



# The Holy Eucharist In Easter

# ¶ Introduction

On Easter Day, "Alleluia" returns to our worship. We have returned from the discipline and self-denial of Lent, the emptiness and desolation of Holy Week, to our proper place before the Heavenly Throne, the place won for us by the Passion and Resurrection of Our Lord. It is right that upon our lips and in our worship should be "Alleluia". Although the word might mean something like "All hail to Him Who is!", it is really an untranslatable, instinctive, exclamation of ecstatic joy.

The joy of Easter is not with us for a day, but a season; it lasts for a full fifty days. Tertullian, the great Church Father (cAD 160-225), called the Fifty Days *laetissimum spatium*, "this most joyful period", and sometimes, following St Athanasius, the whole period is called one "Great Sunday".

To underline this unity, the calendar of *Common Worship* no longer speaks of "Sundays *after* Easter", but rather "Sundays *of* Easter". This is not an event receding into the past, but something we live in day by day, as we celebrate the abiding presence of the risen Christ with his disciples.

The abiding nature of this presence is underscored by the two great festivals at the end of the Easter season; Ascension and Pentecost. At Ascension we celebrate the presence of the crucified man Jesus at the right hand of God. We remember that Christ has promised us two things; that "I am with you always, to the end of the age" and that he will not leave us comfortless, but "will send upon you what my Father promised". That promise is fulfilled in our worship on Pentecost, when we commemorate the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the birth of the Church, the Body of Christ here on earth. The gift of the Spirit is the climax of the Easter season, and with our worship on Whitsunday evening, the Pascal Candle is extinguished, and we go out into God's world to fulfill God's purpose for us.

> Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! O Universe, dance around God's throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Sound the victorious trumpet of salvation!

> > The Exsultet *c* fifth century

# ¶ The Gathering

We STAND as the ministers enter.

# The Greeting

The president greets the people

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

### All Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

### All And also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

### All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Words of welcome or introduction may be said. Notices are given at this point, and any banns of marriage are published.

# **Prayers of Penitence**

The president introduces the prayers of penitence in these or other suitable words

### From Easter to Ascension

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.

### From Ascension to Pentecost

What God has prepared for those who love him, he has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything. Therefore, let us in penitence open our hearts to the Lord, who has prepared good things for those who love him.

Silence is kept.

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection. In your mercy, forgive us.

### All Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing. In your mercy, forgive us.

All Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven. In your mercy, forgive us.

### All Lord, hear us and help us.

The president says

May God who loved the world so much that he sent his Son to be our Saviour forgive us our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### All Amen.

# **Gloria in Excelsis**

is said, or sung on Sundays and Festivals

All 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

As we remain STANDING, the president introduces a period of silent prayer. The Collect is said, and we all respond

### All Amen.

We SIT for our readings.

# ¶ The Liturgy of the Word

Two readings from Holy Scripture follow. At the end of each the reader says

This is the word of the Lord.

### All Thanks be to God.

We STAND for

# **Gospel Acclamation**

Before the Gospel reading, the reader says the Gospel Acclamation and we all respond.

From Easter to Ascension

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.

All Alleluia.

From Ascension to Pentecost

Alleluia, alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of your love.

### All Alleluia.

# **Gospel Reading**

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

# All Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end the reader says

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

# Sermon

At the end of the sermon we STAND for

All We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is. seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God. eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate: he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead. and the life of the world to come. Amen.

# **Prayers of Intercession**

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

We SIT or KNEEL. The prayers usually include these concerns and may follow this sequence:

¶ The Church of Christ

 $\P$  Creation, human society, the Sovereign and those in authority

¶ The local community

¶ Those who suffer

¶ The communion of saints

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.

or

### Holy God All hear our prayer.

And at the end

Heavenly Father, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life, so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy; through Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

# ¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

We STAND.

# The Peace

The president introduces the Peace.

From Easter to Ascension

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.

All Alleluia.

From Ascension to Pentecost

God has made us one in Christ. He has set his seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the Spirit to dwell in our hearts.

### All Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

### All and also with you.

Let us acknowledge one another with a sign of peace.

We either offer a physical sign of peace to those of our household, or acknowledge in our hearts our desire to live in peace with our brothers and sisters from whom we are at present physically separated.

# Preparation of the Table Taking of the Bread and Wine

The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it. The president takes the bread and wine and says

As the grain once scattered in the fields and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside are now reunited on this table in bread and wine, so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.

All Amen.

# The Eucharistic Prayer

[Prayer E]

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.

The president praises God for his mighty acts in these or other words:

From Easter to Ascension

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter 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:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. For he is our great high priest who has entered once for all into the heavenly sanctuary, evermore to pour upon your Church the grace and comfort of your Holy Spirit. He is the one who has gone before us, who calls us to be united in prayer as were his disciples in the upper room while they awaited his promised gift, the life-giving Spirit of Pentecost. Therefore all creation yearns with eager longing as angels and archangels sing the endless hymn of praise:

### On the Day of Pentecost only

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, your only Son our Lord. This day we give you thanks because in fulfilment of your promise you pour out your Spirit upon us, filling us with your gifts, leading us into all truth, and uniting peoples of many tongues in the confession of one faith. Your Spirit gives us grace to call you Father, to proclaim your gospel to all nations and to serve you as a royal priesthood. Therefore we join our voices with angels and archangels, and with all those in whom the Spirit dwells, to proclaim the glory of your name, for ever praising you and saying:

# 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.

The president recalls the Last Supper, in these or other words

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again. Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary, SS Peter and Paul, and all the saints, to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

### All Amen.

We SIT or KNEEL and silence is kept.

# The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us

All 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

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

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.

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.

(or)

All 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.

# **Giving of Communion**

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

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

Those who are present receive communion in one kind, and in all its spiritual fullness. Please follow the directions of the stewards, and observe physical distancing.

# **Prayer after Communion**

The president says

Let us pray.

Silence is kept. The president says the post communion prayer. This prayer may also be said.

All You have opened to us the Scriptures, O Christ, and you have made yourself known in the breaking of the bread.
Abide with us, we pray, that, blessed by your royal presence, we may walk with you all the days of our life, and at its end behold you in the glory of the eternal Trinity, one God for ever and ever.
Amen.

# The Dismissal

We STAND for

# The **Blessing**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

### All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The president says one of these or another blessing.

From Easter to Ascension

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.

### From Ascension to Pentecost

The Spirit of truth lead you into all truth, give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, and strengthen you to proclaim the word and works of God; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

### All Amen.

A minister says

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

# All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

The ministers and people depart

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