

**The Stratfield Mortimer Benefice**  
**of**  
**St Saviour                      St Mary and St John                      St John the Baptist**  
**Mortimer West End      Stratfield Mortimer                      Padworth**  
**St Mary's Church of England School      St John's Church of England School**  
**Diocese of Oxford**



The Emmaus Icon in the church of St John the Evangelist, Mortimer,  
The Risen Lord Jesus is made known in the breaking of the bread. Alleluia. *Luke 24: 35*

**The Parish Eucharist**  
*for*  
**The Third Sunday of Easter**  
**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 10.00 a.m.**

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

**Prayer thoughts:** What made Jesus' first disciples convincing witnesses of his resurrection? After all, by their testimony an itinerant rabbi, who had been executed in a brutal and humiliating way by the local Roman government, became a universal object of faith.

In this Sunday's reading from the Acts of the Apostles we hear St Peter give a confident and assured sermon. Yet, we know that Peter had not always been so confident and unwavering in his faith. Indeed, on the night before Jesus' crucifixion he denied that he even knew his friend.

St Luke shows - in his Gospel and in The Acts of the Apostles - how Peter and the other first disciples came to be 'formed' into credible witnesses of the resurrection. This happened through a gradual process which takes place within a local 'community of believers' in which moments of doubt and fear can give way to a deeper understanding and, at last, to faith, hope and love. Of course, this is still much the same way Christians are 'formed' for ministry today.

When we first find the disciples after the crucifixion they are far from being 'formed' and ready for ministry. Indeed, they are a fearful and uncomprehending bunch, huddling together to compare experiences and relate the accounts which Peter and the two disciples on the Emmaus road had given about the risen Christ. And when Jesus did stand before them and greet them they *'were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost'* - Luke 24: 37. Jesus tried to reassure them by inviting them not just to see his hands and feet but also to touch them. Yet, as Luke the Gospel writer tells, they still had mixed feelings and their joy was still mingled with disbelief and wondering - Luke 24: 41. The risen Christ tried to offer further reassurance that he was no ghostly apparition by asking for food and eating before their eyes.

But what was more significant for Luke the Gospel writer - even more than these assuring 'proofs' - was what Jesus said and taught and how, just as he had for the two disciples on the Emmaus road, he *'opened their minds to understand the scriptures'* - Luke 24: 45. Luke the Gospel writer makes clear that Jesus spoke and taught in a way that showed that the resurrection was not some 'conjuring trick' but part of God's way - his 'plan.' And the central message is that the Messiah had to suffer and rise so that the world could be transformed by that acceptance of God's forgiveness which changes lives.

But, the Gospel shows how this process is gradual; how through the recognition of his presence in their midst and through their 'unpacking' and growing in understanding of his word, the disciples were prepared for the task before them, which was to 'witness' to Christ. We see that their faith was not simply kindled into flame in a moment, but was nurtured over time as they came to recognize the signs of his presence and to an ever-greater understanding of the message of the scriptures. Thus, when, as in today's reading from Acts, Peter stood up to proclaim the power of Jesus' resurrection he had already had the opportunity to face his own fears and doubts and to align his own way of thinking and his life to the mystery of Christ's dying and rising.

Surely, the question which the Gospel puts before us today is how can we, like Peter and the other first disciples, become convincing witnesses to the risen Christ? And the Gospel's answer is, surely, that, like them, we need to come to recognise that we are engaged in a life-long process of learning to recognize the signs of Christ's presence among us and learning to understand the significance of his rising in the midst of suffering, injustice, and death. Of course, on this journey of discovery we all experience moments of wondering and disbelieving, but as we gather to open the scriptures and to break bread together we can be confident that, gradually, our eyes too will be opened to recognize him and our lives formed in his likeness that we may witness to his Gospel/Good News. God bless.

