

# The Stratfield Mortimer Benefice of

St Saviour  
Mortimer West End

St Mary and St John  
Stratfield Mortimer

St John the Baptist  
Padworth

St Mary's Church of England School

St John's Church of England School

Diocese of Oxford



'The Assurance of Thomas.'

A window by Christine Alexander  
at St. Thomas the Apostle church, Nassau Bay.

## The Parish Eucharist for The Second Sunday of Eastertide

7<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 10.00 a.m. at St John's church, Mortimer

Online at Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6931233940>

In Victor Hugo's novel 'The Hunchback of Notre Dame' the main protagonist is the fictional character 'Quasimodo' who was, famously, given his name because he was found at Paris' cathedral on this Second Sunday of Eastertide, which used, sometimes, to be known as Quasimodo Sunday because of words at the beginning of the service (the Introit or Entrance Antiphon): '*Like new-born babies, thirst for spiritual milk on which your spirit can grow to strength.*' Or, '*Quasi modo geniti infantes...*' (1 Peter 2: 2). It was taken to be a reminder that those newly baptised and confirmed on Easter Sunday need to have their faith nurtured that it might grow and be strengthened.

This Sunday's Gospel story tells how the risen Christ appeared to nurture and strengthen his disciples and offer words of reassurance, encouragement and commission. Christ found them huddled together in hiding because, having witnessed the injustice and brutality of the corrupt authorities who had condemned and killed Jesus, they knew nobody was safe. The disciples were frightened and bewildered. Mary had first reported seeing an empty tomb. Peter and John had found the grave cloths. Later, Mary claimed to have seen Jesus alive. But, even if Jesus had been raised from the dead what could this mean for them? Anyway, they must have asked themselves, when would the authorities come for them? Fearful and confused they made sure the doors were locked.

The story goes on, of course, to tell how the risen Christ appeared and spoke to them in familiar and reassuring words '*Peace be with you.*' Then he showed his wounded hands and side that they might recognise that their crucified friend had risen. Now the disciples would now be ready to receive the commission to continue his ministry. They were filled with joy, but they didn't stop locking the doors behind them.

Today many are frightened and bewildered. However, the simple message of the Gospel story is that it is to such as these that the risen one comes to meet us in all our difficulties and doubts and to encourage us to have faith, to rise up, and to move forwards with him. Meanwhile, perhaps we do well always to remember that, as the 17th century poet William Austen puts it, '*He that never doubted scarce ever well believed.*'

Stories down through the scriptures remind us again and again of those who started out very much aware of their fear and bewilderment. We remember Moses: '*I cannot do this... I cannot speak.*' We remember Jeremiah - downcast and struggling with depression. We remember Peter whose life at one point seemed to him to be characterised by faithlessness and failure - he denied his friend Jesus three times.

Of course, the simple Gospel message is that whilst everyone has fears and doubts we need always to remember that doubt is an essential ingredient of faith and of the process by which we question, and search, and seek to know more and grow. The Gospel story tells how Thomas doubted Jesus' resurrection. The world has labelled him 'Doubting Thomas.' Of course, the Gospel writer records Thomas' story to remind us how faith grows. After all, the Gospel story goes on to tell how Thomas came to call Jesus 'my Lord and my God.' In other words, the Gospel story is telling us that Thomas became the first to recognise who the risen Jesus really was.

Again, surely, the simple message is that when, like Thomas, we humbly recognise and confront our difficulties and doubts for what they really are then that 'grace and truth' which we see embodied in Christ crucified and risen can help us turn about our apparent weaknesses and come, like Thomas, to 'confess' in word and deed that 'Good News' which is called the resurrection.

God bless, Paul

# THE PARISH EUCHARIST FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

A warm welcome to the Parish's Sunday Eucharist in Eastertide.

An induction loop is provided. To use, please turn your hearing aid to T.

Gluten free wafers are available for those who need them. Please inform one of the vergers who will pass the information on to the clergy.

