

PARISH OF ESHER
Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End

All Age Eucharist for the Easter Season



*'Jesus said to his disciples, I am the true vine,
and my Father is the vine-grower.'*

John 15.1

Opening Piano Music

Adagio from BWV 564
J S Bach (1685-1750)

The Gathering

The minister greets the people.

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Greeting

*Words of welcome or introduction may be said.
A hymn is sung.*

Prayers of Penitence

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God.
Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil
and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life.
Lord, have mercy:
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins.

Christ, have mercy:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the living bread.

Lord, have mercy:

Lord, have mercy.

The minister says:

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 in Excelsis

The choir sings the Gloria

The Collect

*The minister introduces a period of silent prayer with the words
'Let us pray' or a more specific bidding.*

The Collect is said, and all respond:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

A New or Old Testament Reading precedes the Gospel Reading.

Acts 8:26-end

For our First Reading today we are using a paraphrase. You can find the NRSV bible translation of today's reading in the pewsheet.

One of God's angels said to Philip, 'Get up and go south to the road that leads from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wild deserted road.) So Phillip got up and went.

Now there was an Ethiopian, an official who worked for the queen of that country. He was in charge of all her riches. He had come to Jerusalem to worship God and was going back home. Sitting in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. The Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to the chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard the Ethiopian reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you're reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone explains it to me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

'Like a sheep he was led to be killed, and like a lamb being shorn, he says nothing. He was made fun of and denied a fair trial. Who will know anything about his children, because his life on earth has been taken away?'

The Ethiopian asked Philip, 'Who's Isaiah writing about, himself or someone else?'

So Philip began to explain - starting with this scripture, he told him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the Ethiopian said, 'Look, here's some water! What's to stop me being baptized?' He ordered the chariot to stop. Philip and the Ethiopian went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the Ethiopian saw him no more, but he went on his way full of happiness. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he told the good news in all the towns.

At the end:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

The choir sings:

Alleluia, alleluia; alleluia, alleluia.

Now he is living, the Christ.

Out of the tomb he is risen;

He has conquered death,
opened heaven to all believers.

Alleluia, alleluia; alleluia, alleluia.

When the Gospel is announced the reader says:

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 15.1-8

'Jesus said, I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower.

He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Talk

After the Talk an anthem may be sung, or a piece of music played.

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God.

**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.**

Prayers of Intercession

The minister introduces the prayers.

One of these responses may be used:

Lord, in your mercy: or Lord, hear us:
hear our prayer. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

And at the end:

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The minister introduces 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.

The Offertory

Thank you for your ongoing generosity to Esher Parish. Like most parishes there's been pressure on our income recently, so if you're in a position to do so, please consider supporting our mission and ministry. Donations can be made today or via JustGiving at <https://www.justgiving.com/esherparish>. Or to donate to our Parish bank account, please contact the Parish Office or Parish Treasurer for details and Gift Aid forms.

Preparation of the Table

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed on it, while a hymn is sung or a piece of music is played.

The following prayer is used:

Creator of all,
you wash away our sins,
you give us new birth by the Spirit,
and redeem us in the blood of Christ.

As we celebrate the resurrection,
renew your gift of life within us.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord.

Amen

The Eucharistic Prayer

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.

Children's question:

Why is it right to give thanks and praise?

Listen, and we will hear.

Lord of all life, you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

You give us happy times
and things to celebrate.
In these we taste your kingdom,
a feast for all your children.

You made us all, each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels and proclaim your praise:

The choir sings:

**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 thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

Children's question:

Why do we share this bread and wine?

Listen, and we will hear.

On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples,
saying: 'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Children's question:

How do we follow Jesus Christ?

Listen, and we will hear.

Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with all your saints
we give you glory, through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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 the Bread

The minister 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.**

We say together, or the choir sings, the Agnus Dei.

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.**

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.**

In line with the Church of England guidance on Spiritual Communion at this time of the Coronavirus (see separate document for guidance), we invite you to pray:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day.

Amen.

after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

During the distribution, music may be sung or played.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

We say together the post communion prayer.

**Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way,
the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Dismissal

Notices may be given.

A hymn is sung.

The Blessing

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,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Closing Piano Music

Allegro in B flat

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

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