# The Eucharist for the Third Sunday of Easter 2021

*The present rules and guidelines about attendance, singing & speaking in churches will be followed carefully. This Easter only the priest and the zoom operator can be at St John's church building.*

**HYMN**            **Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,**    *(Cwm Rhondda)*

**Pilgrim through this barren land;**

**I am weak, but thou art mighty;**

**Hold me with thy powerful hand:**

**Bread of heaven, bread of heaven**

**Feed me till I want no more.**

**Feed me till I want no more.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,**

**Bid my anxious fears subside;**

**Death of death, and hell's destruction,**

**Land me safe on Canaan's side:**

**Songs of praises, songs of praises**

**I will ever give to thee.**

**I will ever give to thee.**

## THE GATHERING

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

All                Amen.

*The priest will introduce the Eucharist.*

## THE GREETING

*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.*

All                The Lord be with you

All                And also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All                He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

## PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

*We call to mind our sins to repent of them / turn from them and to ask forgiveness of God and each other.*

*The Invitation to Confession.*

My brothers and sisters, as we come together as God's family to celebrate the Easter mysteries, let us ask with confidence the Father's forgiveness for our sins, for he is full of gentleness and compassion.

*A pause for silent reflection follows.*

Priest            Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life.

Lord, have mercy.

All                Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins.

Christ, have mercy.

All                Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the living bread.

Lord, have mercy.

All                Lord, have mercy.

*The Absolution*

+ Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you your sins, and bring you to everlasting life.

All                Amen.

## THE GLORIA

Glory to God, glory to God,  
Glory to the Father!  
Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to the Father!

*Chorus*

To God be glory forever!  
To God be glory forever!  
Alleluia, Amen!  
Alleluia, Amen!  
Alleluia, Amen!

Glory to God, glory to God,  
Glory to Christ Jesus!  
Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to Christ Jesus!

*Chorus*

To God be glory forever!  
To God be glory forever!  
Alleluia, Amen!  
Alleluia, Amen!  
Alleluia, Amen!

Glory to God, glory to God,  
Glory to the Spirit!  
Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to the Spirit!

*Chorus*

To God be glory forever!  
To God be glory forever!  
Alleluia, Amen!  
Alleluia, Amen!  
Alleluia, Amen!

## THE COLLECT

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

*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 priest 'collects' our prayerful thoughts this Eastertide 2021.*

**Priest** Almighty Father,  
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples  
with the sight of the risen Lord:  
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,  
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life  
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**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 3: 13 - 15. 17 - 19. - Read by Peter Tanner**

Reader A reading from The Acts of the Apostles.

Peter said to the people: 'You are Israelites, and it is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, who has glorified his servant Jesus, the same Jesus you handed over and then disowned in the presence of Pilate, after Pilate had decided to release him. It was you who accused the Holy One, the Just One, you who demanded the reprieve of a murderer while you killed the prince of life> God, however, raised him from the dead, and to that fact we are the witnesses.

'Now I know, brethren, that neither you nor your leaders had any idea what you were really doing; this was the way God carried out what he had foretold, when he said through all his prophets that his Christ would suffer. Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out.'

*At the end of the reading:*

Reader This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

*Now we 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.*

### **THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Lord Jesus, explain the scriptures to us.

*Luke 24: 32*

Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us.

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

### **THE GOSPEL READING - ST LUKE'S GOSPEL 24: 35 - 48.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you .**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

The disciples told their story of what happened on the road and how they recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread.

They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and blood as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they could not believe it, and they stood dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms, has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

*At the end of the Gospel*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

### **THE SERMON - Reader Julian Tucker.**

*We are a Eucharistic community in word and sacrament. Through the readings God has spoken to his people of his redeeming love and of the nourishment which his Spirit gives. Our priest now reflects with us on the readings of the day relating them to our Eucharistic celebration and to our ordinary life.*

*After the sermon there is 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 the needs of the Church's mission and for all people. Through baptism we have been made one with Christ, our great high priest, and we share in his intercessions before the Father for the needs of his Church and of all people. Our intercessions flow 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 for our benefice - our parishes and our two Church schools; for the world, for our Queen and country, for our local communities, families and friends; for the sick and suffering and for all in pain; for the departed. 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:                In the power of the Holy Spirit and in union with the Risen Christ, let us pray to the Father.**

*The deacon or minister continues:*

Heavenly Father, we praise you for the resurrection. Shed the light of the Risen Christ on the world and give grace to us to live to proclaim his Gospel. We pray your blessing on Justin our Archbishop, Steven our Bishop, Olivia our area Bishop, and the mission and ministry of your Church in this benefice - our parishes and our schools of St Mary's and St John's.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, bless and guide Elizabeth our Queen. Give grace to our Government and our District and Village Councils and to all in authority that they may govern with justice, wisdom and compassion and seek the common good.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, bless our families and friends and all those you have given us to care for. May our love for one another witness to the risen Christ.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we pray to you for all who suffer in body, mind or spirit...

