



A Service of Holy Communion
Forth Sunday of Easter

Welcome to St James, the parish Church of Bulkington. Thank you for joining us today whether you are in the building or worshipping from home. We are very glad to be with you.

Holy Communion (or the Eucharist) is the central act of Christian worship. Through our community celebration of the Eucharist, we tell the story of God with his people throughout history, and proclaim that this God, revealed to us in Jesus Christ, is real among us. The season of **Easter** spans the fifty days to Pentecost, in which the Church celebrates the gloriously risen Christ. The Easter candle reminds us of the presence of the risen Christ.

This service is being livestreamed so that as many as would like to can be part of our worship.

We are following Government and Church of England guidelines to ensure that we have the safest possible experience of being with each other for our worship. Please care for yourself and others by:

- Wearing a face mask, unless exempt from doing so.
- Maintaining a 2m distance from others
- Sanitise your hands
- Follow the directions of the ministers and stewards, and sit in places marked with a green tick.

Please give generously to support St James. You can

-
- Join the Parish Giving Scheme (please speak to Rev Charles about this)
- Online at <https://tinyurl.com/y5o6gncq> (the QR code will take you to this page)
- Make an electronic donation via bank transfer or standing order.
- Place a cash donation (white or brown envelope) in the plate on the way into out of Church.



or

The Gathering

As the organ plays, stewards will show us to our seats and we are welcomed to the service:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

The Greeting

The Lord be with you

All: and also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Prayer of Preparation

We are invited to sit as we pray:

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God.
Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil
and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

cf Romans 6.10

We share some quiet for reflection.

**All: Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

May 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.

All: Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

**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.**

The Collect

We spend a moment in quiet prayer and then Rev Charles prays:

Risen Christ,
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:
teach us to hear your voice
and to follow your command,
that all your people may be gathered into one flock,
to the glory of God the Father.
All: Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Acts 4:5-12

⁵ The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶ with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John,^[a] and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷ When they had made the prisoners^[b] stand in their midst, they inquired, ‘By what power or by what name did you do this?’ ⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹ if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, ¹⁰ let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,^[c] whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹ This Jesus^[d] is

“the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;
it has become the cornerstone.”^[e]

¹² There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.’

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

I John 3:16-24

¹⁶ We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷ How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister^[a] in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸ Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹ And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²² and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³ And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Music for Reflection – In Christ Alone

sung by St Martin's Voices

- 1 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.
- 2 In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied -
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.
- 3 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 blood of Christ.

4 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!

Stuart Townend (born 1963) and Keith Getty (born 1974)

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Gospel Reading – John 10:11-18

When the Gospel is announced the reader says

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

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹¹ 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes^[a] it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

After the sermon, we share a time of quiet.

The Creed

**We believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**We 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.**

**We 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Risen Lord, in your mercy

All: hear our prayer

At the end:

Merciful Father,

All: accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

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.

John 20.19, 20

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All: and also with you.

Music for Reflection – Psalm 23

sung by St Martin's Voices

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.

- 3 He shall refresh my soul
and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.
- 6 Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

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*There will not be a collection plate passed around today, but please give
generously to support St James (details on p.2).*

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here

All: His Spirit is with us

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.

Shepherding God, we praise and thank you
because you gathered your flock around Abraham,
and through Moses and Joshua
you brought your sheep to a place of safety.

In Jesus you came to us as a Passover Lamb
to take away the sins of the world.

As our everlasting good shepherd you promise
that those who hear your voice shall never be in want,
for you know your sheep by name and you call us your own
and give to each of us
a place in the sheepfold of your kingdom,
where angels and archangels and all the company of heaven
sing your unending 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.**

Sustaining God, as you lead your sheep to green pastures
and guide them beside still waters,
so you have led us to this table
where in bread wine you restore our soul.
Send down your Holy Spirit and restore your church
Through the abundance of this sacred meal.

As we remember the story of your Son's life laid down for us,
sanctify this bread and cup and make them be for us
the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke
the bread, and gave it to them, saying,
'Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup.
Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, 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.'

Great is the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Saving God, your rod and staff comfort all who look to you in faith.

Search out your sheep that are lost and bring them home.

When you find them in the valley of fear, gather them in your arms.

When they face evil in the presence of enemies,

follow them with your goodness and mercy all the days of their lives.

On that day when the shadow of death covers them,

bring them to dwell in your house for ever.

Shepherd us with all your saints of every age

into your glorious presence, where we shall behold your Lamb

in seated glory, most Holy Trinity, now and always.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,

let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

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.**

Breaking of the Bread

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

**All: Lord, our hearts hunger for you;
give us this bread always.**

**All: 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.**

Giving of Communion

We are invited to receive the bread or a blessing

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

All: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

If you are joining the service online, you might like to use this prayer:

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

**Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pain and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.**

The body and blood of Christ keep us in eternal life

All: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

**Father of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.**

**May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Dismissal

The Blessing

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 ...

All: Amen.

The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

All: In the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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