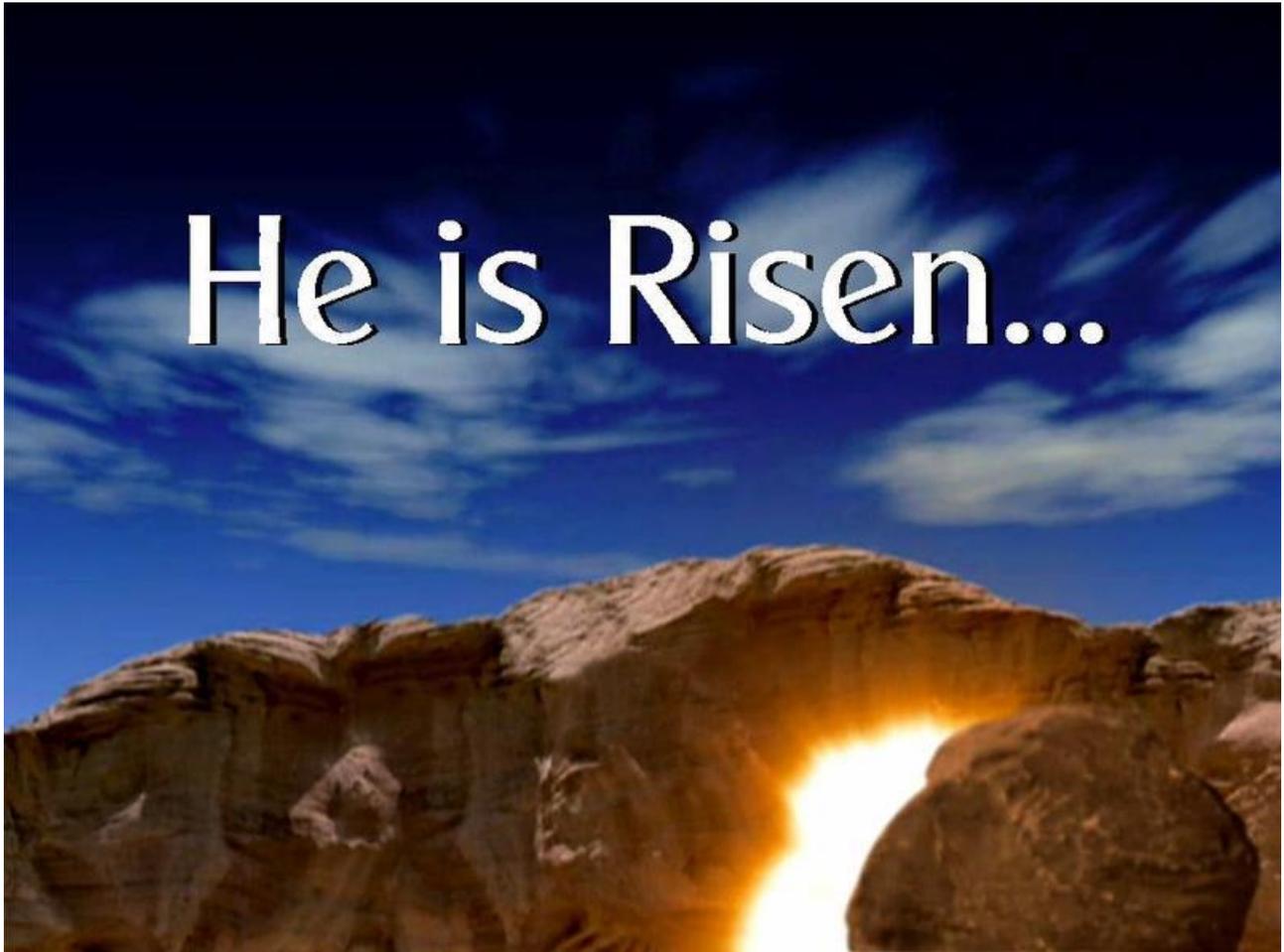


St John the Evangelist Great Stanmore



Holy Communion
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 emphasise 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.

ORDER OF SERVICE

The people are welcomed and the first hymn is announced.

Opening Hymn

INTRODUCTION

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

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

Priest Alleluia, Christ is risen.
All **He is risen indeed, 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

Priest

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.

Priest

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.

1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Sit or kneel

All

**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.**

Priest 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.**

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

The Priest introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray'.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

At the end

Reader
All This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

At the end

Reader
All This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

Gospel Reading

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

At the end

Reader
All This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

**All 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

Priest In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ,
let us pray to the Father.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
you promised through your Son Jesus Christ
to hear us when we pray in faith.

The following responses may be used

All Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

(or)

Lord, hear us
Lord, graciously hear us.

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

The Peace

Priest 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.
John 20:19-20

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Priest Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Offertory Hymn

*The altar is prepared and bread and wine placed upon it.
A collection is taken up during this hymn.*

Preparation of the Table

Priest 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.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Priest The Lord is here.
All **His Spirit is with us.**

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

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Priest 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 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 gates 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.**

Sit or kneel

Priest

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 his body and his blood;

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.

All

Great is the mystery of faith:
Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.

Priest

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 *[N 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.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Priest Rejoicing in God's new creation,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour 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.

Priest Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

**All 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

Priest 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.

The priest and people receive communion. Communicant members of all Christian churches are welcome to receive communion. Any member of the congregation may come to receive a blessing; please bring your order of service with you to show that this is your intention.

During the distribution of communion, please join in with the singing of the hymns.

Prayers after Communion

The priest will say the post communion prayer.

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.

The Blessing

Priest The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Notices

Closing Hymn

The Dismissal

Priest He is not here. He is risen.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

All **In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.**

