



St Mary  
the Virgin



Easter Day  
**The Eucharist**  
Sunday April 5th 2026  
10.45am

**Welcome to Saint Mary's Church  
in the Parish of Witney.**

**A particular welcome on this Easter Day, as we celebrate Jesus's Resurrection and our liberation from sin and death.**

We are an inclusive church embracing a hospitable Christianity.

Everyone is welcome at this service. If you usually receive communion please join us – or please come forward to receive a blessing.

**If you are interested in becoming a part of what is happening through the church please speak to one of the welcomers afterwards. We also have Welcome Packs available with more information – please ask!**

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is a simple and secure way for churches to receive regular donations. It is an established service for managing Direct Debit donations, designed to support churches to fund their mission and ministry. Talk to one of the church wardens to find out more or for help signing up, or pick up a leaflet at the North door.

*This service is live-streamed. If you do not want to appear on the stream please speak to the Welcomers or Duty Wardens.*



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*As the sacristy bell sounds all stand*

## **Welcoming the Easter Candle**

Christ yesterday and today,  
**All the beginning and the end,**  
Alpha and Omega,  
all time belongs to him,  
and all ages;  
**All to him be glory and power,**  
**through every age and for ever. Amen.**

*A minister lights the Easter Candle and proclaims*

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

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ was raised gloriously from the dead, crushing the power of sin and destroying the sting of death. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the mighty power of God as Christ calls us out of darkness to share in his marvellous light. May we, and all Christ's people, shine as lights in the world to the glory of God the Father.

*The minister holding the Candle sings*



The light of Christ.



**All Thanks be to God.**

*We sing the first hymn as the procession moves to the altar.*

## The Procession

Light's glittering morn bedecks the sky;  
heaven thunders forth its victor-cry:

*Alleluia.*

The glad earth shouts her triumph high,  
And groaning hell makes wild reply:

*Alleluia*

While he, the King, the mighty King,  
despoiling death of all its sting,  
and trampling down the powers of night,  
brings forth his transformed saints to light:

The pains of hell are loosed at last  
the days of mourning now are past;  
an angel robed in light hath said,  
'The Lord is risen from the dead':

O Lord of all, with us abide  
in this our joyful Eastertide;  
from every weapon death can wield  
thine own redeemed for ever shield:

All praise be thine, O risen Lord,  
from death to endless life restored;  
*Alleluia.*

all praise to God the Father be  
and Holy Ghost eternally:  
*Alleluia.*

Words: Latin, 4th C, tr. J.M. Neale  
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, arr. R. Vaughan Williams

*When the hymn is ended, the minister sings again, before placing the candle in its stand*



The light of Christ.



**All** Thanks be to God.

## The Greeting

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

**All** Amen.

The Lord be with you  
**All** and also with you.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**All** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*The service is introduced.*

## 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.'

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
To you be glory now and for ever.  
In your great mercy you have given us a new birth  
into a living hope  
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.  
By your blessing, +  
may we who have prepared this garden  
in celebration of his victory  
be strengthened in faith,  
know the power of his presence,  
and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

### **Prayers of Penitence**

*The priest invites us to confession in these or similar words.*

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.  
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil  
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

*Silence is kept.*

Like Mary at the empty tomb,  
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Like the disciples behind locked doors,  
we are afraid to be seen as your followers.  
Christ, have mercy.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

Like Thomas in the upper room,  
we are slow to believe.

Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

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**

*We sing together:*

**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

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.

**All Amen**

## The Liturgy of the Word

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles (*Acts 10.34-43*)

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

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

## The Gradual Hymn

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, alleluia!  
our triumphant holy day, alleluia!  
who did once, upon the cross, alleluia!  
suffer to redeem our loss, alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, alleluia!  
unto Christ, our heav'nly King, alleluia!  
who endured the cross and grave, alleluia!  
sinners to redeem and save, alleluia!

But the pains which He endured, alleluia!  
our salvation have procured; alleluia!  
now above the sky He's King, alleluia!  
where the angels ever sing: alleluia!

Words: *Lyra Davidica*, 1708  
Music: EASTER HYMN

A Reading from the Letter to the Colossians, (*Colossians 3.1-4*).

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

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

## The Gospel

*We stand for the Gospel Alleluia:*



The Lord be with you  
**All and also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know

where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

*John 20.1-18*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We sit*

**The Sermon**

**The Renewal of Baptismal Promises**

*As the altar party moves to the font, all 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.

