

St John's Harpenden



EASTER DAY
SUNG PARISH EUCHARIST

5th April 2026

*'They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the
third day'*

(Acts 10:39-40)

Welcome to St John's, Harpenden

For over a hundred years Christian worship and ministry have been offered in this place, St John's Harpenden. You are all most welcome.

If you are visiting the church today or have recently begun worshipping with us then please introduce yourself to one of the ministry team or welcomers

Four easy ways to support St John's:

Regular Gift



set up a regular gift through the Parish Giving Scheme

Contactless



tap your card on the reader at the back of the church

Online



Scan here with your phone camera to give

Cash



in the collection plate during the offertory hymn

Please *giftaid it* if you are eligible

alison.bygrave@stjohnsharpenden.org.uk



There is an Induction Loop in the church, for those using a hearing aid



Large print orders of service are available on request Please ask a welcomer



If you require a **gluten free** communion wafer, please let a welcomer know before the beginning of the service



StJohnsAL5

www.stjohnsharpenden.org.uk



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Easter

Eastertide is a season of joy, when we as Christians continue to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead. The Scriptures tell us that Jesus continued to appear to his disciples for fifty days, until his Ascension and then the sending of the promised Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Throughout this time, the Paschal Candle stands before us to remind us of the presence of the Risen Christ among his disciples then and now.

It is a time when we celebrate our Baptismal vocation as a member of the Church, and so the Eucharist includes the sprinkling of the people with Holy Water, so that our life of faith may be renewed and refreshed by Jesus' own life. Frequently in worship we exclaim 'Alleluia!' as an expression of our joy, and white vestments are worn to emphasise the brightness of the season.

The season of Easter continues until the Ascension, when we remember the Risen Christ's return to the Father in Heaven. Before doing so, Christ reminds his followers to go and spread the Good News and to baptise and nurture new disciples (Matthew 28). The nine days that follow are special days of prayer, culminating in the feast of Pentecost or Whit Sunday, when we give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit which empowers our Christian lives and the mission of the whole Church.

May you know Christ's peace and joy in this season. Alleluia!



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WELCOME

The ministers go in silence to the main entrance. The deacon carrying the unlit Easter Candle. All the lights in the building are switched off.

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

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

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

The Easter candle is marked by the president who then says

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life.
Throughout the world Christians celebrate the awesome power of God. As
we hear his word and proclaim all that God has done, we can be confident
that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever.

A minister lights the Easter Candle, saying

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

The minister carrying the Candle raises it and says or sings

The light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

People may light their candles from the Easter Candle. Children may be encouraged to carry the light to people throughout the church.

The procession moves further into the building and then stops. The versicle and response are repeated.

When the minister carrying the Candle arrives at the front of the church it is placed on a stand in the midst of the building, and all other candles in the church are now lit.

THE EXULTET (the Easter Song of Praise) is sung to tune 394

**Sing, choirs of heaven! Let saints and angels sing!
Around God's throne exult in harmony!
Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave!
Salute your King in glorious symphony!**

**Sing, choirs of earth! Behold, your light has come!
The glory of the Lord shines radiantly!
Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death!
The night is past, the day of life is here!**

**Sing, Church of God! Exult with joy outpoured!
The gospel trumpets tell of victory won!
Your Saviour lives; he's with you evermore!
Let all God's people sound the long Amen!**

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

We sing God's glory!

A joyful fanfare may be played, bells rung, cymbals clashed, noise made, lights switched on and the people's candles extinguished, as we sing

We stand to sing God's praise.

Refrain: Gloria (clap, clap), Gloria (clap, clap), in excelsis Deo

1. Lord God, heavenly King, peace you bring to us; we worship you we give you thanks, we sing our song of praise
2. Jesus, Saviour of all, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away our sins, O Lord, have mercy on us all.
3. At the Fathers right hand, Lord receive our Prayer, for you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord.
4. Glory, Father and Son, Glory Holy Spirit, to you we raise our hands up high, we glorify your name.

COLLECT

Let us pray

A short period of silence is kept

Lord of all life and power, who through the resurrection 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.**

Sit

FIRST READING Acts 10.34-43 read by Laurence Venner

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

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.’

At the end of the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

GRADUAL HYMN 205 Jesus Christ is risen again

1. 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!*

2. 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!*

3. 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!*

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 28.1-10

Please turn towards the Gospel.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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, alleluia, alleluia!

✠ Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But 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. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

At the end of the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit for the TALK

The children are invited to come and sit at the front of the church. Adults are welcome to come and sit with younger children.

