

The Season of Easter

**Alleluia,
the Lord is risen indeed.**



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 in his risen life; now and for ever.
Amen, Alleluia.

Holy Eucharist

Voluntary: *(Please refer to the insert.)*

Opening Hymn: *(Please refer to the insert.)*

Welcome

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ is risen!

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Celebrant may use the following:

Mark 12:29-31

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel:

The Lord your God is the only Lord.

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 neighbor as yourself.

There is no commandment greater than these."

The Collect of Eastertide *(Or the Collect of the Day.)*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Risen Christ,

you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:

strengthen us to proclaim your risen life,

give us compassion and courage

to risk ourselves for those we serve,

and fill us with your peace,

to the glory of God our Father.

Amen.

Please refer to insert for today's scripture readings.

First lesson

Psalm

Gospel

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith *(Please stand if it is comfortable for you to do so.)*

Nicene Creed ****This text of the Nicene Creed omits the phrase 'and the Son' in the third paragraph, recovering the original text of the First Councils of Nicaea and Constantinople, 325 and 381CE respectively.*

Presider: Let us affirm the faith of the Church:

**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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from 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. ****

**With the Father and the Son
he is worshipped and glorified.**

He 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 the People

In faith and hope we pray:

For the Church of God, that She may be filled with truth and love,
and work for justice and mercy for all of your Creation.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, for Douglas our Bishop;
for Nina our Rector, and all who minister to God's people.

Risen Christ:
strengthen us to witness to your love.

For the peace of the world,
that a spirit of respect may grow among nations.

For those in positions of public trust that they may serve justice,
and promote the dignity of every person.

For those who suffer due to violence, poverty, or natural disaster;
may all in need of refuge find relief and safety.

Risen Christ:
teach us to love others in the power of the Spirit.

For this congregation,
that we may be attentive to one another,
and responsive to the needs of the world.

For our friends and families, those we love;
for any whom we have injured or offended.

Risen Christ:
may we reflect your love to the world.

For those whom you have entrusted to our prayers;
(please see insert for those on our prayer list and add your own intercessions)

Risen Christ:
grant them joy, peace, and health.

For all who have died
that they may know God's love and life eternal.
(please see insert for those on our prayer list and add your own intercessions)

As we commend ourselves, and one another
to God's love and mercy,

Risen Christ:
send us forth to love as you love us.

Celebrant: (chooses one of the following)

Loving God, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is
alive in our world, our church and our hearts. Receive our prayers,
restore and strengthen us in newness of life, and teach our hearts to
live in you. **Amen.**

Praise to you, God of Abundance, for when we ask, you give; when
we seek, you show the way. When we knock, you answer. Praise to
you for your unfailing grace. Make us now your faithful people.
Amen.

Confession:

If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation -
Behold, all things have become new! *cf 2 Corinthians 5:17*

Let us confess our sins, seeking a new life of grace.

O God of our Salvation,
**we have sinned against you
and against our neighbor
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence,
through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

The Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you all your sins
through the grace of Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit
keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

The Introduction to the Peace:

Jesus said to his disciples, “This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you.” *cf John 15.12*

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Choral anthem (*Please refer to today’s insert*)

Eucharistic Prayer for Eastertide

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to our God.

Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, Author of all being. Your power sustains us, your love restores our broken world. Creating God, you are unceasingly at work, bringing order from chaos and filling emptiness with life. Christ, raised from the dead, proclaims the dawn of hope. Jesus lives in us that we may walk in light.

Your Spirit is fire in us, your breath is power to purge our sin and warm our hearts to love. As children of your redeeming purpose, freed by Christ who burst from the tomb and opened the gate of life, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending glory:

The Sanctus, S 125 "Holy, holy, holy Lord" Richard Proulx

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

OR (*spoken by 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.

Praise and thanksgiving be to you, Gracious God, for by the Cross, eternal life is ours and death is swallowed up in victory. In the first light of Easter, glory broke from the tomb and changed the women's sorrow into joy. From the Garden the mystery dawned the one whom they loved was not lost to them. Jesus is with us now in every place for ever.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, at supper with his disciples Jesus took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you." After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

Presider: So, as we do what he told us,

People: **we open our hearts to him;
we remember how he died
and rose again to live now in us.**

Presider: Together with him we offer you these gifts

People: **in them we give you ourselves.**

Hear us, most merciful God, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that they may be the Body and Blood of your Son. Kindle the fire of your love in us, and renew us for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptized into the fellowship of Christ's Body, to live and work to your praise and glory; that we may grow together in unity and love and at the last, in your new creation, may we join the company of apostles, prophets, and all our brothers and sisters living and departed. All this we ask through our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

**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,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

“Let Us Be Bread”

(sung by all, twice)

Thomas Porter

Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, bro-ken and
shared, life for the world. Let us be wine,
love free-ly poured. Let us be one in the Lord. _____

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Let Us Be Bread" by Thomas Porter. It consists of three staves of music in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics "Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, bro-ken and". The second staff contains "shared, life for the world. Let us be wine,". The third staff contains "love free-ly poured. Let us be one in the Lord. _____".

OR spoken:

Presider: Be present with us, O Christ,

People: **And be known to us in the breaking of the bread.**

The Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion

Everyone is welcome to receive communion from God's table.

Gluten free wafers are available, simply let the celebrant know. Specific information about how to receive communion is found on back page of weekly insert. (Feel free to ask questions of anyone wearing a name tag!)

Music at Communion *(Please refer to today's insert.)*

Post Communion Prayer, Form I

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**Risen Lord, be present with us in all that we do;
be our companion in the way,
kindle our hearts, and awaken hope,
that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture
and the breaking of the bread.**

**Now, send us forth into the world
to live the good news we proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer, Form II

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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 Blessing (*Celebrant may use one of the following, or another Blessing*)

Form I

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor everyone;
love and serve our God,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ,
and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all, now and always.

Amen.

Form II

May there be peace within you today.
May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.
May you use the gifts you have received and
Pass on the love that has been given to you.
May you be confident knowing that you are a beloved child of God;
and the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ,
and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all, now and always. **Amen.**

Announcements

Closing Hymn (*please refer to today's insert*)

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go forth into the world,
 rejoicing in the Risen Lord.
 Alleluia, alleluia!

People **Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!**

Voluntary

Liturgical Resources Eastertide Liturgy

Collect on Cover

Daily Prayers for All Seasons

The Collect of Eastertide

Daily Prayers for All Seasons

Affirmation of Faith

Enriching Our Worship, The Episcopal Church

Prayers of the People

Adapted from Common Worship, Church of England

Concluding collects - first collect, Daily Prayers for All Seasons;
second collect, A New Zealand Prayer Book

Confession

Common Worship, The Church of England, adapted.

Offertory Sentence

Order of St. Helena Breviary version of Psalm 118

Eucharist Prayer for Eastertide

Eucharistic Prayer IV, The Scottish Episcopal Church, adapted

The Breaking of the Bread

WLP 764, "Taste and see," Moore

Post Communion Prayer

Form I, Daily Prayers for All Seasons; Form II, Scottish Episcopal Church

The Blessings

Form II, adapted from *Therese of Lisieux*

SAINT STEPHEN'S PARISH
67 East Street
Pittsfield, Massachusetts

A Jubilee Parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts

Our mission is to be the heart and hands of Christ:
Nourishing people, transforming lives.