*Online:* If you are not able to come to St John's you are warmly invited to share in the Parish's Christmas Day Eucharist online. And may God bless and renew us as we join together to worship. **Thank you.**

*THIS 'HOLY MEMORIAL' is known by various names: 1) 'The Eucharist' - which means 'Thanksgiving' - because Jesus offered himself in love; 2) 'The Lord's Supper' - or 'Breaking of the Bread' - because we celebrate it as a shared meal; 3) 'Holy Communion,' - because we become one with Christ by receiving him; and 4) 'Holy Mass' - holy sending - because it gives us a mission: to go in peace to serve the Lord.*

*The 'objectives' of the Eucharist: The community gathers for the public celebration of the Eucharist in order to worship God; ask his forgiveness for sins; thank him for blessings received; listen to his voice in the Scriptures; present the needs of the world and our own needs too; offer our lives to him and his loving service; gain spiritual nourishment and recharge our weakened spiritual batteries by sharing life with him in Holy Communion. The simple structure of the Eucharistic celebration is organized around achieving these goals.*

## THE GATHERING HYMN

**Christ is made the sure foundation,  
Christ the Head and corner-stone,  
chosen of the Lord, and precious,  
binding all the church in one,  
Holy Sion's help for ever,  
and her confidence alone.**

**All that dedicated city,  
dearly loved of God on high,  
in exultant jubilation  
pours perpetual melody,  
God the One, in Three adoring  
in glad hymns eternally.**

**Laud and honour to the Father,  
laud and honour to the Son,  
laud and honour to the Spirit,  
ever Three, and ever One,  
consubstantial, co-eternal,  
while unending ages run.**

## THE GATHERING

Priest           + In the name of God - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All                **Amen.**

## THE GREETING - Words of Welcome and Introduction.

*The greeting proclaims the presence of the Lord with us.*

*The Penitential Rite, the Gloria and the Opening Prayer follow. The purpose of these preliminary rites is to help the people, gathered for the celebration of the Eucharist, to join with each other as a worshipping community, and to prepare to listen to the Word of God and to celebrate the Eucharist - the Great Thanksgiving.*

Priest           The Lord be with you.

All                **And also with you.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

*The priest may introduce the Eucharist.*

## THE PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

*The Invitation to Confession - we call to mind our sins that we may repent of them / turn from them and ask forgiveness of God and each other.*

Priest           My brothers and sisters, as we come together as God's family  
                    to celebrate the Easter mysteries,  
                    let us ask with confidence our heavenly Father's forgiveness for our sins,  
                    for he is gentle and compassionate.

*A pause for quiet reflection follows.*

**All** I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have sinned through my own fault, in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do.

*The Absolution*

+ Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.  
**All** Amen.

## **THE GLORIA**

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

**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 sins 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**

**Priest** Let us pray that the risen Christ will raise us up and renew our lives and our world.

*Together we spend a few moments in silence, realising, and giving thanks, that we are in the presence of God our Father to whom we make our prayers. The prayer 'collects' our thoughts.*

Risen Christ,  
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:  
open the doors of our hearts,  
that we may seek the good of others  
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,  
to the praise of God the Father.

**All** Amen.

## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*The Liturgy of the Word consists of readings from the scriptures; a sermon/homily, which expounds the readings; the Profession of Faith, which is the Creed of God's people; and the Prayer of the Faithful or General Intercessions in which the people of God intercede for all humankind and all creation.*

*In the Liturgy of the Word God speaks to us of redemption and salvation and nourishes us with his 'word.' We are not only listening to past history. The God who speaks to Israel and to the early Church speaks to us today through the power of the Holy Spirit working within us as we listen to him and as he reveals the pattern for our lives. 'The word of God is something alive and active: it cuts like any double edged sword but more finely...it can judge the secret emotions and thoughts' (The Letter to the Hebrews 4:12).*

**THE FIRST READING – THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 4: 32 – 35.** To be read by Viv Adler.

**Reader** A reading from The Acts of the Apostles.

*Of one heart and soul.*

The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

*At the end of the reading:*

**Reader** This is the word of the Lord.

**All** Thanks be to God.

*Now we prepare to hear the Gospel (the Good News) and acknowledge that we are his people and called to be part of his mission to the world inasmuch as we share his message and his life with faith, hope and love.*

Cantor        Laudate Dominum, Laudate Dominum,  
                    Omnes gentes, alleluia!

