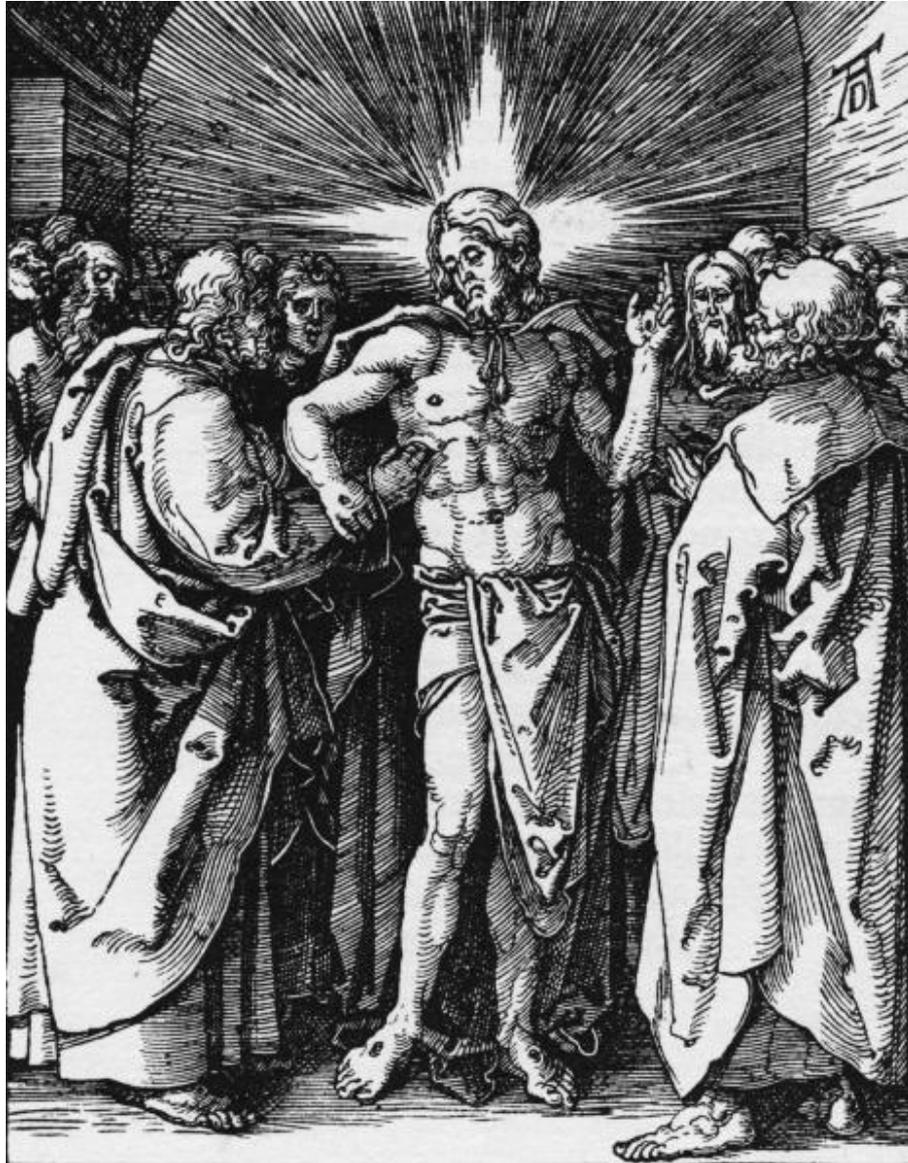


# A Liturgy of the Eucharist for the Season of Easter



All Saints Church, Birkenhead



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

Early Christians gave the name Pentecost to this whole fifty-day span of rejoicing, which Tertullian calls 'this most joyful period'. 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. There is no confession or absolution during Easter reflecting the joy of Christ's resurrection and our reconciliation to God.

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 OF THE COMMUNITY

We gather in the name of God: ✠ Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
Amen

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

This is the day which the Lord has made.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*We say/sing*

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to God's 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 Lord be with you  
The Lord bless you

*We turn to our service sheet to pray the Collect*

## THE READINGS

*After each reading the response is:*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church  
Thanks be to God

*A Hymn may be sung*

*We stand for the Gospel*

Alleluia, alleluia. Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

**Alleluia.**

The Holy Gospel according to...

