

Thanksgiving after Communion

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.

Hymn **Thine be the Glory** *MP 689*

Blessing

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 ...

Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.



St Michael's Church, Highworth

10.15am service — Sunday 31st March 2024

Easter Day Holy Communion



Breaking of the Bread
The president 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.**

**Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.**

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

Before the Distribution
**Most merciful Lord,
your love compels us to come in.
Our hands were unclean,
our hearts were unprepared;
we were not fit
even to eat the crumbs from under your table.
But you, Lord, are the God of our salvation,
and share your bread with sinners.
So cleanse and feed us
with the precious body and blood of your Son,
that he may live in us and we in him;
and that we, with the whole company of Christ,
may sit and eat in your kingdom.
Amen.**

Distribution of Communion

Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven.
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.

This is his story.

**This is our song:
Praising our Saviour all the day long**

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed
he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.

This is his story.

**This is our song:
Praising our Saviour all the day long**

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.
Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
he took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.

This is our story.

**This is our song:
Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross
on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

This is his story.

**This is our song:
Praising our Saviour all the day long**

Send your Spirit on us now
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.
May we and all who share this food
offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven
where all creation worships you,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**Blessing and honour, glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

Welcome

Church family news

Let us say together

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His love endures forever.
(Psalm 118:1)

Christ is risen

He is risen indeed! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Opening Prayer

**Faithful One, Whose word is life,
Come with saving power
To free our praise,
Inspire our prayer
And shape our lives
For the kingdom of Your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Hymn **Jesus Christ is Risen Today** MP 357

Please sit as we confess our sins and short-comings to the Lord

Confession

None of us is truly righteous. All of us have fallen short of the glory of God.
We are sinners, unworthy of God's love.
Let us bring ourselves before God in penitence and in faith and confess our sins to Him,

**Almighty, and most merciful Father,
We have erred and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep,
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,
We have offended against Thy Holy Laws,
We have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
And we have done those things which we ought not to have done,
And there is no health in us,
But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders;
Spare Thou them, O God, which confess their faults,
Restore Thou them that are penitent,
According to Thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesu
our Lord;
And grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake,
That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
To the glory of Thy holy Name. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by His Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All age section

Collect for Easter Day

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Hymn **Holy Holy Holy, Lord God Almighty** *MP 237*

The Ministry of the Word

Let us sit to hear the First Reading

Reader: The first reading for this Easter Day is from

Acts, Chapter 10, Verses 34 to 43

(at the end) This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Hymn **There is a Redeemer** *MP 673*

Reader: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John,

Chapter 20, Verses 1 to 18

(at the end): This is the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to You, O Christ**

Sermon

Hymn **Here is Love, Vast as the Ocean** *MP 987*

Creed

Let us now proclaim our faith together, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;**

He descended to hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

**He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.**

From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Peace

Once we were far off, but now in union with Christ Jesus we have been brought near
through the shedding of Christ's blood. For He is our peace,
The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

Prayers

Let us pray for the Church and for the World, and thank God for His goodness
Lord, in Your mercy **Hear our Prayer**

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Easter Communion Prayer D

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.

Almighty God, good Father to us all,
your face is turned towards your world.

In love you gave us Jesus your Son

to rescue us from sin and death.

Your Word goes out to call us home

to the city where angels sing your praise.

We join with them in heaven's song:

**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.**