*Psalm 117 - The Ecumenical Community of Taizé*

**All                Laudate Dominum, Laudate Dominum,  
                    Omnes gentes, alleluia!**

### **THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Cantor        Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**All                Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Jesus said: ‘You believe because you can see me.  
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.’

*John 20: 29.*

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

### **THE GOSPEL READING – ST JOHN’S GOSPEL 20: 19 – 31.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

The Lord be with you.

**All                And also with you .**

Let us hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.

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

*Jesus appears to the disciples.*

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

*Jesus and Thomas.*

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’

*The purpose of this book.*

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

*At the end of the Gospel:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

**All                Laudate Dominum, Laudate Dominum,  
                    Omnes gentes, alleluia!**

### **THE SERMON**

*We are a Eucharistic community - united around word and sacrament. Through the readings God has spoken to his people of his redeeming love and of the nourishment which his Spirit gives. The sermon reflects on our readings and relates them to our Eucharistic celebration and to our ordinary daily life.*

*After the sermon there may be a short period of silent reflection.*

## **THE PROFESSION OF CHRISTIAN FAITH - THE CREED**

*We make the profession of faith in response to the word of God written in the Gospels and spoken in the sermon. We testify that God is our Father who gives us new life through his Son and who calls us together in the power of his Spirit to be a Eucharistic people, a 'thanksgiving people', a living community of his abiding self-giving love.*

**All**                    **We believe and trust in God the Father who made the world.**

**We believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ, who redeemed the world.**

**We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God. Amen**

## **THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL OR GENERAL INTERCESSION**

*We are invited to pray for all people and for all creation and for the needs of the Church's mission in bringing Christ's Gospel to the world. Through baptism we have been made one with Christ, our great high priest, and we share in his prayer before the Father for the needs of the Church's mission to the world. Our prayer flows from our listening to the Gospel and sermon by which we have been made more aware of our Christian commitment.*

*This Prayer of the Faithful, or General Intercession, is announced and consists of a series of intercessions; we pray for the universal Church and its mission and for our bishop and diocese and for our benefice - our parishes and our two Church schools; for the world, for this United Kingdom, for the King, for our District and Village Councils and local communities, for our families and friends; for the sick and suffering and for all in pain; and we remember those who have died. And in communion with Mary, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist and all the Saints of God we entrust one another and all people and all creation to God's saving love.*

**Priest:**            My brothers and sisters, let us pray to our heavenly Father, in union with risen Christ, and in the strength of the Holy Spirit.

*The deacon or minister continues:*

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Shed the light of the risen Christ upon our world and give us grace to live to share the joy of the Easter Gospel.

We pray for the Church, that it may be faithful to its mission to witness to Christ's goodness and his love for all humankind; for Justin our Archbishop; for Steven our bishop; for Olivia our area bishop; for our benefice's parishes and schools of St Mary's and St John's.

Lord, in your mercy,

**All**                    **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, bless and guide the King, our Government, our District and Village Councils, and all in authority that they may have grace to govern with wisdom and courage, direct us in the ways of justice and peace, and that together we may seek always the common good.

Lord, in your mercy,

**All**                    **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, bless our families, our friends, and all those you have given us to care for and all those who care for us. May this Eastertide be a springtime for our life together and may our love for one another bear witness to the love of the risen Christ for all.

Lord, in your mercy,

**All**                    **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray to you for those who are suffering and in pain: for those who are persecuted; for refugees; for the poor; for those weighed down by hardship; for those burdened by feelings of failure and guilt; for those who despair; for the lonely; for the broken-hearted; for those who mourn. And of our own we pray for...

May the love of the risen Christ bring them comfort and the hope of the resurrection bring them peace.

Lord, in your mercy,

**All**                    **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we remember before you all past parishioners, our loved ones gone before us, and those who have who have died recently...

May they know the joyful peace of the resurrection and may we be united for ever in heaven.

Lord, in your mercy,

**All**                    **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, in communion with Mary, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist and all the Saints, may we find strength in your grace and light in your truth to share our lives in the way of the risen Christ.

