



The First Eucharist of Easter, with Baptism and Confirmation

8th April 2023

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Bishop of Buckingham

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DIOCESE *of* **OXFORD**

A Christ-like Church for the sake of God's world

Welcome to All Saints. In this service, where the congregation is invited to stand please feel free to stand or sit as is comfortable for you.

We gather to worship

*The church is in darkness. The choir enters to the platform in silence.
The ministers, candidates and sponsors enter and go to the west entrance.
We stand and turn to face them.
A fire is lit outside.*

The bishop says,

Eternal God, who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
set us aflame with the fire of your love,
and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Paschal Candle is marked, saying,

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.

Incense studs are inserted into the Candle, saying,

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

Amen.

The ministers, candidates and sponsors move inside the west end of the building.

Presentation of the Candidates

The candidates are presented to the congregation.

The bishop asks the candidate for baptism

Do you wish to be baptized? **I do.**

The bishop asks the candidates for confirmation who have been baptized

Have you been baptized in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit? **I have.**

The bishop asks all the candidates

Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart
to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ? **I am.**

The bishop addresses the whole congregation,

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 these candidates

and uphold them in their life in Christ?

We will.

The Decision and Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Standing by the unlit Candle, the bishop says

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. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you turn away from sin?

I do.

Do you reject evil?

I do.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I do.

Do you trust in him as Lord?

I do.

The bishop takes a taper and lights the Paschal Candle, saying

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

Signing with the Cross

The priest makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptism candidate, saying

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

The priest invites their godparents and sponsors to sign the candidate with the sign of the cross.

Then the priest says,

Do not be ashamed of Christ.
You are his for ever.

**Stand bravely with him
against all the powers of evil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

Amen.

The minister bearing the candle raises it and sings,

The Light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

The Paschal Candle for St Francis' Church is lit and placed at the font.

The procession moves forward and stops. The versicle and response are repeated. Our candles are lit from the Paschal Candle.

The procession moves forward once more and the versicle and response are repeated. The Paschal Candle is placed on a stand on the platform.

Those in the procession go to their seats.

The Easter Exsultet, or Song of Praise, is sung by a minister,

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
O Universe, dance around God's throne!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Sound the victorious trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in glory, revealing the splendour of your creation,
radiant in the brightness of your triumphant King!
Christ has conquered! Now his life and glory fill you!
Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!
The risen Saviour, our Lord of life, shines upon you!
Let all God's people sing and shout for joy.

A minister continues, saying,

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 right and good that with hearts and minds and voices
we should praise you, Father almighty, the unseen God,
through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who has saved us by his death,
paid the price of Adam's sin,
and reconciled us once again to you.
For this is the Passover feast,
when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain
whose blood consecrates the homes of all the faithful.

This is the night when you first saved our ancestors,
freeing Israel from her slavery
and leading her safely through the sea.

This is the night when Jesus Christ vanquished hell,
broke the chains of death
and rose triumphant from the grave.

This is the night when all who believe in him are freed from sin,
restored to grace and holiness,
and share the victory of Christ.

This is the night that gave us back what we had lost;
beyond our deepest dreams
you made even our sin a happy fault.

Most blessed of all nights!
Evil and hatred are put to flight and sin is washed away,
lost innocence regained, and mourning turned to joy.

Night truly blessed, when hatred is cast out,
peace and justice find a home, and heaven is joined to earth
and all creation reconciled to you.

Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy
accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering.
Grant that this Easter Candle may make our darkness light.

For Christ the morning star has risen in glory;
Christ is risen from the dead and his flame of love still burns within us!
Christ sheds his peaceful light on all the world!
Christ lives and reigns for ever and ever! **Amen.**

The Easter Acclamation

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

*We sing the Gloria, the lights come on, the remaining candles at the altar are lit,
and we extinguish our personal candles.*

**Glory, glory to God, glory to God in the highest,
peace to his people on earth, 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.**

**Glory, glory to God, glory to God in the highest,
peace to his people on earth, peace to his people on earth.**

**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, receive our prayer, 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, the glory, the glory of God the Father.
Amen, amen, amen.
Amen, amen, amen.**

The bishop says,

Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

Silence is kept.

The Collect

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.

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

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

We stand,

Alleluia...
Alleluia...
O Sons and Daughters, let us sing:
The King of heaven, the glorious king,
This day from death rose triumphing: Alleluia!
Alleluia...

We turn to face the reader.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' which means Teacher. Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit for the sermon.

We sing this hymn as the ministers candidates and sponsors move to the font,

Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,

Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.

**Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of creation.**

***Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.***

**Spread the good news o'er all the earth.
Jesus has died and has risen. *Refrain.***

**We have been crucified with Christ.
Now we shall live forever. *Refrain.***

**God has proclaimed the just reward:
Life for the world, alleluia! *Refrain.***

**Come, let us praise the living God,
Joyfully sing to our Saviour. *Refrain.***

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 him thanks and praise.

We praise you, loving Father,
for the gift of your Son Jesus.
He was baptized in the River Jordan,
where your Spirit came upon him
and revealed him as the Son you love.
He sent his followers
to baptize all who turn to him.
Now, Father, we ask you to bless this water,
that those who are baptized in it
may be cleansed in the water of life,
and, filled with your Spirit,
may know that they are loved as your children,
safe in Christ for ever.
Amen.

Profession of Faith

Brothers and sisters, I ask you with this candidate to profess 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.**

The Baptism

The priest says to the candidate for baptism,

Is this your faith?
This is my faith.