✠ **Praise and Glory to God**

*After the Gospel, the reader says*

This is the Gospel of Christ.  
**Praise to Christ the Word**

## THE SERMON

*Following The Sermon we keep silence*

## THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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,  
is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The presiding priest says:*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, giving thanks for God's goodness.

## THE PEACE

*We stand together*

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 PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

*We sing a **Hymn** as the bread & wine and the gifts of the people are  
brought to the altar*

Lord of life,  
with unbounded joy we offer you our sacrifice of praise.  
As we offer you these gifts,  
may we know your resurrection power;  
through Christ our risen Lord.  
**Amen.**

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is here  
**God's Spirit is with us**

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God  
**It is right to offer thanks and praise**

It is right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord,  
almighty Father, everlasting God, at all times and  
in all places to give you thanks and praise  
through Christ your only Son.

You are the source of all life and goodness;  
through your eternal Word  
you have created all things from the beginning  
and formed us in your own image;  
male and female you created us.

When we sinned and turned away,  
you called us back to yourself,  
and gave your Son to share our human nature.  
You raised him to life triumphant over death;  
you exalted him in glory.  
By his victory over death,  
the reign of sin is ended,  
a new age has dawned,  
a broken world is restored  
and we are made whole once more.

In him you have made us a holy people  
by sending upon us your holy and lifegiving Spirit.  
Therefore with the faithful who rest in him,  
with angels and archangels  
and all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your great and glorious name,  
forever praising you and saying:

**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.**

*Please sit or kneel*

All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father;  
on the night before he died  
your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread;  
when he had given you thanks,  
he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;  
do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup;  
when he had given you thanks,  
he gave it to them and said:  
Drink this, all of you,  
for 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, to remember me:

Glory to you, Lord Christ;  
your death we show forth;  
your resurrection we proclaim;  
your coming we await,  
Amen! Come Lord Jesus.

Therefore loving God,  
recalling your great goodness to us in Christ,  
his suffering and death, his resurrection and ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life  
and this cup of salvation.  
Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving  
which we offer through Christ our great high priest.

Send your Holy Spirit  
that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive  
may be to us the body and blood of Christ,  
and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power,  
may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.

United in Christ with all who stand before you  
in earth and heaven, we worship you, O God,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

✠ Blessing, honour and glory be yours,  
here and everywhere,  
now and for ever. Amen.

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour taught us we pray/sing:

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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

Kua akona nei tatou e to tatou Ariki, Ka inoi tatou

E to matou Matua i te rangi  
Kia tapu tou Ingoa.  
Kia tae mai tou rangatiratanga.  
Kia meatia tau e pai ai  
ki runga ki te whenua,  
kia rite ano ki te rangi.  
Homai ki a matou aiane  
he taro ma matou mo tenai ra.  
Murua o matou hara,  
Me matou hoki e muru nei  
i o te hunga e hara ana ki a matou.  
Aua hoki matou e kawea kia whakawaia;  
Engari whakaorangia matou i te kino:  
Nou hoki te rangatiratanga, te kaha,  
me te kororia, Ake ake ake. Amine.

*Silence is kept*

*The presiding priest breaks the bread*

**W**e break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body,  
for we all share the one bread.**

*We say/sing together...*

**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 your peace**

**Alleluia. Christ is risen!**

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

*The Priest and the Sanctuary team receive Communion and then the  
People.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Christ you are risen from the dead.  
You are light in our darkness,  
warmth in our cold.  
May our life never deny your eternal life,  
this peace and hope and joy.  
May the new covenant sealed by your love  
bring healing and reconciliation to this wounded world.  
**Alleluia. You are risen. We are risen with you.**  
**Praise and glory to the living God. Amen**

*We sing our **Final Hymn***

*A ✠ **Blessing** is given...*

*We are sent out with these words*

**Go** now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace. Alleluia!  
**Amen. We go in the name of Christ. Alleluia!**

*You are warmly invited to share Morning Tea in the Hall following the  
9.30am service*