



Welcome to St Alban's Church

Easter Sunday

We welcome you to St Alban's Church on this very special day

OPENING HYMN *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!**

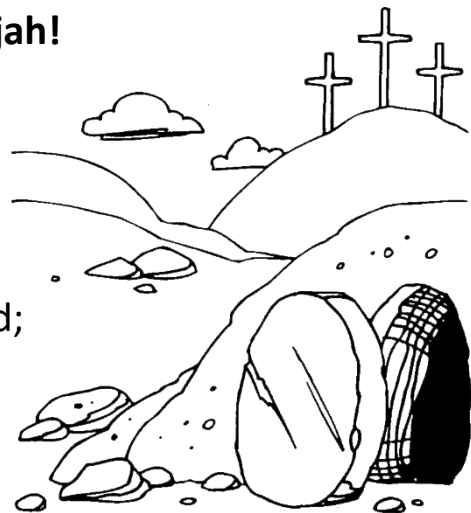
**2 Hymns of praise then let us sing; Hallelujah!
Unto Christ our heavenly King; Hallelujah!
Who endured the cross and grave; Hallelujah!
Sinners to redeem and save: Hallelujah!**

**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!**

THE BLESSING OF THE EASTER GARDEN

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'.

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.**



OPENING RESPONSES

We meet in the name of God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Lord be with you:
and also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made:
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

WE SAY SORRY TO GOD FOR OUR SINS

**Father God,
we do not always do the right things;
we do not always tell the truth;
we do not always love other people as we should.
We are sorry for the times when we
have hurt others and made you sad.
Please forgive us and help us to become
the people you want us to be.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.**

ABSOLUTION (WE ARE ASSURED OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS)

The God of love and power
forgive you and free you from your sins,
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

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

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 COLLECT (THE SPECIAL PRAYER FOR TODAY)

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.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 31.1-6

Acts 10.34-43

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

GRADUAL HYMN *J.M.C. Crum (1872-1958) ©Oxford University Press.*

**1 Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in the dark earth many years has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.**

**2 In the grave they laid him, Love whom we had slain,
thinking that he'd never wake to life again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.**

**3 Up he sprang at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
up from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.**

**4 When our hearts are saddened, grieving or in pain,
by your touch you call us back to life again;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.**

THE GOSPEL *Please stand if you are able*

We sing **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

Alleluia.

He has defeated the powers of death.

Alleluia.

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing.

Alleluia.

He has the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 20.1–18

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

We sing **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

THE TALK

We stand to DECLARE OUR FAITH

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

OUR PRAYERS

THE PEACE

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

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

Let's offer one another a sign of peace.

We share a sign of peace with our neighbours

OFFERTORY HYMN *Les Garrett © 1967 Scripture in Song*

**1 This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made,
that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it;
this is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made.**

**2 This is the day, this is the day
when he rose again,
when he rose again;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day when he rose again,
we will rejoice and be glad in it;
this is the day, this is the day
when he rose again.**

**3 This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made,
that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
This is the day that the Lord has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it;
this is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made.**

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ, our risen high priest;
make yourself known in the breaking of bread. **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord is here. **His 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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and on this day 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:

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.**

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.

We sing **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 Blessed 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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
Because we all share in one bread.**

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.**

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

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 *Anon*

**1 He is Lord, he is Lord,
he is risen from the dead and he is Lord!
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord.**

**2 He is King, he is King,
he is risen from the dead and he is King!
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is King.**

**3 He is love, he is love,
he is risen from the dead and he is love!
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is love.**

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

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.

**God of truth,
we have seen with our eyes
and touched with our hands the bread of life:
Strengthen our faith
that we may grow in love for you and for each other;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

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

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
**He has given us new life and hope.
He has raised Jesus from the dead.**

God has claimed us as his own.
**He has brought us out of darkness.
He has made us light to the world.**

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

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life;
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 peace to love and serve the Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia.
**In the name of Christ.
Alleluia, alleluia.**

Led by the choir, we sing:

Surrexit Christus, alleluia! Cantate Domino, alleluia!
(Christ is risen, alleluia! Sing to the Lord, alleluia!)



He is risen!

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