**Priest**            Merciful Father,

**All**                    **Accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, Our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

*At the Last Supper Christ 'took some bread and when he had given thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying "This is my body which will be given for you; do this in remembrance of me". He did the same with the cup...' (Luke 22:19-20). The Church, joyfully obedient to the Lord's command, celebrates the Eucharist taking care that our 'liturgy' corresponds to the words and actions of Christ: 1) Taking bread and wine - we take our own gifts to the Altar, such as our time and talents and our money for the poor and for ministry. 2) Giving thanks (the meaning of the word Eucharist) - in the Eucharistic Prayer the priest, in the name of us all, says the great hymn of our thanksgiving to God for the whole work of salvation, in which the offerings become the Body and Blood of Christ. 3) The breaking of the one bread is a sign of the unity of the faithful - a sign of the unity which comes through sharing in Christ. 4) And in Holy Communion we receive Christ. In this way, Sunday by Sunday and day by day, the Church tries to carry out what the Lord asked his disciples to do in remembrance of him.*

### THE PEACE

*We acknowledge and give thanks for our unity with one another in Jesus Christ our Lord, which his death and resurrection have brought to us. He is the peace between us. The sign of peace echoes Christ's own resurrection greeting to his disciples. Before we share in the same bread we express our love for one another in Christ and pray for peace and unity (cf Luke 1.78,79).*

Priest            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.  
All                And also with you.

### THE OFFERTORY HYMN

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love,  
and do what thou wouldst do.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
until my heart is pure;  
until with thee I will one will,  
to do and to endure.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
till I am wholly thine;  
until this earthly part of me  
glows with thy fire divine.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God:  
so shall I never die,  
but live with thee the perfect life  
of thine eternity.**

### THE PRESENTATION AND PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

*The peoples' gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar. The offerings of money is made and promised to support the wider ministry and work of the Church. Taking the Gifts: We give thanks to God for the gifts in the following words.*

#### BREAD

Priest            Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,  
                         which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.  
All                **Blessed be God for ever.**

#### WINE

                         Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,  
                         fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.  
All                **Blessed be God for ever.**

#### OUR TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURE/MONEY

                         Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have the gifts of our  
                         time, talents and money to offer. May our offerings of our gifts be a sincere sign of our  
                         gratitude and our dedication to your service.  
All                **Blessed be God for ever.**

*The priest prays quietly: Lord God, we ask you to receive us and be pleased with the sacrifice we offer you with humble, contrite and thankful hearts.*

*The priest washes hands as an act of cleanliness and as an expression of the desire for inward purification, praying quietly: Lord, wash away my iniquity; cleanse me from my sin.*



## **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Priest Pray my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God,  
the Almighty Father.

**All 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.**

Priest Amen.

Priest Heavenly Father, may this Easter mystery of our redemption  
bring to perfection the saving work you have begun in us.

**All Amen.**

## **THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

*The Eucharistic Prayer is the centre and high point of the whole Christian celebration. This great prayer of praise and thanksgiving proclaims the wonderful works of God and through it we join ourselves with Christ in praise and thanksgiving to God the Father and in offering ourselves to him in union with Christ's self-offering on the cross. We express our share in the prayer, which is said on behalf of all the people, by listening inwardly and joining in the acclamations (joyful shouts or songs) and the Sanctus (the Holy, Holy, Holy which concludes the preface), the memorial acclamation and the great 'Amen' which concludes our Eucharistic Prayer.*

Priest 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.**

*In the Preface we praise God for his mighty acts:*

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks because through Jesus Christ our risen Lord  
you have delivered us from the bondage of sin and the fear of death  
into the glorious liberty that befits the children of God.

We praise you with greater joy than ever this Eastertide  
and with all the choirs of heaven we proclaim your glory  
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**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.**

*We pray to the Father for the sending down of the Holy Spirit and recall the Lord's Supper.*

Priest We thank you, loving Father, because when we turned away  
you sent to us your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

He gave his life for us upon the cross. He shows us now the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine  
may be for us the Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks,  
broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying:

‘This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.’

After they had eaten he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples,  
saying:

‘This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this to remember me.’

So, Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.

As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit upon us and change us more and more  
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended  
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with Blessed Mary, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist, and all your Saints,  
we glorify your goodness, through Jesus Christ  
and in the strength of your Holy Spirit,  
today and for ever and ever.

