

Easter Day 2026

Dawn Mass



The most important day of the year!
The celebration of the victory of life over death,
goodness over evil,
hope over despair.

Easter is not just today, but every day.
Resurrection is for all of us
and is all around us
today and every day.

Let us celebrate with joyful hearts and minds!

Kidlington with Hampton Poyle Churches
5.30am

The Vigil

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

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Introduction:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, grace to you and peace from God our Father, and Jesus Christ who has been raised from the dead. We gather on this most holy dawn to remember the story that transformed the world, that Jesus passed from death to life, and that his resurrection leads us from darkness into light. The Passover is God's gift of salvation.

Reading Exodus 14, 10-31 & 15, 20-21

In which we hear how God rescued his people from slavery

As Pharaoh approached, the Israelites looked up, and there were the Egyptians, marching after them. They were terrified and cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, "What have you done to us by bringing us out of Egypt? Didn't we say to you in Egypt, 'Leave us alone; let us serve the Egyptians'? It would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the desert!" Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The LORD will fight for you; you need only to be still." Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on. Raise your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea to divide the water so that the Israelites can go through the sea on dry ground. I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them. The Egyptians will know that I am the LORD when I gain glory through Pharaoh, his chariots and his horsemen."

Then the angel of God, who had been travelling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them.

The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel. Throughout the night the cloud brought darkness to the one side and light to the other side; so neither went near the other all night long.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and all that night the LORD drove the sea back with a strong east wind and turned it into dry land. The waters were divided, and the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

The Egyptians pursued them, and all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen followed them into the sea. During the last watch of the night the LORD looked down from the pillar of fire and cloud at the Egyptian army and threw it into confusion. He made the wheels of their chariots come off so that they had difficulty driving. And the Egyptians said, "Let's get away from the Israelites! The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea so that the waters may flow back over the Egyptians and their chariots and horsemen." Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea went back to its place.

The Egyptians were fleeing toward it, and the LORD swept them into the sea. The water flowed back and covered the chariots and horsemen—the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not one of them survived. But the Israelites went through the sea on dry ground, with a wall of water on their right and on their left.

That day the LORD saved Israel from the hands of the Egyptians,
This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God



Prayer

Father, May the peoples of the world become true sons of Abraham and prove worthy of the heritage of Israel.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading: - Ezekiel 37. 1-14

In which we hear how God brings life from death

The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "Sovereign LORD, you alone know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'"

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army. Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.'"

Prayer: Father, bringer of life,
Breath your spirit into the dry bones of our lives,
That we and all creation may be
United in the power of your Son's risen life. **Amen.**



THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

The Fire is lit and blessed:

Father, we share in the light of your glory
Through your Son, the light of the world.
Make this new fire + holy,
And inflame us with new hope.
Purify our minds by this Easter celebration,
And bring us one day to the feast of eternal light,
Through Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

The Paschal candle is brought forward and held high

Christ yesterday and today;
The beginning and the end;
Alpha And Omega;
All time belongs to him,
And all the ages;
To him be glory and power,
Now and to the end of the ages.
Amen.

*The candle is lowered to touching height
and the five 'nails' are inserted*

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

The candle is lit from the fire

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

THE PROCESSION.

*The light of Christ leads us into the dark church,.
As we go, we sing and respond each time as the
Paschal candle is raised :*

The light of Christ **Thanks be to God.**

We are marching, in the light of God,
We are marching in the light of God (x2)
We are marching, marching, we are marching oh
We are marching in the light of God.

We are living in the light of God....

We are moving in the light of God.....

The light of Christ **Thanks be to God.**

*The Paschal candle is placed in the stand
We keep our own candles alight.*

*The ancient Easter hymn, the Exsultet, proclaims the victory of Christ
over sin, the primacy of life, and the blessing of the Paschal candle.
Please sit or stand as you need.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Hymn 'This Joyful Eastertide'

This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow.
My Love, the crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow.

*Had Christ that once was slain ne'er burst his three day prison
Our faith had been in vain.
But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen!*

My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a season slumber;
Till trump from East to West shall wake the dead in number.
(refrain)

Death's flood has lost its chill since Jesus crossed that river.
Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver. (refrain)

As victor in the strife and knowing no surrender,
He comes to bring us life: a risen life of splendour. (refrain)

In Adam all men died, then Jesus came to save us.
For he was crucified, and dying, new life gave us. (refrain)



The Gospel - John 20. 1-18

The Lord be with you. **And also with you**

Hear the Holy Gospel according to John **Glory be to you O Lord**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" "Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things .

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

Please sit and extinguish your candle

Resurrection Thoughts:

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

As we celebrate the resurrection of Christ,
we remember that through the Easter mystery
we have died and been buried with him in baptism,
so that we may rise with him to a new life
within the family of his church.

We now renew the promises made at our baptism,
affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil.

In silence we reflect on our need for God's constant love and for-
giveness as we try to live these promises.

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made the world?

We believe and trust in him

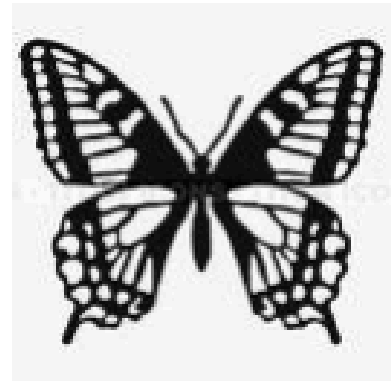
Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ,
who redeemed humankind?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit
who give life to the people of God?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the church.
**This is our faith,
we believe and trust in one God:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen**



As we turn again to Christ,
we are assured of his + pardon
and enriched with his grace.
Through his resurrection victory
we are absolved of our offences
and led ever onwards to a fresh start
and new life in him.

The Intercessions

The Peace

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

Alleluia! The peace of the risen Christ be always with you
And also with you.

Let us offer each other an Easter sign of peace:
The Lord is Risen!

and the answer:
He is risen indeed!

Offertory Hymn 83 **Love's Redeeming Work is Done**

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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

The Eucharistic prayer continues, during which we sing:

**Holy, holy, holy, holy.
Holy, holy, Lord God almighty;
And we lift our hearts before you
as a token of our love.
Holy, holy, holy, holy.**

And:

Great is the mystery of faith:
**Christ the Lord is ris'n again, Alleluia
Christ has broken every chain, Alleluia
Hark, angelic voices cry, Alleluia
Singing evermore on high, Alleluia.**

As our Saviour taught us so we pray:
Our Father.....

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.**

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us. (twice)
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace**

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Distribution of Communion

The body of Christ, broken for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen
Amen.

Hymn During Communion: **Hymn 75 The Day of Resurrection**

**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 Blessing

Hymn 428
Thine be the Glory

Organ Voluntary: