



St Michael with St Mary



**Holy Communion
Easter to Pentecost**



Welcome

Welcome to St Michaels and St Marys: two Christian communities, part of the Church of England. For more information about what we do, please take a welcome leaflet or search our website.

You have come to a service of Holy Communion: we hear God's Word through the Bible, and share Jesus' presence in bread and wine. Christians from different traditions worship here and we do our best to meet a breadth of need.

Along with a blue hymn book found in each pew, this booklet contains much of what you will need for today's service. We say the **bold type** words together. Words in *italics* offer practical information for example about when to stand or sit. Words in boxes explain the reason for what we do and say.

Singing is an important part of worship. In addition to the hymns, music for the parts of the service (the 'setting') is printed in this booklet. The setting in this booklet includes music by John Bell and Richard Bond.

Sit where you feel most comfortable. Apart from a few seats for people with specific jobs, no spaces are reserved.

If you have children with you, the back of the north aisle and adjacent tower room contain toys and books. During term time, children's groups run in the Parish Centre and nearby school.

Toilets and baby change facilities are available. Please see a steward for access.

If you have a hearing amplification device, use setting 'T'; the strongest signal is in the main body of the church forward from the entrance door.

**If you need large print
please ask a steward**

Eastertide

Easter is the happiest time of the Christian year! Jesus has been raised from the dead and shares his eternal life with all believers. The colours of the season are celebratory white and gold.

On Easter Day many churches rededicate their paschal candle, a reminder of Christ's light among us. Since the time of the early Church, Easter has also been the traditional season for adult Baptisms: candidates who have undertaken preparation during Lent celebrate their faith during the great vigil service on Easter Eve, recalling the story of the Passover, how God saved the Jewish people through the waters of the Red Sea.

The name 'Easter' actually derives from a pagan festival which was kept at this time of year before the Anglo-Saxons were converted to Christianity in the seventh century. In non-Germanic languages the festival name is more appropriately rooted in the Jewish 'Passover' / 'Pesach' - e.g. Welsh 'Pasg' or French 'Pâques'.

Easter Day is calculated as the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. The season culminates on Ascension Day, when, after forty days, Jesus returned to his Father in heaven. Following the Ascension, the disciples went back to Jerusalem to wait for the coming of God's Spirit; this happened at 'Pentecost' – literally 'fifty days' after Easter.

Happy Easter: may Christ meet you in the power of his risen presence!



Before we begin

Ideally there is time to still ourselves before the service. You may like to use these words for reflection and prayer.

Lord of all life and power,
who through the 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,
may reign with him in glory. Amen.

Now is eternal life,
if risen with Christ we stand,
in him to life reborn,
and holden in his hand;
no more we fear death's ancient dread,
in Christ arisen from the dead.

If in that Syrian garden, ages slain,
You sleep, and know not you are dead in vain,
Nor even in dreams behold how dark and bright
Ascends in smoke and fire by day and night
The hate you died to quench and could but fan,
Sleep well and see no morning, son of man.
But if, the grave rent and the stone rolled by,
At the right hand of majesty on high
You sit, and sitting so remember yet
Your tears, your agony and bloody sweat,
Your cross and passion and the life you gave,
Bow hither out of heaven and see and save.

AE Housman



The Gathering (Easter Day only)

The church begins without light as we stand for the traditional ceremonies of the Easter candle.

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

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 candle is lit

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

The Easter candle is processed

The light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

The candle is marked as a sign of Christ's endless power

Christ yesterday and today,
the beginning and the end,
Alpha and Omega,
all time belongs to him,
and all ages;
to him be glory and power;
through every age and for ever. **Amen.**

Nails are inserted into the candle

as a reminder of the cost of Christ's victory

By his holy and glorious wounds
may Christ our Lord guard and keep us.
Amen.

The candle is placed in its holder as we sing God's praises

Hymn

The service continues on page 7

The Gathering (Easter Season)

Hymn or Song

Please stand

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

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

Prayer of Preparation

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

Words of introduction may be used

Kneel or Sit

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

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

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

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

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

Stand

GLORIA

John L. Bell
adapted Colin Hamling 2013

(Organ) ALL
Glo-ry to God in the high-est and peace to his peo-ple on
earth. Lord God, heav-en - ly King, Al-might-y God and Fa-ther we
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.
Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take a way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are
(Organ)
seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther, re - ceive our prayer.
ALL
For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the
Lord. You a-lone are the most high - Je - sus Christ, with the
Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men!
(Organ) ALL
A - - - men! -

The Collect
Liturgy of the Word

One or more themes of the day link
the collect and readings;
the sermon usually reflects on these.