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life in 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.**

May God, who has given you the desire to follow Christ, give you the strength to continue in the Way.

### **Prayer over 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 him thanks and praise.**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptised in the river Jordan:

we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse 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 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.

**All Amen.**

### **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?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**All 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?

**All** 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 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.

**All** Amen.

*The congregation is sprinkled with water from the font.*

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.

**All** Amen.

## **Intercessions**

In the power of the Spirit, and in union with Christ  
let us pray to the Father.

*The Intercessor may use the response*

Lord in your mercy

**All** Hear our prayer.

*And at the end:*

Most Merciful God  
**All Accept these prayers  
For the sake of your Son  
Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

*All stand*

### **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 risen Christ be always with you  
**All and also with you. Alleluia.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### **The Offertory Hymn**

*We stand as the Offertory Hymn is sung and the gifts of bread and wine are placed upon the Altar.*

**You can give to the work of the Church by signing up to the Parish Giving Scheme, or by using these bank details - Witney PCC, Sort Code 20-97-48, Account Number 00971626.**

There is also a card reader by the North Door,

All that we bring to the altar is a gift from God, and our offering back to God is a sign of the offering of our lives in the Lord's service.

Come, you faithful, raise the strain  
of triumphant gladness!  
God has brought forth 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.

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

Neither could the gates of death,  
nor the tomb's dark portal,  
nor the watchers, nor the seal,  
hold you as a mortal:  
but today, among your own,  
you appear, bestowing  
your deep peace, which ever more  
passes human knowing.

Alleluia! Now we cry  
to our Lord immortal,  
who, triumphant, burst the bars  
of the tomb's dark portal;  
Alleluia! With the Son,  
God the Father praising;  
Alleluia! Yet again  
to the Spirit raising.

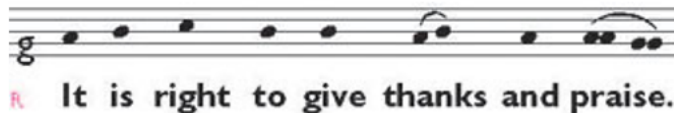
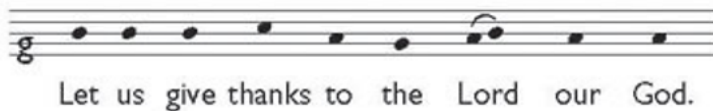
Words: S John of Damascus  
Music: ST JOHN DAMASCENE, AH Browne

## Prayer over the Gifts

Creator of all,  
you wash away our sins,  
you give us new birth by the Spirit,  
and redeem us in the blood of Christ.  
As we celebrate the resurrection,  
renew your gift of life within us.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord.

**All Amen.**

## Eucharistic Prayer



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:

**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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, 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.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of Mary the Mother of God,  
and all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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

**All 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**

*The Priest breaks the consecrated host*

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

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

## Agnus Dei

**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.**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*All who are used to receiving Communion are welcome to do so here  
– please make your way to the altar as directed by the Sidesperson.*

*If you do not wish to receive Communion, you are warmly invited to  
come forward for a blessing – please approach the president carrying  
this booklet. Gluten free wafers are available on request.*

## The Communion Hymn

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,  
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name (chorus).

Jesus is Lord of all the earth  
he is the King of creation.

Spread the good news o'er all the earth  
Jesus has died and is risen

We have been crucified with Christ.  
Now we shall live forever.

God has proclaimed the just reward:  
'Life for us all, alleluia!'

Come; let us praise the living God  
joyfully sing to our Saviour.

Words and music: Donald Fischel, b.1950

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Let us pray:

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.

**All Amen**

**All Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out  
in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work  
to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

*We sit for the notices*

**The Notices**

## The Blessing

*Please stand for the Blessing*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

The God of peace,  
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
that great shepherd of the sheep,  
through the blood of the eternal covenant,  
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,  
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

## The Dismissal



Go in the peace of Christ. Al-le-lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



**All Thanks be to God. Al-le-lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.**

## The Recessional Hymn

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;  
endless is the victory, 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.*

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. *R/*

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. *R/*

Words: Edmond Budry (1854-1932), 1884; trans. Richard Hoyle (1875-1939)  
Music: Maccabeus (adapted from the oratorio by Georg Friedrich Handel, 1685-  
1759)

Let us bless the Lord  
**All Thanks be to God.**

***Everyone is welcome to stay for coffee after the Eucharist.***