

# The Parish Church of St Paul, Wokingham



## The First Mass of Easter

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*The President and the altar party gather at the West End of Church, carrying the lit Paschal Candle. The congregation turn to face them.*

### The Service of Light

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light.

*(Genesis 1.1)*

Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night, for the love of your only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the awesome power of God. As we hear his word and proclaim all that God has done, we can be confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever.

*The Deacon raises the Paschal Candle. Singers sing on our behalf:*  
The light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

*The candles of those around are lit from the Paschal Candle.  
The procession moves into the building and the response is repeated.*

### **The Exsultet:** *the Easter Song of Praise*

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing choirs of angels!

Exult all creation around God's throne!

Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Jesus Christ, our King, is Risen!

Rejoice, O Earth, in shining splendour!

Be radiant in the brightness of your King!

Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!

Darkness vanishes for ever! ...

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

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

...and is alive and reigns for ever and ever! **Amen.**

## The Easter Acclamation

ALLELUIA! Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. ALLELUIA!**

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**He has given us new life.**

**He has given us new hope.**

**He has raised Jesus from the dead.**

ALLELUIA! Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. ALLELUIA!**



*A joyful fanfare is played, bells rung, cymbals clashed, whistles blown. A joyful noise is made to celebrate the resurrection!  
All the lights in church are switched on.*

**Gloria in Excelsis** is said, with joy

**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

Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.  
Lord of all life and power,  
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son  
overcame the old order of sin and death  
to make all things new in him,  
grant that we, being dead to sin  
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,  
may reign with him in glory;  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
be praise and honour, glory and might,  
now and in all eternity. Amen.

**Bible Reading:** Acts 10.34-43

*At the end the reader says*

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

## Gradual Hymn

### Gospel Reading: John 20.1-18

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

*When the gospel reading is announced:*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end of the gospel reading:*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Sermon:** *We sit*

## The Liturgy of Baptism

*The whole assembly turns to face the font as the procession follows the Paschal Candle to the West End of Church.*

Praise God who made heaven and earth,  
**who keeps his promise for ever.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ  
was baptised in the river Jordan,  
we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse us and revive us.  
We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea  
you led your people out of slavery  
to freedom in the promised land.

We thank you that through the deep waters of death  
you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph.

*The Paschal Candle is lowered into the font three times.*

We ask you, Father, with your Son.

to send the Holy Spirit upon the waters of this font.

*The candle is held in the water.*

May all who are buried with Christ

in the death of baptism rise also with him to new life.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Renewal of Baptismal Vows**

Dear friends, as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the paschal mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism, so that we may rise to a new life within the family of the Church.

Now that we have completed our observance of Lent, we renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil.

Therefore I ask these questions:

Do you reject evil? **I reject evil.**

And all its many forms? **And all its many forms.**

Do you turn to Christ? **I turn to Christ.**

And put your trust in him? **And put my trust in him.**

And now I ask you to make the profession of Christian faith into which you were baptised and in which you live and grow.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
who made the world?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ,  
who redeemed humankind?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to you and all the people of God?

**I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church,

**THIS IS OUR FAITH!**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**ALLELUIA! AMEN!**

Almighty God,  
we thank you for our fellowship  
in the household of faith  
with all those who have been baptised in your name.  
Keep us faithful to our baptism,  
and so make us ready for that day  
when the whole creation  
shall be made perfect in your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*It is customary to make the sign of the cross when the President does,  
claiming these lifelong promises for ourselves.*

# The Liturgy of the Eucharist

## The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw their Risen Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you  
**and also with you. Alleluia!**

*The Deacon invites us to share a sign of peace.*

*All exchange a sign of peace, greeting one another with these words*

The Lord is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

*During the peace we hold out Christ's peace to one another,  
picturing the whole people of God gathered together in this moment.*

*Do please put your message in the comment box on YouTube.*

## Offertory Hymn

### Preparation of the Table

Pray my brothers and sisters that our sacrifice may be acceptable to God the almighty Father:

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands,  
for the praise and glory of his Name,  
for our good and the good of all his church.**

## Prayer over the gifts

Lord of life,  
with unbounded joy we offer you our sacrifice of praise.  
As we are fed with the bread of heaven  
may we know your resurrection power;  
through Christ our risen Lord. **Amen**

## The Eucharistic Prayer (D)

*We remain standing, unless unable to do so.*

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

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
almighty and eternal Father,  
and on this day 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.

**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!**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died  
he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Deacon: Praise to you Lord Jesus!

**Dying you destroyed our death!**

**Rising you restored our life:**

**Lord Jesus, come in glory!**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
St Paul and St Nicholas, St Frideswide and St Sigfrid,  
the first witnesses of the Resurrection  
and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**



## **The Lord's Prayer: *We sit or kneel***

Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
let us pray as our Redeemer has taught us:  
**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.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,  
whoever eats this bread will live forever.  
**Lord, our hearts hunger for you;  
give us this bread always.**

## **The Agnus Dei**

**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.**

## The Invitation

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

Christ is in our midst. **He is and always will be.**

*If you usually receive communion in your own church,  
or you have done so in the past, you are most welcome  
to receive communion on this most holy day.*

*If you would prefer to receive a prayer of blessing  
please bring this order of service with you to the front.*

*If you're at home, please use this time to talk to the Risen Christ-  
heart touching heart.*

## Prayer after Communion

God of Life,  
who for our redemption  
gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross,  
and by his glorious resurrection  
have delivered us from the power of our enemy,  
grant us so to die daily to sin,  
that we may evermore live with him  
in the joy of his risen life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## A Poem for Easter Day

# The Dismissal

ALLELUIA! Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. ALLELUIA!**

God the Father,

by whose love Christ was raised from the dead  
open to you who believe the gate of everlasting life. **Amen!**

God the Son,

who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,  
give you joy as you share the Easter faith. **Amen!**

God the Holy Spirit,

who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,  
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace. **Amen!**

And the blessing... **Amen!**

## Recessional Hymn

### The Easter Dismissal Gospel

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.'

*(John 11.25, 26)*

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

He is not here. He is risen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! Alleluia! ALLELUIA!

**In the name of Christ! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!**

*Cover image: The Empty Tomb by Julia Stankova*

*If you'd like to find out about everything that is happening in the parish, please email [church.office@spauls.co.uk](mailto:church.office@spauls.co.uk) and we will happily put you on our regular mailing list.*

*After the service you are welcome to listen to the music and then to leave via the South Door.*

*There will be a collection plate and debit card machine as you leave if you would like to make a donation to support the work of the parish. You can text a donation to St Paul's to 70450, texting STPAULS5 or STPAULS10 or STPAULS20 to donate that amount of money.*

*Do please use the handgel as you leave as well.*

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