Old Testament Reading

Sit

At the end, the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A Psalm or the Easter Anthems may be sung:

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: therefore
let us keep the feast;
Not with the old leaven, nor with the leaven of
malice and wickedness: but with the unleavened
bread of sincerity and truth. *1 Cor. 5.7*

Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more:
death hath no more dominion over him.
For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in
that he liveth, he liveth unto God.
Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead
indeed unto sin: but alive unto God, through
Jesus Christ our Lord. *Rom. 6.9*

Christ is risen from the dead: and become the
first-fruits of them that slept.
For since by man came death: by man came also
the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die: even so in Christ shall all
be made alive. *1 Cor. 15.20*

New Testament Reading

Hymn or Song

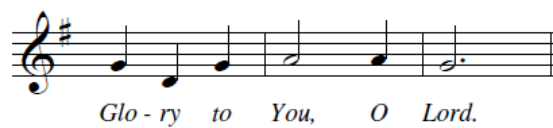
After which, we remain standing in respect for:

The Gospel



A sentence may be sung and the Alleluia repeated

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to:



This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

Please sit after the introductory prayer

If there is a Baptism please turn to page 19

We stand for

The Creed

The creed is a summary
of Christian belief
from the Early 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,
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

Please kneel or sit

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

or

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

or

Lord of compassion,
in your mercy hear us.

and at the end

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Stand

Words of introduction

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

Hymn or Song

Preparation of the Table

A prayer may be said

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

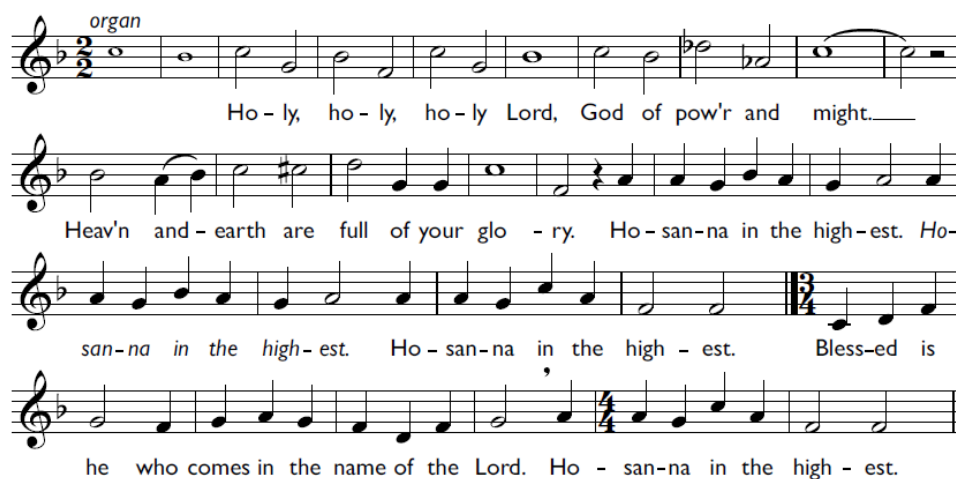
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

A seasonal extended preface may be added here, or:

Father, you made the world and love your creation.
You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.
His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.
And so we gladly thank you,
with saints and angels praising you, and singing:

organ



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might._____

Heav'n and - earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in the high - est. Ho -

san-na in the high - est. Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is

he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

'Eucharist' means 'thanksgiving' in Greek. This part of our service commemorates Jesus' giving thanks to the Father at the Last Supper, and also thanks God for everything that he does for us through Jesus.

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.

**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 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

Kneel or sit

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**



Giving of Communion

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us celebrate the feast. Alleluia!

Please come to one of the altars.

