

Eastertide 'Online 'Worship' Service Sheet

Introduction to Eastertide

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

Triumphant in his glory now,
his sceptre ruleth all,
earth, heaven and hell before him bow,
and at his footstool fall.
(Fulbert of Chartres)

Early Christians gave the name Pentecost to this whole fifty-day span of rejoicing, which Tertullian calls 'this most joyful period' (*laetissimum spatium*). It is sometimes also called 'Great Sunday'. In those places where the custom of lighting the Easter Candle at the beginning of Easter is followed, the lit Candle stands prominently in church for all the Eastertide services. The Alleluia appears frequently in liturgical speech and song; Morning Prayer begins with the traditional collection of Pauline texts known as the Easter Anthems, and white or gold vestments and decorations emphasize the joy and brightness of the season. On the fortieth day there has from the late fourth century been a particular celebration of Christ's ascension. He 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 completes and crowns the Easter Festival.

THE GATHERING

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: **Amen.**

THE GREETING

Leader: Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you
All: **and also with you.**

EASTERTIDE ACCLAMATION

Leader: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Leader: Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: He has given us new life and hope. He has raised Jesus from the dead.

Leader: God has claimed us as his own.

All: He has brought us out of darkness. He has made us light to the world.

Leader: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Prayer of Preparation

All: 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.

Prayers of Penitence

Leader: Our Lord Jesus Christ said: The first commandment is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All: Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Leader: 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.

Leader: Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

Leader: We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection. In your mercy, forgive us.

All: Lord, hear us and help us.

Leader We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us.

All: Lord, hear us and help us.

Leader We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us.

All: Lord, hear us and help us.

All: May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our
Lord. Amen.

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. Amen.**

The Collect

(reading sheet)

The Liturgy of The Word

1st Reading

(reading sheet)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

(reading sheet)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

2nd Reading

(reading sheet)

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

(reading sheet)

Leader: Alleluia, alleluia. Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

All: Alleluia.

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Apostles' Creed

(Red Holy Communion Book Page 44)

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.

Prayers of Intercession

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: Merciful Father,

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

The Liturgy of The Sacrament

The Peace

Leader: 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

All: and also with you.

Leader: Risen Lord Jesus Christ, we believe you, and all we have heard is true. When we break bread may we recognize you as the fire that burns within us, that we may bring light to your world.

All Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Leader: The Lord is here.

All: His Spirit is with us.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Leader: 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.

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.

Leader: Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood.

Leader: 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.

Leader: 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.

Leader: Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross; we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; we look for the coming of your kingdom, and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Leader: Jesus Christ is Lord:

All: Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world.

Leader: Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

All: Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All: 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

Leader: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All: Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

Giving of Communion

Leader: 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 Jesus Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Spiritual Communion

All: 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.

Post Communion Prayer

(reading sheet)

The Dismissal

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

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Blessing

All: **God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead, open to us who believe the gates of everlasting life. God the Son, who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory, give us joy as we share the Easter faith. God the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord, empower us and fill us with Christ's peace. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. Amen.**

Leader: We are raised to new life with Christ. Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia.

All: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**