**All**                    **Amen.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

*The communion rite lays strong emphasis on peace, unity and our prayer for forgiveness. We come together to the Lord's table in accordance with the Lord's command, 'Take, eat... take, drink', as a community bound together by the love of God manifest in Christ. We can all be confident in Christ's mercy as we respond to his call to come to his table. Our communal recitation of the Lord's Prayer - the prayer he taught us - prepares us for Holy Communion with our Lord.*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*We bless God and pray for our world, our communities and our lives to be shaped by God's will; we pray for daily needs to be met, for forgiveness for wrongdoings, strength to resist temptation and protection from danger.*

**Priest**                Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

**All**                    **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**

*The priest takes the host and breaks it over the cup, praying quietly: 'May this mingling of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.' 'Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread' (1 Corinthians 10:17)*

*Christ's gesture of breaking bread with his disciples at the Last Supper gave the Eucharist the name of the 'breaking of bread.'. This gesture signifies that we who share one bread and one cup are made one. The breaking of the Eucharistic bread becomes a sign of unity and charity as the one bread is distributed to the family of God's people.*

**Priest**                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 priest prepares quietly for Holy Communion. We may all join quietly in this prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit your death brought life to the world. By your holy body and blood free me from all my sins and from every evil. Keep me faithful to your teaching, and never let me be parted from you. Amen.*

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**Priest**                Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.                    *cf. John 1: 29*  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All**                    **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

*The sign of communion is more complete when given under both 'kinds' since then the 'sign' of the eucharistic meal appears more clearly. However, we live in exceptional times when, if you think right, communion may be received in one 'kind.'*

*The priest takes the host, raises it a little and shows it saying: The Body of Christ. And the same with the cup saying: The Blood of Christ. When receiving Holy Communion the response and assent to Christ is:*

**+ Amen.**

## **DURING HOLY COMMUNION** *the Choir may sing anthems, hymns and songs.*

**Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One, is here;  
come bow before him now  
with reverence and fear:  
in him no sin is found –  
we stand on holy ground.  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord,  
the Holy One, is here.**



**Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around;  
he burns with holy fire,  
with splendour he is crowned:  
how awesome is the sight –  
our radiant King of light!  
Be still, for the glory of the Lord  
is shining all around.**

**Be still, for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place:  
he comes to cleanse and heal,  
to minister his grace.  
No work too hard for him,  
in faith receive from him.  
Be still, for the power of the Lord  
is moving in this place.**

### **PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION**

Priest            Let us pray.

*The priest invites us all to pray that the Holy Eucharist will have its effect in transforming our lives and bring us all to God's kingdom.  
We pray together silently for a while before the Post Communion prayer.*

Lord God our Father, through our Saviour Jesus Christ  
you have assured your children of eternal life  
and in baptism have made us one with him:  
deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in your love,  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All            Amen.**

### **THE NOTICES FOR THE COMMUNITY ARE GIVEN.**

### **THE CONCLUDING RITE**

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

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

### **THE BLESSING**

Priest            God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,  
open to us the gates of everlasting life.

**All            Amen.**

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

**All            Amen.**

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

**All            Amen.**

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

**All            Amen.**

All Let us go in the peace of Christ, Alleluia, Alleluia.  
Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia.

### **THE RECESSIONAL OR SENDING OUT HYMN**

In Christ alone my hope is found,  
he is my light, my strength, my song;  
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,  
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace,  
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All,  
here in the love of Christ I stand.

There in the ground his body lay,  
light of the world by darkness slain:  
then bursting forth in glorious day  
up from the grave he rose again!  
And as he stands in victory  
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
for I am his and he is mine –  
bought with the precious love of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
this is the power of Christ in me;  
from life's first cry to final breath,  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
can ever pluck me from his hand;  
till he returns or calls me home,  
here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Please donate regularly to support the Church's mission and work. *The church here needs your help in order to serve our villages, our diocese, our nation and our world in the future. Our doors were closed due to Covid 19 and with no regular Government or Church of England funding the parish lost significant income. Please see the website to see how to give efficiently. Thank you.*