The candidate is baptized

The priest says,

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 candidates for confirmation who have previously been baptized
come forward to the font and sign themselves with water.*

The bishop says,

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of
faith with all who have been baptized into 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.

The procession returns to the front as we sing,

**Come, Holy Ghost, our souls inspire, and lighten with celestial fire;
thou the anointing Spirit art, who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart.**

**Thy blessed unction from above is comfort, life, and fire of love;
enable with perpetual light the dullness of our blinded sight.**

**Anoint and cheer our soiled face with the abundance of thy grace:
keep far our foes, give peace at home; where thou art guide no ill can come.**

**Teach us to know the Father, Son, and thee, of both, to be but one;
that through the ages all along this may be our endless song,
'Praise to thy eternal merit, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.'**

The Confirmation

The bishop says,

Our help is in the name of the Lord
who has made heaven and earth.

Blessed be the name of the Lord
now and for ever. Amen.

The bishop extends his hands towards those to be confirmed and says

Almighty and ever-living God,
you have given these your servants new birth
in baptism by water and the Spirit,
and have forgiven them all their sins.
Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them:
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;
the Spirit of counsel and inward strength;
the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;
and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord.
Amen.

The bishop addresses each candidate by name

N, God has called you by name and made you his own.

The bishop then lays hands on the head of each, saying

Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The bishop then anoints the newly-confirmed with the Oil of Chrism.

The bishop invites the congregation to pray for those who have been confirmed,

**Defend, O Lord, these your servants with your heavenly grace,
that they may continue yours for ever,
and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more
until they come to your everlasting kingdom.**

Amen.

The Commission

The bishop says,

Those who are baptized 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.

We welcome the newly-confirmed,

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism.
By one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

**We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father, we welcome you.**

We welcome Peter Crook to Holy Communion. The priest says

Brothers and sisters, today we are welcoming Peter to Holy Communion. As parents and godparents, and as the community of All Saints, we share the responsibility of encouraging him in his worship, and of supporting him by our friendship, our example and our prayers.

Will you help him to grow in faith and love?

We will.

Peter, you love God, you follow Jesus, and you live the Christian life. Do you wish to receive Holy Communion?

Yes.

As Peter receives today the sacrament of the body and blood of Christ, let us pray that we may all know and reflect the love of Christ.

God of life, you invite us to eat at your table;
may we know your love as we share your heavenly food,
and shine with your light all the days of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The bishop introduces the Peace,

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 Lord be always with you. Alleluia! Alleluia!
and also with you. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The deacon says,

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We all exchange a sign of peace.

We offer bread and wine

We sing this hymn, during which a collection for the Bishops' Outreach Fund will be taken.

**Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
*Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.***

**In the grave they laid him, Love who had been slain,
Thinking that never he would awake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
*Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.***

**Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
Quick from the dead the risen Lord is seen:
*Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.***

**When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Thy touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts, that dead and bare have been:
*Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.***

The bishop offers the bread and wine.

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

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.

The bishop continues, praising God for his mighty acts, then we sing,

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and God of might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he, blessed is he,
blessed is he who comes in the name,
He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

The bishop continues, recalling the Last Supper,

Then the Deacon says,

Great is the mystery of faith.

We sing,

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

The Prayer continues and leads into the doxology, and we sing,

**Amen, amen, amen.
Amen, amen, amen.**

We say the Lord's prayer together,

**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 forever. Amen.**

The bishop breaks the consecrated bread and says,

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

Lord, our hearts hunger for you; give us this bread always.

We sing,

**Jesus, Lamb of God, Jesus, Lamb of God,
You take away the sins of the world
have mercy on us. (repeat)**

**Jesus, Lamb of God, Jesus, Lamb of God,
You take away the sins of the world
Grant us your peace.**

We share in communion

The people receive communion. Those who do not wish to receive are warmly invited to come forward for an individual blessing. Gluten free wafers are available.

Please come to the front and form a queue. Please be mindful of the safety of others and remain distanced. Communion will be administered in both kinds, on the hand and from the chalice (optional). Please do not intinct (dip) the wafer in the chalice.

The bishop says,

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

We sing,

**Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
First-begotten from the dead,
Thou alone, our strong defender,
liftest up thy people's head.
Alleluia, alleluia, Jesu, true and living Bread.**

**Here our humblest homage pay we,
here in loving reverence bow;
here for faith's discernment pray we,
lest we fail to know thee now.
Alleluia, alleluia, Thou art here, we ask not how.**

**Paschal Lamb, thine offering, finished
once for all when thou wast slain,
in its fullness undiminished
shall for evermore remain,
Alleluia, alleluia, cleansing souls from every stain.**

**Life-imparting heavenly manna,
stricken rock with streaming side,
heaven and earth with loud hosanna
worship thee, the Lamb who died,
Alleluia, alleluia, risen, ascended, glorified!**

The choir sings the anthem This joyful Eastertide— Charles Wood

Following Communion, the bishop says this prayer,

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.**

We prepare to leave

*We sing the concluding hymn, during which the candidates are given a lighted
candle,*

**The strife is o'er, the battle done;
Now is the Victor's triumph won;
O let the song of praise be sung. Alleluia!**

**Death's mightiest powers have done their worst,
And Jesus hath his foes dispersed;
Let shouts of praise and joy outburst. Alleluia**

**On the third morn he rose again
Glorious in majesty to reign;
O let us swell the joyful strain. Alleluia!**

The bishop says,

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

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

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 Dismissal

The deacon says,

With the risen life of Christ within you,
Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

*The bishop leads the newly baptized and confirmed through the church.
You are warmly invited to stay after the service for refreshments.*



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