

The Church of England  
in Central Windsor

# SUNG EUCCHARIST

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024

## Second Sunday of Easter



**A warm welcome to St Stephen & St Agnes Church  
for our service today**

On most Sundays we offer Sunday Club during the service. Children aged 3-11 are welcome to gather at the back of the church as we sing the Gloria in Excelsis.

Please don't feel embarrassed if babies and small children cry or make a noise.

*Please stand for :*

## OPENING HYMN

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Hearts to heaven and voices raise:**  
**sing to God a hymn of gladness,**  
**sing to God a hymn of praise.**  
**he, who on the cross a victim,**  
**for the world's salvation bled,**  
**Jesus Christ, the King of glory,**  
**now is risen from the dead.**

**Christ is risen, Christ, the first fruits**  
**of the holy harvest field,**  
**which will all its full abundance**  
**at his second coming yield:**  
**then the golden ears of harvest**  
**will their heads before him wave,**  
**ripened by his glorious sunshine**  
**from the furrows of the grave.**

**Christ is risen, we are risen**  
**shed upon us heavenly grace,**  
**rain and dew and gleams of glory**  
**from the brightness of thy face;**  
**that we, with our hearts in heaven,**  
**here on earth may fruitful be,**  
**and by angel hands be gathered,**  
**and be ever, Lord, with thee.**

**Alleluia, alleluia!**  
**Glory be to God on high;**  
**Alleluia! to the Saviour**  
**who has gained the victory;**  
**Alleluia! to the Spirit,**  
**fount of love and sanctity:**

*Please remain standing for :*

## THE GREETING

*The priest says*

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

*All*      **Amen.**

*The priest greets the people*

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*All*

*Please sit for:*

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANY NOTICES**

*Please stand for :*

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.  
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all  
malice and evil and confessing our sins  
with a sincere and true heart.

Like Mary at the empty tomb,  
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.

*All* Lord have mercy,  
**Lord have mercy**

Like the disciples behind locked doors,  
we are afraid to be seen as your followers.

*All* Christ have mercy,  
**Christ have mercy**

Like Thomas in the upper room, we are slow to believe.  
Lord have mercy,

*All* **Lord have mercy**

*The Kyrie Eleison is sung:*

*All* **Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy, Christ have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

**ABSOLUTION**

*The priest says*

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon† and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

*All*      **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.**

## THE COLLECT

*The priest says:*

Risen Christ,  
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:  
open the doors of our hearts,  
that we may seek the good of others  
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,  
to the praise of God the Father.

*All*      **Amen**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit for:

### FIRST READING

#### **Acts 4.32–35**

<sup>4</sup> <sup>32</sup> The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup> They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

At the end the reader says:  
This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 133**

*The congregation is invited to sing the response*

### ***The Lord's blessing is life forever***

Behold how good and pleasant it is  
to dwell together in unity. **Response**

It is like the precious oil upon the head,  
running down upon the beard. **Response**

Even upon Aaron's beard,  
running down upon the collar of his clothing. **Response**

It is like the dew of Hermon  
running down upon the hills of Zion.  
For there the Lord has promised his blessing:  
even life forever. **Response**

## **Second READING**

### **1 John 1.1 – 2.2**

<sup>1</sup>We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—<sup>2</sup>this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—<sup>3</sup>we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.<sup>4</sup>We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.<sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true;<sup>7</sup>but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.<sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.<sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.<sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;<sup>2</sup>and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

At the end the reader says:  
This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

### **Gradual Hymn**

**The strife is o'er, the battle done,  
now is the Victor's triumph won;  
O let the song of praise be sung  
*Alleluia!***

**Death's mightiest powers have done their worst,  
and Jesus hath his foes dispersed:  
let shouts of praise and joy outburst.  
*Alleluia!***

**On the third morn he rose again  
glorious in majesty to reign  
O let us swell the joyful strain  
*Alleluia!***

**Lord! by the stripes which wounded thee,  
from death's dread sting thy servants free,  
that we may live and sing to thee.  
*Alleluia!***

*Please remain standing for:*

### **GOSPEL READING**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says or sings:*

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.

*All* **Alleluia, alleluia**

*All* **Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **John 20.19–31**

<sup>20</sup> <sup>19</sup>It was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' <sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

At the end the reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please sit for:*

**SERMON**

*Please stand for :*

**THE APOSTLES' CREED**

*All* **I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen**

*Please sit for:*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*These responses may be used*

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

*All* Lord hear us  
**Lord graciously hear us**

*And at the end*

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

## **THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT**

*Please stand for:*

### **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

*All* The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**  
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*You are invited to exchange a sign of peace with your neighbour.*

*The offertory collection will be brought to the altar to be blessed.  
It will be used for the ministry, mission and outreach of the church.  
Please consider using the Gift Aid envelopes if you are able to do so.*

*If you give regularly via the collection when you attend Sunday worship in one of our churches, but are not with us every week, have you considered giving through the Parish Giving Scheme? It is very easy to do. Details are in the weekly Keeping Us in Touch leaflet or speak to any of our churchwardens*

## **OFFERTORY HYMN**



The day of resurrection!  
Earth, tell it out abroad;  
the Passover of gladness,  
the Passover of God;  
from death to life eternal,  
from earth unto the sky,  
our God hath brought us over,  
with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil,  
that we may see aright  
the Lord in rays eternal  
of resurrection-light;  
and, listening to his accents,  
may hear so calm and plain  
his own "All hail!" and, hearing,  
may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful!  
Let earth her song begin.  
the round world keep high triumph,  
and all that is therein;  
let all things seen and unseen  
their notes in gladness blend,  
for Christ the Lord is risen,  
our joy that hath no end.

