

A Dawn Eucharist Easter Sunday

The Bishop's Garden

12 April 2020

5.15am



DIOCESE OF
LICHFIELD

About the service

It is a great joy to be able to welcome you, virtually, into my garden this daybreak as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. The joy is, of course, tinged this year with sadness that we cannot meet together as we normally would on this most blessed of mornings, and that we are not able physically to share the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. But we know that we are always united in prayer and in the communion of all Christians, the saints and angels. It is in this company that we worship and praise God for his great goodness to us and celebrate Jesus's bursting from the tomb, his overcoming of sin, death, and of all that divides us. In Christ we are forever one.

I invite you to join in with me the parts of the service in **bold type**. I particularly invite you to have a candle to hand at the start of the service, to light it when I light the Easter candle, and to pray with me the prayer on page 3 of this service sheet.

At the time of the Communion only I will be receiving physically, but I strongly encourage you to make an act of Spiritual Communion at this point and I have printed in the service sheet the Church of England's prayer for this purpose if you wish to use it. The Church assures us that making such an act of Spiritual Communion when we are prevented from receiving physically brings us all the benefits and graces of the Sacrament. You can read more about it on [the Church of England website](#).

I wish you a holy, blessed, joyful and safe Eastertide.

+Michael Lich:

The Service of Light

The new fire having been kindled, the Bishop says

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. **Amen.**

*The Bishop lights the Easter candle and invites everyone watching
to light a candle and to pray with him*

**Jesus 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. Amen.**

By his holy and glorious wounds
may Christ our Lord guard and keep us. Amen.

Standing beside the Candle, the Bishop says

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from
our hearts and minds. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father,
Accept this Easter candle, a flame divided but undimmed,
a pillar of fire that glows to your honor.
Let it mingle with the lights of heaven,
and continue bravely burning to dispel the darkness of the

night!

May the Morning Star, which never sets, find this flame still burning.

Christ, that Morning Star, who came back from the dead, and shed his peaceful light on all creation, your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Bishop then says

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Collect

Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

Silence is kept

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 New Testament Reading:

Romans 6.3-11

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Reading:

John 20: 1-18

The reading is introduced

Alleluia, 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, alleluia, alleluia

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

Glory to you, O Lord

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Intercessions

On this day that the Lord has made,
let us pray for the people he has redeemed.

That we may live as those who believe in the triumph of the
cross:

Lord, hear us

Lord, graciously hear us

That all people may receive the good news of his victory:

Lord, hear us

Lord, graciously hear us

That those born to new life in the waters of baptism
may know the power of his resurrection:

Lord, hear us

Lord, graciously hear us

That those who suffer pain and anguish
may find healing and peace in the wounds of Christ:

Lord, hear us

Lord, graciously hear us

That in the undying love of Christ
we may be united with all who have died in the faith of Christ:

Lord, hear us

Lord, graciously hear us

Let us commend the world, in which Christ rose from the dead,
to the mercy and protection of God.

Merciful Father

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

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 risen Christ be always with you

and also with you. Alleluia.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:

through your goodness we have this bread to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.

It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

After the Bishop has washed his hands

As the grain once scattered in the fields
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together
from the corners of the earth
into your kingdom.

Amen.

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.

**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.

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.

Praise to you Lord Jesus

**Dying you destroyed our death,
Rising you restored our life,
Lord Jesus come in glory.**

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, St Chad
and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
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,
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.**

**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.**

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Bishop receives Communion.

All those watching are invited to join in with an act of Spiritual Communion. The following prayer is suggested,

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.

The 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:

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 Blessing

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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.

The Dismissal

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

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

*Texts reproduced from Common Worship: Times and Seasons
are copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2006.*