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

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we remember before you all who have gone before us in the hope of the resurrection...

We pray that we may be united for ever in the joy of heaven.

Lord, in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, we rejoice in the communion of Mary, the Blessed Mother, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist and all your Saints, and we commend all creation to your unfailing love.

**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. Christ is risen.

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

## THE PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR

*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.*

Priest **BREAD**

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 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.

Risen Lord Jesus Christ, when you break bread  
may we recognize you as the fire that burns within us,  
that we may bring light to your world.

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 by the priest 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.**



*The Preface praises God for his mighty acts:*

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
holy Father, almighty and eternal God.  
From sunrise to sunset this day is holy,  
for Christ has risen from the tomb  
and scattered the darkness of death  
with light that will not fade.  
This the risen Lord walks with your gathered people,  
unfolds for us your word,  
and makes himself known in the breaking of the bread.  
And though the night will overtake this day  
you summon us to live in endless light,  
the never-ceasing sabbath of the Lord.  
And so, with choirs of angels and with all the heavenly host,  
we proclaim your glory  
and join their unending song of praise:

*The Acclamation*

**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**

Lord God, you are the most holy one, enthroned in splendour and light,  
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ you reveal the power of your love  
made perfect in our human weakness.  
Embracing our humanity, Jesus showed us the way of salvation;  
loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us;  
dying for his own, he set us free from the bonds of sin,  
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.  
As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption,  
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation  
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
  
On the night he gave himself up for us all  
he 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.  
Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,  
we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting forth from the tomb,  
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high  
and we long for his coming in glory.  
  
Form us into the likeness of Christ  
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.  
Look with favour on your people  
and in your mercy hear the cries of our hearts.  
Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free  
and fill your Church with power from on high.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast  
with the Mary, St John the Evangelist, St John the Baptist and all your Saints  
at the table in your kingdom, where the new creation is brought to perfection  
in 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.**

## **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**

**Priest**            Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Saviour gave 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.*

## **PREPARATION FOR HOLY 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 communion can only be given in one 'kind' when we can come to church.*

*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.**

## **HYMN DURING HOLY COMMUNION**

**Be still, my soul: the Lord is on thy side.            (Finlandia)**  
**Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.**  
**Leave to thy God to order and provide;**  
**In every change, He faithful will remain.**  
**Be still, my soul: thy best, thy heav'nly Friend**  
**Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.**



Be still, my soul: when dearest friends depart,  
And all is darkened in the vale of tears,  
Then shalt thou better know His love, His heart,  
Who comes to soothe thy sorrow and thy fears.  
Be still, my soul: thy Jesus can repay  
From His own fullness all He takes away.

Be still, my soul: begin the song of praise  
On earth, believing, to Thy Lord on high;  
Acknowledge Him in all thy words and ways,  
So shall He view thee with a well-pleased eye.  
Be still, my soul: the Sun of life divine  
Through passing clouds shall but more brightly shine.

*After Holy Communion we may keep a further period of silence.*

### **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.*

Priest Living God,  
your Son made himself known to his disciples  
in the breaking of bread:  
open the eyes of our faith,  
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

All Amen.

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

### **THE CONCLUDING RITE**

Priest Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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 you the gates  
of everlasting life.

All Amen.

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

All Amen.

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

All Amen.

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

All Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

### **HYMN**

Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring. *(Regent Square)*  
Christ has brought us heaven's choices; heavenly music, let it ring:  
'Alleluia! Alleluia!' Easter people, let us sing.

**Fear of death can no more stop us from our pressing here below.  
For our Risen Lord empowers us to triumph over every foe.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.**

**Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song.  
When the cares of life o'erwhelm us, Easter people, sing this song:  
'Alleluia! Alleluia!' Everlasting triumph song.**