### Preparation of the Table

*The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.  
The priest takes the bread and wine.*

God of wisdom,  
may the light of your eternal Word,  
our Lord and Saviour Christ,  
lead us in holiness and guide us to glory,  
we ask this in his holy name.

*All*      **Amen**

### THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*All*      The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*All*      Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

*All*      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.

And now we give you thanks  
because through him you have given us eternal life  
and delivered us from the bondage of sin and the fear of death into  
the glorious liberty of the children of God

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

*All* **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.

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, St Stephen,  
St Agnes, St John the Baptist 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

Believing the promises of God,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

*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.**

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The priest breaks the consecrated bread.*

*All* 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.**

## AGNUS DEI

*All* **Lamb of God,  
You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us  
Lamb of God,  
You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God,  
You take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

## GIVING OF COMMUNION

*The priest says the invitation to communion*

Draw near with faith.  
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.  
Eat and drink  
in remembrance that he died for you  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

*All* **Amen.**

*If you are confirmed or a communicant member of the Church of England or any other Christian church, you are welcome to receive communion with us this morning. Otherwise, you are warmly invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please bring the service booklet with you so we know you wish to receive a blessing.*

*Gluten free wafers are available on request.*

*During the administration of communion the following will be sung*

**At the Lamb's high feast we sing  
praise to our victorious King,  
who hath washed us in the tide  
flowing from his piercèd side;  
praise we him, whose love divine  
gives his sacred blood for wine,  
gives his body for the feast,  
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.**

**Where the Paschal blood is poured,  
death's dark angel sheathes his sword;  
Israel's hosts triumphant go  
through the wave that drowns the foe.  
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed,  
Paschal victim, Paschal bread;  
with sincerity and love  
eat we manna from above.**

**Mighty victim from the sky,  
hell's fierce powers beneath thee lie;  
thou hast conquered in the fight,  
thou hast brought us life and light:  
now no more can death appal,  
now no more the grave enthral;  
thou hast opened paradise,  
and in thee thy saints shall rise.**

**Easter triumph, Easter joy,  
sin alone can this destroy;  
from sin's power do thou set free  
souls new-born, O Lord, in thee.  
Hymns of glory and of praise,  
Risen Lord, to thee we raise;  
Holy Father, praise to thee,  
with the Spirit, ever be.**

**This joyful Eastertide,  
away with sin and sorrow.  
My Love, the Crucified,  
hath sprung to life this morrow.  
*Had Christ, that once was slain,  
ne'er burst his three-day prison,  
our faith had been in vain;  
but now hath Christ arisen.***

**My flesh in hope shall rest,  
and for a season slumber,  
till trump from east to west  
shall wake the dead in number.  
*Refrain:***

**Death's flood hath lost its chill,  
since Jesus crossed the river:  
Lover of souls, from ill  
my passing soul deliver,  
*Refrain:***

#### **PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION**

Lord God our Father,  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ  
you have assured your children of eternal life  
and in baptism have made us one with him:  
deliver us from the death of sin  
and raise us to new life in your love,  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*All* **Amen.**

*All* **Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your  
praise and glory  
Amen**

*Members of Sunday Club are invited to show their work to the  
congregation*

## THE DISMISSAL

### THE BLESSING

The God of peace,  
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
that great shepherd of the sheep,  
through the blood of the eternal covenant,  
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,  
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father†, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

### Final Hymn

**Love's redeeming work is done,  
fought the fight, the battle won.  
Lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er!  
Lo, he sets in blood no more!**

**Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;  
Christ has burst the gates of hell;  
death in vain forbids his rise;  
Christ has opened paradise.**

**Lives again our glorious King;  
where, O death, is now thy sting?  
Dying once, he all doth save;  
where thy victory, O grave?**

**Soar we now where Christ has led,  
following our exalted Head;  
made like him, like him we rise,  
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.**

**Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!  
Praise to thee by both be given:  
thee we greet triumphant now;  
hail, the Resurrection Thou!**

*The priest says*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*All* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*The ministers and people depart.*

**Please stay for refreshments which will be served after the service.**

**You are welcome to take this service sheet away with you  
for private reflection or to give to a friend.**

If you are visiting today or attending for the first time, we hope that you have felt “at home” here, that you will be refreshed by today’s service of worship and that you will return in the future.  
We shall be delighted if you decide to make our church community your spiritual home.

**If you would like to know more about the Christian faith, please ask!  
You can also find out more by following the “Our Faith” link on the  
Church of England website: [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org)**

**Web Site:**  
[www.windsorchurches.org.uk](http://www.windsorchurches.org.uk)

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