



# Welcome to St Alban's Church

## The Easter Vigil

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*If you are new or just visiting for this very special service please feel welcome as one of the family.*

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### *PART ONE - THE SERVICE OF LIGHT*

*~ The people gather outside the door of the church.*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, on this most holy night, when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life, the Church invites her children throughout the world to come together in vigil and prayer.

This is the Passover of the Lord.

We remember his death and resurrection by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries, confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever in God.

*~ The new fire is kindled*

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 candle is marked*

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 Paschal Candle*

By his holy and glorious wounds may Christ our Lord guard and keep us. **Amen**

~ *The Paschal Candle is lit*

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

~ *The Candle is solemnly carried into the church with these words:*

Priest: The Light of Christ

**People: Thanks be to God**

~ *The light of Christ is shared as people light their candles from the paschal candle*

## THE EXSULTET

### *PART TWO - THE VIGIL*

~ *In the darkened church the Priest invites the people to listen to the history of our salvation.*

As we await the risen Christ, let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, recalling how he saved his people in ages past and in the fullness of time sent his Son to be our Redeemer; and let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

### READING 1: Genesis 1.1-2.4a The Creation

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth and made us in your own image: teach us to discern your hand in all your works and your likeness in all your children; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

**SILENCE**

READING 2: Exodus 14.10-end, Crossing the Red Sea

Lord God our redeemer, who heard the cry of your people  
and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery:  
free us from the tyranny of sin and death  
and, by the leading of your Spirit,  
bring us to our promised land;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**SILENCE**

READING 3: Isaiah 55.1-11 Let us return to the Lord who saves us

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection  
of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world:  
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross  
we may triumph in the power of his victory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen**

**SILENCE**

READING 4: Zephaniah 3.14-end

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new:  
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,  
and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

**SILENCE**

THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

*The bells are rung, the lights go on, the people's candles are extinguished*

## THE GLORIA

*Mass of St Thomas © 2012 David Thorne Music*

**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 COLLECT

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

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.**

READING: Romans 6. 3-11

*After the reading...*This is the word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

*We stand for the gospel reading*

THE GOSPEL: Luke 24.1-12

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

**All: Alleluia**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After the reading...*This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN Donald Fishel © 1973 The Word of God Music/Adm by CopyCare

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

- 1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth,  
he is the King of creation.**
- 2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth,  
Jesus has died and has risen.**
- 3. We have been crucified with Christ,  
now we shall live forever.**
- 4. God has proclaimed the just reward,  
life for all men, alleluia!**

**5. Come let us praise the living God,  
joyfully sing to our Saviour.**

*PART THREE – LITURGY OF BAPTISM*

*~ Please gather around the font*

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.

**THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS**

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore, I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

**All I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

**All I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

**All I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

**All I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

**All I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

**All I come to Christ.**

*~ The blessing of the water*

Praise God who made heaven and earth,  
**All who keeps his promise for ever.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptized in the river Jordan, we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse us and revive us.

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the Promised Land.

We thank you that through the deep waters of death you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph. Bless this water† that your servants who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin. Send your Holy Spirit upon them, bring them to new birth in the household of faith and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life; for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **THE PROFESSION OF FAITH**

Brothers and sisters, I ask you 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 waters of baptism are sprinkled over the people*

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

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.**

### **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.

Alleluia. The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**And also with you. Alleluia**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*We share a sign of peace with our neighbour and move back to our seats.*

**Offertory Hymn: Jesus Christ is risen today** *Lyra Davidica (1708)*

**1. Jesus Christ is risen today; Hallelujah!  
Our triumphant holy day; Hallelujah!  
Who did once upon the cross; Hallelujah!  
Suffer to redeem our loss; Hallelujah!**

**2. Hymns of praise then let us sing; Hallelujah!  
Unto Christ our heavenly King; Hallelujah!  
Who endured the cross and grave; Hallelujah!  
Sinners to redeem and save: Hallelujah!**

**3. But the pains which he endured; Hallelujah!  
Our salvation have procured; Hallelujah!  
Now in heaven above he's King; Hallelujah!  
Where the angels ever sing: Hallelujah!**

## ***PART FOUR - THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST***

### **THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE**

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 LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

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 indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere  
to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father,  
and on this night of our redemption to celebrate with joyful hearts  
the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son,  
has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men  
and women the image of your glory.

He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them  
the gate of life eternal. And so, in the joy of this Passover,  
earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels  
and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever  
the hymn of your glory:

**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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; Do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith  
**Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with the Virgin Mary, St Alban, and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray  
**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**

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.**

### **AGNUS DEI**

**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.**

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

*All those baptised into the Christian faith are welcome to come forward for communion. Alternatively, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

**COMMUNION HYMN:** *Melody Green, based on Scripture © 1982 Birdwing/Music/BMG Songs Inc/Ears to hear music/EMI Christian Music Publishing/CopyCare Ltd*

**1. There is a Redeemer,  
Jesus, God's own Son,  
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
Holy One.**

*Thank you, O my Father,  
for giving us your Son,  
and leaving your Spirit  
till the work on earth is done.*

**2. Jesus, my Redeemer,  
name above all names,  
precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
O for sinners slain.**

**3. When I stand in glory,  
I will see his face,  
and there I'll serve my King for ever,  
in that holy place.**

*Post communion 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**

### **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 from the grave has won a glorious victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

**Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord, 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**

With the risen life of Christ within you,  
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

### **CLOSING HYMN: Thine be the glory**

*Edmond Louis Budry.(1854-1932) trans. Richard Birch Hoyle © Copyright Control*

**1.Thine be the glory,  
risen, conquering Son;  
endless is the vict'ry  
thou o'er death hast won;  
angels in bright raiment  
rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes  
where thy body lay.**

***Thine be the glory,  
risen, conquering Son;  
Endless is the vict'ry  
thou o'er death hast won!***

**2. Lo! Jesus meets us,  
risen from the tomb;  
lovingly he greets us,  
scatters fear and gloom.  
Let the church with gladness  
hymns of triumph sing,  
for her Lord now liveth,  
death hath lost its sting.**

**3. No more we doubt thee,  
glorious Prince of life!  
Life is naught without thee:  
aid us in our strife;  
Make us more than conquerors,  
through thy deathless love.  
Bring us safe through Jordan  
to thy home above.**

*Common worship:*

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# *Happy Easter!*

WEEKLY SERVICES AT ST ALBAN'S

*Everyone is very welcome*

SUNDAY SERVICES:

Sung Eucharist 9:45am weekly

WEEKDAY SERVICES:

Said Eucharist (Thursday 9:30am) Followed by Community Morning  
10am-12pm

Saturday Prayers 9am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month

Vicar: Rev'd Ann Alexander      01293 277 078  
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