

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



**The Benefice of St.Mary, Alderley & St.Catherine, Birtles**  
**The Family Service in the Easter season**

**We sing an Easter hymn**

Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
Let us praise and exalt him for ever.

**All** Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be to him who sits upon the throne  
and to the Lamb for ever and ever. Amen.  
Great and marvellous are your works,  
Lord God the almighty;  
just and true are your ways,  
King of saints;  
all glorious your gifts, Spirit of life.  
Blessing and honour  
and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving  
and honour and power and might  
be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.

## **The General Confession**

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.***

## **Absolution**

### **The Collect for Easter**

**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.  
Amen.**

## **The Easter Anthems**

- 1 Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us:  
so let us celebrate the feast,**
- 2 not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:  
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.**

*1 Corinthians 5.7b, 8*

- 3 Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:  
death has no more dominion over him.**
- 4 In dying he died to sin once for all:  
in living he lives to God.**
- 5 See yourselves therefore as dead to sin:  
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*Romans 6.9-11*

- 6 Christ has been raised from the dead:  
the first fruits of those who sleep.**
- 7 For as by man came death:  
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;**
- 8 for as in Adam all die:  
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.**

*1 Corinthians 15.20-22*

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**We sing an Easter hymn**

**One or more readings from the Bible**

**The Address**

## **The Renewal of Baptismal vows**

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

## **The 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.***

*The president says*

Almighty God,

we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith  
with all who have been baptized into 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.***

## **We sing an Easter hymn**

During this hymn your offering will be received.

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.  
Jesus, light of the world,  
bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations ..  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, bread of life,  
give food to the hungry ...  
and nourish us all with your word.  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,  
be with us and all who follow you in the way ...  
Deepen our appreciation of your truth  
and fill us with your life.  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,  
recover the straggler,  
bind up the injured,  
strengthen the sick  
and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,  
we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed  
in you ...  
Raise us with them to eternal life.  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
**in your mercy, hear us,  
accept our prayers, and be with us always.  
Amen.**

## **The Peace**

Jesus says: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

If you love me, rejoice because I am going to the Father'.  
Alleluia.

*John 14.27,28*

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**All: and also with you.**

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

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

*John 11.25,26*

## The Easter 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 of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy  
Ghost be with you now and evermore.

Amen

## We sing an Easter hymn

Easter Day marks the beginning of fifty days of celebrating Jesus' resurrection. The final ten days begin on Ascension day where we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven. Churches around the country mark the day with services, sometimes outside or on church roofs. Finally, at the end of the fifty days, we celebrate Pentecost (sometimes called Whitsun) when Jesus' disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit. This is often referred to as the birthday of the Church and is celebrated with parties and Whit walks (processions through town). <https://www.churchofengland.org/our-faith/lent-holy-week-and-easter>

Easter 2018

**Acknowledgements.** Material from Common Worship included in this service is copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2000.

