



St Paul &  
St Stephen  
Gloucester

*Welcome to St Paul & St Stephen's,  
Gloucester*



*Eucharist for Easter Day*

Welcome to this service of the Eucharist on Easter Day. Holy Communion (or the Lord's Supper or the Eucharist) is the only church service given to us by Jesus himself.

On the evening before he was crucified he shared a meal with his closest friends, the disciples, and in it he told them that, in future, he would be with them in, and they could remember him by, the breaking of bread and sharing of wine together.

The service has been in many forms and languages over the centuries but we are still brought particularly close to Jesus in this Act of Worship.

Practicing members of other churches are always welcome to receive Communion. If you would rather receive a blessing, please bring this booklet forward with you to the Communion rail.

The words of this service are all in this booklet; we pray or sing together the parts that are in **bold print**. The words of the hymns are in the orange hymn book or on the screen.

We wish you a very joyful Easter, and hope you enjoy the worship and that it helps you on your spiritual journey.

## **WE GATHER**

*Words of welcome or introduction may be said. We are then led in the following words:*

*The President says:*  
Alleluia! Christ is risen

*All respond with a whisper*  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*The President says:*  
Alleluia! Christ is risen.

*All respond in a louder voice*  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*The President says*  
Alleluia! Christ is risen.

*All respond in a great shout*  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

### **Hymn**

*We sing our first hymn*

*During this hymn the clergy process into church.*

We meet in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**In the name of Christ we welcome one another.**

(turn to one another and say hello).

For Christians, Easter is the greatest feast of all. This is the day Jesus broke the chains of death, rose in triumph from the grave, and met with Mary Magdalene in the garden. As we meet to celebrate Christ's resurrection, let us bless our Easter Garden and remember that this is truly the 'Day of the Lord'.

Gracious and loving God, we pray you, bless this Easter Garden that it may be a sign of new life and hope to all. May it remind us that Jesus shares with us his victory over death, and his new and risen life.

**Amen.**

**We say Sorry**

Jesus is risen and all that is wrong can be made right. Let us be quiet for a moment and, as we look at each of the symbols, ask God to come close to us with his love and forgiveness.

Lord God, sometimes we are greedy and want to keep everything to ourselves.

Forgive us.

Lord have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

Lord God, sometimes we spoil things that are precious,  
the world and its people.

Forgive us.

Christ have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

Lord God, sometimes we ignore or ridicule those who  
seem unimportant to us.

Forgive us.

Lord have mercy.

**Lord have mercy.**

May the Father of all mercies  
cleanse you from your sins,  
and restore you in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Gloria**

*We sing the Gloria*

### **Collect**

*The Collect, a special prayer for Easter Day, is said:*

**God of glory, by the rising of your Son  
you have broken the chains of death and hell:  
fill your Church with faith and hope;  
for a new day has dawned  
and the way to life stands open  
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

## **WE LISTEN**

*Please sit for the reading:*

*After it the reader says: This is the word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

## **Hymn**

*We stand to sing a hymn*

*We remain standing to hear the gospel reading*

*At the beginning of the reading*

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end of the reading*

*This is the gospel of the Lord*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Talk**

*We sit to listen to the talk*

## **Creed**

*We stand to declare our faith*

We are gathered today as God's family to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Let us speak out boldly what we believe:

**We believe in God the Father,  
from whom every family in heaven  
and on earth is named.  
We believe in God the Son,  
who lives in our hearts through faith,  
and fills us with his love.  
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us with power from  
on high.  
We believe in one God;  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**We pray for others**

*Please feel free to sit or kneel.*

*The intercessions may end with the following:*

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **WE CELEBRATE**

### **We share 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.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*A greeting of peace is exchanged.*

*A hymn or song is sung.*

*The Collection is taken and the gifts of bread, wine and money are brought to the altar.*

*When the gifts are prepared, the President prays over the bread and wine.*

With this bread that we bring,

**We shall remember Jesus.**

With this wine that we bring,

**We shall remember Jesus.**

## **The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

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.  
And now we give you thanks because  
at his most glorious resurrection  
Jesus appeared to his disciples and  
opened for us the gate of heaven,  
that where he is, we may be also.  
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:

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,  
Holy is the Lord God Almighty  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,  
Holy is the Lord God Almighty  
Who was, and is, and is to come,  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**

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.

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.

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.

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.

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:

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

We say together the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**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 the Bread**

*The president breaks the consecrated 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.**

**Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord,  
Jesus is the Lord God Almighty  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord,  
Jesus is the Lord God Almighty  
who was and is and is to come  
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus is the Lord.**

## **Giving of Communion**

*The President says the words of invitation:*

Jesus says, 'Come.'

Come, you who have been to this table often and you who have not been for a long time.

Come, not because you are strong but because you are weak.

Come, not because you are perfect but because you are simply loved.

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

*We receive communion. Please come forward to the steps or the side rail if you are able. All are welcome but if you do not wish to receive, please come for a blessing instead. If you are unable to come forward then please do tell one of the stewards and we will bring the bread and wine to you in your seat.*

*During and after communion, hymns or songs may be sung. We remain seated for these. Feel free to join in, or just to listen.*

*If you would like someone to pray with you, about anything at all, there will be someone available to do so in the corner of the church by the war memorial during communion.*

## **AFTER COMMUNION**

*We say together the 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. Amen.**

## **Hymn**

*We stand to sing a hymn*

### **WE GO OUT INTO THE WORLD**

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

**Amen.**

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

**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.

**Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy  
Spirit, rest upon you and on those and all those whom  
you love, this Easter and for evermore. **Amen**

With the power that raised Jesus from the dead at work  
within you, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia!

**In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia!**

**Alleluia!**



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