



*St* HELEN'S CHURCH  
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

# Sung Eucharist in Eastertide



Welcome to St Helen's Church. If you are new to St Helen's and would like to make this your church home, please complete one of the cards which can be found in the pews or at the welcome desk.

Our service today is a Eucharist, or service of Holy Communion. If you are visiting with us today and you would normally receive communion in your home church, you are very welcome to the Lord's table here. If you do not wish to receive bread and wine, we invite you to come forward during the giving of communion to receive a blessing. Please bring this booklet with you as an indication that you would like a blessing. Gluten-free communion wafers are available, please just let the welcome desk know if you need gluten-free.

Coffee is served after the service on most Sundays. Please do join us for this time of fellowship.

Find out more about us at  
<https://abingdonparish.org.uk/StH/StH.html>.

## The Greeting

*The choir may sing an introit to introduce the service.*

*The choir and clergy enter while a hymn is sung.*

*As you are able, please remain standing.*

*The president greets the people*

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*On Easter Day, the Easter Garden is blessed*

*A reader says*

The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.'

*Matthew 28.5,6*

*The president says*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

To you be glory now and for ever.

In your great mercy you have given us a new birth  
into a living hope

through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

By your blessing, may we who have prepared this garden in  
celebration of his victory be strengthened in faith,

know the power of his presence,

and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory.

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

*Then, this prayer may be said (omitted on Easter Day)*

**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**

*A minister uses a seasonal invitation to confession*

*From Easter Day until the Eve of the Ascension*

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.

*From the day after Ascension Day until the day of Pentecost*

What God has prepared for those who love him,  
he has revealed to us through the Spirit;  
for the Spirit searches everything.  
Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord,  
who has prepared good things for those who love him.

*All* **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
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,  
who died for us, 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 president says the words of absolution after which all say*  
*All* **Amen.**

*The Gloria is sung*

*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 president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray'*

*The collect is said and all respond:*

*All* **Amen.**

## **Readings**

*Please sit for the readings. At the end of each the reader may say*

For the gift of the word

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*First reading.*

*The psalm (the words to the psalm can be found in the news sheet).*

*Second reading.*

*A Gradual hymn is sung before the Gospel, after which, as you are able, please remain standing.*

## Gospel Reading

*An acclamation may herald the Gospel reading.*

*From Easter Day until the Eve of the Ascension*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;  
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

**All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*From the day after Ascension Day until the day of Pentecost*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people  
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

**All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N*.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

*Please sit for the sermon.*

## The Creed

*As you are able, please stand for the Creed.*

**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**

*Please sit or kneel for the intercessions.*

*These responses may be used*

Lord, in your mercy	<i>(or)</i> Lord, hear us.
<i>All</i> <b>hear our prayer.</b>	<i>All</i> <b>Lord, graciously hear us.</b>

## **The Peace**

*As you are able, please stand. The president introduces the Peace  
From Easter Day until the Eve of the Ascension*

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.

*From the day after Ascension until Pentecost*

God has made us one in Christ.

He has set his seal upon us and,

as a pledge of what is to come,

has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

*All* **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

## Preparation of the Table

*An Offertory hymn is sung during which a collection may be taken. After the hymn, as you are able, please remain standing. It is customary to stand for all of the Eucharistic Prayer, but please stand or kneel, as best helps you to pray.*

## The Eucharistic Prayer

*The president says*

The Lord be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*The president recalls the saving works of God*

*From Easter Day to the Eve of Ascension*

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 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:

### *From the day after Ascension to the Eve of Pentecost*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
For he is our great high priest  
who has entered once for all  
into the heavenly sanctuary,  
evermore to pour upon your Church  
the grace and comfort of your Holy Spirit.  
He is the one who has gone before us,  
who calls us to be united in prayer  
as were his disciples in the upper room  
while they awaited his promised gift,  
the life-giving Spirit of Pentecost.  
Therefore all creation yearns with eager longing  
as angels and archangels sing the endless hymn of praise:

### *On the Day of Pentecost*

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and everlasting God,  
through Jesus Christ, your only Son our Lord.  
This day we give you thanks  
because in fulfilment of your promise  
you pour out your Spirit upon us,  
filling us with your gifts, leading us into all truth,  
and uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith.  
Your Spirit gives us grace to call you Father,  
to proclaim your gospel to all nations  
and to serve you as a royal priesthood.  
Therefore we join our voices with angels and archangels,  
and with all those in whom the Spirit dwells,  
to proclaim the glory of your name,  
for ever praising you and singing:

*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.**

*The President recalls the Last Supper*

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 the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

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.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

*All* **Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.  
You are the Saviour of the world.**

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.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

*All* **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**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

*All* **Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

*The Agnus Dei is led or sung by the choir*

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.

*(or)*

Jesus, Lamb of God,  
have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins,  
have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the  
world, grant us peace.

*The President gives the invitation to Communion*

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

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

*The choir sings an anthem while the congregation receives Communion, after which a hymn is sung.*

*After the hymn, as you are able, please remain standing.*

## **Prayer after Communion**

*The President may say the post-Communion prayer, after which all respond:*

**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**

*From Easter Day to the Eve of Ascension*

The God of peace,  
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
that great shepherd of the sheep,  
through the blood of the eternal covenant,  
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,  
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight...

*From the day after Ascension Day until the day of Pentecost*

The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth,  
give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
and strengthen you to proclaim the word and works of God...

and the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

*Notices*

*A minister says*

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

*All* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

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