*If you take Communion in your home church you are very
welcome to do so here.*

*If Communion is something you are not used to we would
love to share a prayer of blessing; please carry this booklet
to indicate that this is what you would like.*

During Communion the choir will sing an anthem

Prayer after Communion

Sit

A collect may be said, and then

**Author of life divine,
in the resurrection of your Son, you set before us
the mystery of his triumph over sin and death;
may all who are washed in the waters of rebirth
rise to newness of life
and find the promised presence
of your abundant grace;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Dismissal

If there is a Baptism please turn to page 24

Hymn or Song

Stand

Notices

Please sit for the notices and then stand for the final prayer:

The president will use a seasonal blessing followed by

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

*Do stay for refreshments in the Parish Centre
(the freestanding building in the churchyard)*

Appendix I: Baptism

At the beginning

The president may use these or other introductory words:

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us
that to enter the kingdom of heaven
we must be born again of water and the Spirit,
and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this new birth.
Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean.
Here we are clothed with Christ,
dying to sin that we may live his risen life.
As children of God, we have a new dignity
and God calls us to fullness of life.

At the Collect

The president may use these or other introductory words:

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
from whose wounded side flowed life for the world:
raise your people from sin and death
and build them as living stones
into the spiritual temple of your Church;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, world without end.
Amen.

Presentation of the Candidates

At the end of the sermon we stand and face the font

The president addresses the whole congregation

God raised Jesus Christ from the dead
and sent the Holy Spirit to recall the whole world to himself.
In baptism we die to sin and rise to newness of life in Christ.
Here we find rebirth in the Spirit,
and set our minds on his heavenly gifts.
As children of God, we are continually created anew,
as we walk the path of faith,
and feed on the forgiveness of his healing grace.

Faith is the gift of God to his people.
In baptism the Lord is adding to our number
those whom he is calling.
People of God, will you welcome *N (and M...)*
and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

Parents and godparents,
the Church receives these children with joy.
Today we are trusting God for their growth in faith.
Will you pray for them,
draw them by your example into the community of faith
and walk with them in the way of Christ?

Parents and godparents: With the help of God, we will.

In baptism these children begin their journey in faith.
You speak for them today.
Will you care for them,
and help them to take their place
within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

Parents and godparents: With the help of God, we will.

The Decision

Baptism involves a two-way movement,
away from sin and towards God -
seen here and in the creed on the next page

The president addresses the congregation

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness
into his marvellous light.

To follow Christ means dying to sin
and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God
and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

Profession of Faith

At Easter Christians are encouraged
to renew the vows made at their baptism.
And so, brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess
together with these candidates
the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**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.**

Do you believe and trust in 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.**

Prayer over the Water

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 baptized 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.

Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it
may be made one with Christ
in his death and in his resurrection,
to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them,
bring them to new birth in the household of faith
and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life;
for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours,
now and for ever.

Amen.

Baptism

N, I baptise you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

You have been clothed with Christ.
As many as are baptised into Christ have put on Christ.

Signing with the Cross

*The president makes the sign of the cross
on the forehead of each candidate, saying*

Christ claims you for his own.
Receive the sign of his cross.

When all the candidates have been signed

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.
**Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ
against sin, the world and the devil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May God,
who has received you by baptism into his Church,
pour upon you the riches of his grace,
that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people
you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit,
and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.
Amen.

The Welcome

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.
**We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you.**

Please turn back to page 12

The Dismissal

Notices

Sit

Hymn or Song

*Please stand for this hymn,
during which the parents come to the front of church*

Giving of a Lighted Candle

This candle is a permanent reminder of today's baptism;
its light is taken from the Easter candle,
a reminder that we all carry Christ's light into the world.

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and has given us a place with the saints in light.
You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.
**Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.**

*The president will use a seasonal blessing followed by
Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.*

*Do stay for refreshments in the Parish Centre
(the freestanding building in the churchyard)*

Appendix 2: Recommissioning of the Baptised

Those who are baptised are called to worship and serve God.
Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil,
and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,
by prayer for the world and its leaders,
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

With the help of God, I will.

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,
that you may be rooted and grounded in love
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

Amen.



Ascension



Pentecost



*Easter lilies - a traditional symbol of Jesus' resurrection:
thank you to all who have decorated church
and in other ways prepared for this festival season*

Please return this booklet to the back of church as you leave

It costs over £300 per day to maintain the ministry of our parish. If you are not on a regular giving scheme to St Michaels or St Marys, please give generously on the plate by the door - and consider using a Gift Aid envelope if you are a UK taxpayer.

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