



ST MARY'S CHURCH WELWYN



EASTER VIGIL 2021

PLEASE RETURN THIS ORDER OF SERVICE

**Welcome back to church – it's great you are here.
We think of those still shielding and just to note that we
will be livestreaming the service.**

**Please remember to maintain social distance with those
outside your household, and sanitise your hands on
entry. The wearing of face masks is now mandatory in
places of worship unless you are exempt.**

***If you are new to this church please introduce yourself
to one of the clergy. There is an induction loop for those
with hearing aids.***

ORDER OF SERVICE (The service begins outside the church)

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

Brothers and sisters in Christ, on this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which through word and sacrament we share in his victory over death.

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.

A reading from the Book of Exodus (14:10 – end, 15:20-21)

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.**

As the fire is lit the celebrant says:

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 celebrant traces the sign of the cross, the letters alpha and omega, and the year on the candle:

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.**

The celebrant takes five nails and inserts them in the cross:

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

As the candle is lit the celebrant says:

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

Congregational candles are lit

The candle is carried by the Deacon into the church. All follow. At three stations is held aloft and the following is said:

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Please follow the deacon into the church and take your places – please maintain social distance.

As soon as the Paschal candle reaches the front of the Nave, the choir sings:

PASCHAL Feast! Upon the cross
Jesus gave himself to save us.
Sin's sad leaven throw away:
break the bread of life he gave us. *Alleluia!*

Risen again, our living Lord
death's dominion now has shattered.
Now we share his risen life,
hell's dread powers for ever scattered. *Alleluia!*

Christ is risen from the grave,
all who sleep in death awaking.
First fruit of the harvest field:
now our Easter dawn is breaking. *Alleluia!*

As through man death comes to all,
so has man unlocked death's prison.
As in Adam all are dead,
so in Christ shall all be risen. *Alleluia!*

Tune: St Albinus

All remain standing as the Deacon sings the "Exsultet" (choir only to join in responses):

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels ! Exult, all creation around God's throne ! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen !

Sound the trumpet of salvation !

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour, radiant in the brightness of your King ! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you ! Darkness vanishes for ever !

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory! The risen Saviour shines upon you ! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people !

Celebrant All

The Lord be with you And also with you

3 Celebrant All 3 3

Lift up your hearts We lift them to the Lord

5 Celebrant All

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

It is indeed right that with full hearts and minds and voices we should praise you, the unseen God, the Father Almighty, and your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who has ransomed us by his death, and paid for us the price of Adam's sin. For this is the Passover of that true Lamb of God, by whose blood the homes of all the faithful are hallowed and protected. This is the night when of old you saved our fathers,

delivering the people of Israel from their slavery, and leading them dry-shod through the sea. This is the night when Jesus Christ vanquished hell and rose triumphant from the grave. This is the night when all who believe in him are freed from sin and restored to grace and holiness. Most blessed of all nights, when wickedness is put to flight and sin is washed away, lost innocence regained, and mourning turned to joy. Night truly blessed, when heaven is wedded to earth and all creation reconciled to God ! Therefore, heavenly Father, in the joy of this night, accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering; and grant that this Easter candle, may make our darkness light; for Christ the Morning Star has risen, never again to set, and is alive and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please stand to sing the Gloria. As it begins the bells are rung, and the congregation makes a joyful noise.

The choir sings:

**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 sin 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.**

Let us pray.

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.**

Please sit

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (6:3-11)

Please stand and face the gospel, which we greet with:

Alleluia (sung by the choir alone)

All:



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

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N
Glory to you O Lord

At the end of the Gospel:

This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you O Christ

Please sit for the sermon

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

The celebrant stands before the water of baptism and says

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him 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.

Saving God, give us life.

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea

you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the promised land.

Saving God, give us life.

We thank you that through the deep waters of death

you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph.

Saving God, give us life.

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.

Saving God, give us life.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, bring us to new birth in the household

of faith and raise us with Christ to full and eternal life;

for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours,

now and for ever. Amen. *Saving God, give us life.*

Please stand

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, so that we may rise with him to

new life within the family of his Church. Now that we have completed

our observance of Lent, we renew the promises made at our baptism,

affirming our allegiance to Christ and our rejection of all that is evil.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

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

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

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

I come to Christ.

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.**

Almighty God,
we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith
with all who have been baptized into 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 LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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
and also with you.

*Please only physically share the peace with those from your
household*

*The choir sings the offertory anthem:
Alleluia by William Boyce, arr. Alan Bullard*

The priest takes the bread and wine

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.**

**All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER (E)

Please stand throughout the Eucharistic Prayer – the choir alone sings the responses

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is for the Celebrant and All, with lyrics: 'The Lord be with you' and 'And also with you'. The second staff is for the Celebrant and All, with lyrics: 'Lift up your hearts' and 'We lift them to the Lord'. The third staff is for the Celebrant and All, with lyrics: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God' and 'It is right to give thanks and praise'. The score includes various musical notations such as treble clefs, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and triplets marked with a '3'.

Celebrant All
The Lord be with you And also with you

3 Celebrant All 3 3
Lift up your hearts We lift them to the Lord

5 Celebrant All
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, ...

... gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

(The choir sings:)

**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 praise and bless you, loving Father, ...

... 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...

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

Please kneel

Silence is kept

The Lord's Prayer

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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The priest breaks the consecrated 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.**

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

Please move for communion -

All are welcome. Baptised Christians are welcome to receive the bread only. All others are welcome to come for a blessing from the priest. Please maintain social distance.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion for those at home

**My Jesus, I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if
You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never
permit me to be separated from You. Amen.**

*During communion the choir sings the anthem:
Now the green blade riseth, Trad. French, arr. Alan Bullard*

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

In the grave they laid him, Love whom we had slain,
thinking that he never would awake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again like wheat that springs up green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
quick from the dead our risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again like wheat that springs up green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,
then your touch can 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.

After communion we pray together:

**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 choir sings our final hymn:

1 Come, ye faithful, raise the strain
of triumphant gladness;
God hath brought his Israel
into joy from sadness;
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters;
led them with unmoistened foot
through the Red Sea waters.

2 'Tis the spring of souls today;
Christ hath burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death
as a sun hath risen;
all the winter of our sins,
long and dark, is flying
from his light, to whom we give
laud and praise undying.

3 Now the queen of seasons, bright
with the day of splendour,
with the royal feast of feasts,
comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem,
who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains
Jesus' resurrection.

Please stand for the blessing:

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ
has given us the victory,
give you joy and peace in your faith;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

*The ministers and people depart. Please take this booklet with you.
Organ Voluntary: Prelude on 'Victory' by C S Lang.*

