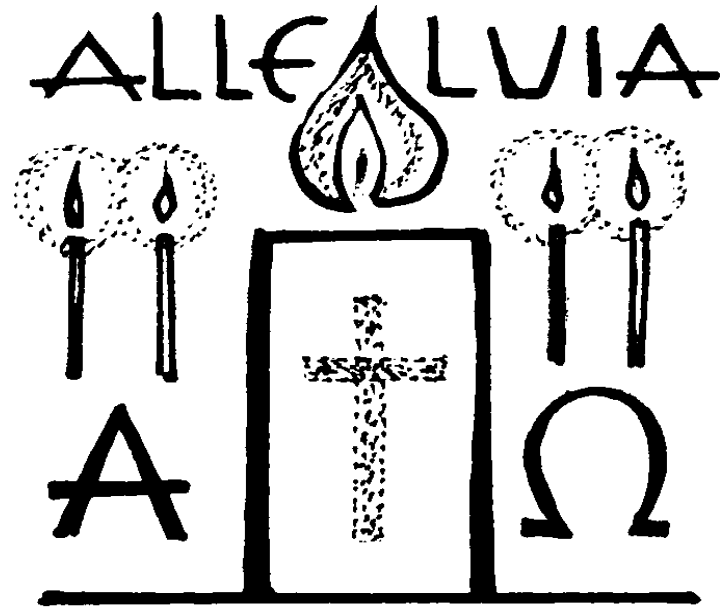




# The First Eucharist of Easter with Holy Baptism

Amelie Joy Bloxham Ketley



*Since earliest times Christians have gathered before dawn on Easter Day to recall God's saving work from creation to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our service moves from darkness to light as we light the Paschal Candle, renew our Baptismal vows and share in Holy Communion.*

## The Service of Light

*We gather outside the West entrance of the church, where the Easter Fire and the Paschal Candle are lit.*

*As we re-enter the church the Deacon sings three times,  
The Light of Christ  
Thanks be to God*

## The Exsultet

*This is the ancient prayer proclaiming the Risen Lord, sung by a cantor.  
Then the priest sings,*



The Lord be with you



**R.** and al-so with you.



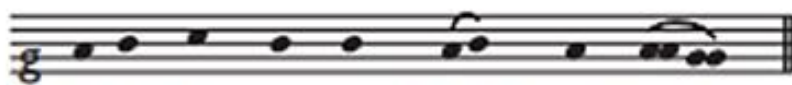
Lift up your hearts.



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



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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

*The cantor continues, and at the end, we sing,*



**A - men.**

## The Easter Acclamation

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*The lights come on, we blow out our candles and sing the Gloria,*  
**Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.**

**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.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.**

**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.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.**

**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.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, Glory to God in the highest.**

*The priest says 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**

## First Reading

Acts 10.34-43

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**

## Gospel

John 20.1-18

*We sing after the cantor,*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

O Sons and Daughters let us sing; the King of Heaven, the glorious King,  
this day from death rose triumphing! Alleluia!

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

*We hear the Gospel proclaimed,*

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

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.**

**Sermon**

*After the Sermon we sing this hymn as we move to the font,*

**Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,  
Wheat that in the 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 he never 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,  
Jesus who for three days in the grave had lain;  
Back from the dead my risen Lord is seen:  
*Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.***

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

*John Crum (1872-1958)*

## **Baptism and Renewal of Vows**

*The priest introduces the baptism, and asks Amelie,*

Do you wish to be baptized?

Amelie: I do.

*The priest addresses us all,*

We thank God for Amelie, who has come to be baptized today. Christ loves her and welcomes her into his Church. Will you support her on her

journey of faith? **We will.**

## **The Decision**

*The priest addresses Amelie and all of us,*

We all wander far from God and lose our way: Christ comes to find us and welcomes us home. In baptism we respond to his call.

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 priest assures us of God's forgiveness*

## **Signing with the Cross**

*The priest makes the sign of the cross on Amelie's forehead, saying,*  
Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross.

*After others have also anointed Amelie, 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 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.**

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.**

*Then the priest says,*

Let us affirm, together with all the baptized,  
our common faith in Jesus Christ.

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 priest then says,*

Amelie, is this your faith?

*Amelie replies:* This is my faith.

*The priest baptizes Amelie, saying*

Amelie Joy Bloxham, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*The priest sprinkles the people with the water of baptism*



*Then the priest addresses Amelie and leads us in prayer*

## **The Peace**

*The priest says,*

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

*The deacon says: let us offer one another a sign of peace.*

*We exchange a sign of peace, and return to the platform as we sing the offertory hymn,*

**This the night of new beginnings,  
This is the night when heaven meets earth.  
This is the night filled with God's glory, promise of our new birth!**

***Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.  
Shine through the darkness.  
Christ be our light!  
Shine in your church, gathered today.***

**Now will the fire kindled in darkness  
burn to dispel the shadows of night.  
Star of the morning, Jesus our Saviour, you are the world's true light!**

**Sing of the hope deeper than dying,  
Sing of the power stronger than death.  
Sing of the love endless as heaven, dawning throughout the earth.**

**Into this world morning is breaking,  
All of God's people, lift up your voice.  
Cry out with joy, tell out the story, all of the earth rejoice.**

*The priest takes the Bread and Wine and prays,*  
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 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 give thanks and praise.**

*The priest praises God for his mighty acts, ending,*  
...sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

*We sing*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

*The priest 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.**

*The Prayer continues and at the end we sing,*

**Amen, amen, amen.**

*Then we say the Lord's Prayer,*

**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.**

*The priest breaks the bread, saying,*

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

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

*We sing,*

**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.**

*Then the priest invites us to communion,*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

### **Post-communion Prayer**

*Silence is kept. Then the priest says,*

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 sing the final hymn, moving to the Easter Garden.  
Amelie is given a lighted candle.*

**Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!  
Now is the triumph of our King!  
To all the world glad news we bring:  
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"**

**The Lord of life is risen for ay;  
Bring flowers od song to strew his way  
let all the earth rejoice and say:  
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"**

**Praise we in songs of victory  
that Love, that Life, which cannot die,  
and sing with hearts uplifted high:  
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"**

**Thy name we bless, O risen Lord,  
and sing today with one accord  
the life laid down, the life restored:  
"Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"**

*Cyril Argentine Alington (1872-1955)*

## **The prayers at the Garden**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*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.'

*The priest 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.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*The priest continues,*

Risen Lord Jesus, as Mary Magdalene met you in the garden on the morning of your resurrection, so may we meet you today and every day: speak to us as you spoke to her; reveal yourself as the living Lord; renew our hope and kindle our joy; and send us to share the good news with others. **Amen.**

## **The Blessing and 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 gates of everlasting life.

**Amen.**

God the Son, who in bursting the grave has won a glorious victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

**Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

**Amen.**

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.

Amelie, 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 Deacon says*

Go in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*At the end of the service, do please join us for breakfast.*