



Easter Season

Benefice Eucharist
from Easter to Pentecost



Newbury, St George & St John

EASTER SEASON EUCCHARIST

**Welcome to the benefice of St George and St John,
in South Newbury.**

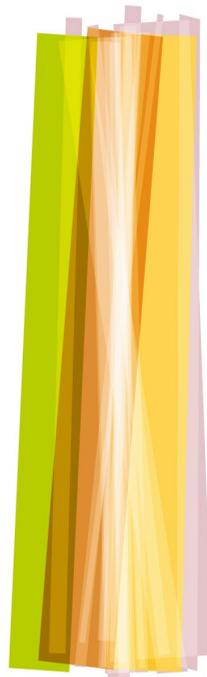
The Great Fifty Days of Eastertide form a single festival period in which the tone of joy created at dawn on Easter morning is sustained through the following seven weeks, and the Church celebrates the gloriously risen Christ:

Now the queen of season bright
with the day of splendour,
with the royal feast of feasts,
comes its joys to render.

(John of Damascus)

Early Christians gave the name Pentecost to this whole fifty-day span of rejoicing, which Tertullian calls 'this most joyful period'. Easter Day is sometimes also called 'Great Sunday'. At dawn on the Easter morning the celebrations begin with the lighting of the Easter Candle; the lit Candle stands prominently in church for all the Eastertide services. The 'Alleluia' appears frequently in our liturgy and song. White or gold vestments and floral decorations emphasize the joy and brightness of the season.

There has been a particular celebration of Christ's ascension on the fortieth day since the late fourth century. Christ commissions his disciples to continue his work, he promises the gift of the Holy Spirit, and then he is no longer among them in the flesh. The ascension is therefore closely connected with the theme of mission. The arrival of the promised gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (meaning fiftieth day) completes and crowns the Easter Festival.



The Gathering

*A minister welcomes us informally before the start of the Service.
After the welcome, a time of silence is kept for prayer, preparing
ourselves for worship.*

The presiding priest says:

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

Amen.

The presiding priest may use a sentence of scripture.

The Greeting

The presiding priest greets the people:

Alleluia, Christ is Risen
He is risen indeed, Alleluia.

The Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Prayer of Penitence

A minister uses these or other suitable words:

In baptism we died with Christ,
so that as Christ was raised from the dead,
we might walk in newness of life.
Let us receive new life in him
as we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

A short silence follows offering space for reflection.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

The presiding priest says the Absolution (God's forgiveness of sins):

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 in Excelsis

Our response to God's forgiveness and welcome

**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 on 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.**

The Collect

Let us pray...

The Collect is preceded by a short period of silent prayer.

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

When the Gospel is announced the reader says:

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.

Alleluia.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

The Creed

We affirm our faith using the words of The 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

We pray for the church, creation, the peoples of the world and their leaders, our local community, family and friends, those who are sick or suffering, and those who have recently died.

One of the responses below is used at the end of each prayer.

Lord, in your mercy, *or*
hear our prayer.

Jesus Lord of life,
in your mercy 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 presiding priest 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. Alleluia

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

*The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.
The presiding priest takes the bread and wine and praises God in
these or similar words:*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.
In your loving care you spread
before us the table of life
and give us the cup of salvation to drink.
Keep us always in the fold
of our Saviour and our Shepherd,
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Blessed be God for ever

The Eucharistic Prayer

[Eucharistic Prayer B]

The presiding priest says:

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.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

[Short Preface for Easter Season]

And now we give you thanks
because in his victory over the grave a new age has dawned,
the long reign of sin is ended,
a broken world is being renewed
and humanity is once again made whole.

[Short Preface for Ascension Day]

And now we give you thanks
because, after his most glorious resurrection,
he appeared to his disciples,
and in their sight ascended into heaven to prepare a place for us;
that where he is, thither we might also ascend,
and reign with him in glory.

[Short Preface from Ascension Day until the Day of Pentecost]

And now we give you thanks
that, after he had ascended far above all heavens,
and was seated at the right hand of your majesty,
he sent forth upon the universal Church your holy
and life-giving Spirit;
that through his glorious power the joy of the everlasting gospel
might go forth into all the world.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**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.**

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.

Bells may be rung at this point.

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.

Bells may be rung at this point.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

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.

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 the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Saint George, St John and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you forever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The 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.**

Rejoicing in God's new creation, let
us pray with confidence as our
Saviour has taught us;

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The presiding priest 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 sing or say the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) as the bread is broken

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

The presiding priest says this invitation to communion:

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The presiding priest and people receive communion.

An optional prayer before the communion:

We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.

We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs
under your table.

But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.

Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son, Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us.
Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

The presiding priest says a Post Communion collect or prayer.

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son
and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Dismissal

Notices

The presiding priest uses this or another suitable blessing:

God, who through the resurrection
of our Lord Jesus Christ
has given us the victory,
give you joy and peace in your faith;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit,
be among you
and remain with you always.
Amen.

Alternative form of Blessing

May Christ,
who out of defeat brings
new hope and a new future,
fill you with his new life;
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
In the name of Christ. Alleluia. Amen.



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Benefice of St George and St John. Liturgy 2021

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