntarily.

As an alternative to donating use one of the envelopes, you can give o-line at easydonate.org/EAS22, or by SMS: to donate £10, just text EAS22 to 70191.

Thank you for your generosity.