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

The Ministers make their way to the font. All turn to face them.

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 these questions:

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.

THE CREED

Let us profess together the faith of our Baptism.

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 those who have been baptised 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.**

Amen.

Remain standing

SPRINKLING WITH THE WATER OF BAPTISM

*The People are sprinkled with Holy Water as a sign of our new life in Christ
through Baptism.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION Read by the Venner family

The president introduces the prayers.

Let us offer up our prayers of praise and thanksgiving for ourselves and for your whole Church, that we may live as people who believe in Christ's victory over death.

Kneel

After each petition:

Lord in your mercy:
Hear our prayer.

At the end of the prayers:

Merciful Father, accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Stand for **THE PEACE**

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!
Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!
Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

The Peace of the Risen Lord be always with you:
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We share the peace with those immediately around us saying, 'Peace be with you'.

OFFERTORY HYMN 194 Alleluia, Alleluia

1. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hearts to heaven and voices raise;
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise:
he who on the cross a victim
for the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
now is risen from the dead.

2. Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits
of the holy harvest field,
which will all its full abundance
at his second coming yield;
then the golden ears of harvest
will their heads before him wave,
ripened by his glorious sunshine,
from the furrows of the grave.

3. Christ is risen, we are risen;
shed upon us heavenly grace,
rain, and dew, and gleams of glory
from the brightness of thy face;
that we, with our hearts in heaven,
here on earth may fruitful be,
and by angel-hands be gathered,
and be ever, Lord, with thee.

4. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Glory be to God on high;
Alleluia to the Saviour,
who has gained the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
to the Triune Majesty.

During the Offertory, the gifts of bread and wine are brought to the Altar, a collection may be gathered. Please give generously to support the ministry of your church. Thank you for your gift.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord of life, with unbounded joy we offer you our sacrifice of praise.
As we are fed with the bread of heaven
may we know your resurrection power;
through Christ our risen Lord. **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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 night 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 with all the company of heaven, we laud
and magnify your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and
singing:

**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!**



Please sit or kneel

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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

Dying you destroyed our death,

Rising you restored our life:

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

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.
We bring before you this bread and this cup
and 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 Our Lady Mary, St John 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.
Amen!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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.**

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.

AGNUS DEI

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 has been sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

All Baptised Christians who normally receive Communion in their own church are very welcome to do so here. If you would like to receive a Blessing, please bow your head at the Altar rail. Gluten Free wafers are available. Please follow the direction of the wardens.

COMMUNION HYMN(S)

Remain kneeling or seated.

Choir Anthem – This joyful Eastertide (Wood)

- 212 Now the green blade riseth

1. Now the green blade rises, from the buried grain,
wheat that in 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.

2. In the grave they laid Him, Love whom men 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.

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

4. When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
then your touch can call us back to life again,
field of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that springs up green.

197 – Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks.

*Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his Name.*

1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of creation.

2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and has risen.

3. We have been crucified with Christ.
Now we shall live for ever.

4. God has proclaimed his gracious gift:
Life eternal for all who believe.

5. Come, let us praise the living God,
Joyfully sing to our Saviour.

A short period of silence is kept after Communion.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us 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 the enemy;
grant us to die daily to sin,
that we may evermore live with him in the joy of the risen life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

NOTICES

Stand for the FINAL HYMN 218 Thine be the glory

1. 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.

Refrain:

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

2. 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: [Refrain]

3. 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: [Refrain]

Remain standing

SOLEMN BLESSING and EASTER DISMISSAL

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

May almighty God bless you on this solemn feast of Easter, and may he protect you against all sin. **Amen.**

Through the resurrection of his Son, God has granted us healing. May he fulfil his promises and bless you with eternal life. **Amen.**

You have mourned for Christ's sufferings, now you celebrate the joy of his resurrection; may you come with joy to the feast that lasts forever. **Amen.**

The blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you this night and always. **Amen.**

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

In the name of Christ! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Remain standing as a Voluntary begins and the Recession takes place.

Please join us for refreshments in Church Hall after the Service, or for an Easter Egg hunt in the Church grounds.

HAPPY EASTER!



St John's is normally open every day for private prayer, services and for peace and quiet. Please come and visit us.

If you are new to St John's please do fill out a new worshipper card which can be obtained from the wardens, and return to the Parish Office or one of the clergy.

The parish clergy are always available to visit the sick and bereaved, and to take Communion to the housebound. Please contact the Parish Office for information about Baptism, Confirmation, Weddings, Funerals and other rites.