

# Parish Church of St. Alphege, Solihull



## **EASTER EVE** **The Easter Vigil** **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

Mass Setting: *Messe Solennelle* by Louis Vierne



## The Service of Light

*The building being in darkness, everyone stands outside the west door, where the New Fire will be lit.*

*All stand and face the ministers.*

*The President says:*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,  
on this most holy night,  
when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life,  
the Church invites her children throughout the world  
to come together in vigil and prayer.  
This is the Passover of the Lord.  
We remember his death and resurrection  
by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries,  
confident that we shall share his victory over death  
and live with him for ever in God.

*The new fire is kindled – from which the Paschal candles are lit.*

Eternal God, who made this most holy night  
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:  
set us aflame with the fire of your love,  
and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

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

**All: Amen.**

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

**All: Amen.**

*The congregation enter the church ahead of the procession.*

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

The light of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*The procession of the Easter Candle moves further into the building and then stops under the chandelier.*

The light of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*The candles of those at the end of aisles are lit from the Easter Candle. Please light each other's candles.*

*The procession continues to the centre of the building, stopping beside the lectern.*

The light of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*The candles of those around are lit.*

*The Easter Candle is placed on a stand in the midst of the building.*

## **The Easter Proclamation (The Exsultet)**

*Please remain standing. A minister proclaims the Exsultet:*

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels,  
and let your trumpets shout Salvation  
for the victory of our mighty King.

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth,  
bright with a glorious splendour,  
for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church,  
and let your holy courts, in radiant light,  
resound with the praises of your people.

All you who stand near this marvellous and holy flame,  
pray with me to God the Almighty  
for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light;  
through Jesus Christ his Son our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and man is reconciled to God.

Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honour. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

# The Vigil

*We sit. The President introduces the Vigil with these words:*

As we await the risen Christ, let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, recalling how he saved his people in ages past and in the fullness of time sent his Son to be our Redeemer; and let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

**Reading:** Genesis 9.8-13 (God's Covenant)

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

**Response:** Taizé Chant (HON 791)

*We remain seated or kneel.*

*(repeat 4 times)*

**Within our darkest night  
you kindle the fire that never dies away,  
that never dies away.**

**Reading:** Exodus 14: 10-end; Exodus 15: 1a (The Exodus)

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, 'Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, "Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians"? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.' But Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today;

for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.'

Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground.

Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.'

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, 'Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.' Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.' So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses. Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

'I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*The Choir sings Psalm 114*

*We remain seated.*

1. When Israel came out of Egypt: and the house of Jacob from among the strange people,
2. Judah was his sanctuary: and Israel his dominion.
3. The sea saw that, and fled: Jordan was driven back.
4. The mountains skipped like rams: and the little hills like young sheep.
5. What aileth thee, O thou sea, that thou fleddest: and thou Jordan, that thou wast driven back?
6. Ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams: and ye little hills, like young sheep?
7. Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord: at the presence of the God of Jacob;
8. Who turned the hard rock into a standing water: and the flint-stone into a springing well.

**Reading: Ezekiel 37: 1-14 (Valley of dry bones)**

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn - HON 77**

*We stand.*

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
fill me with life anew,  
that as you love, so may I love,  
and do what you would do.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
until my heart is pure,  
until my will is one with yours  
to do and to endure.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
fulfil my heart's desire  
until this earthly part of me  
glows with your heav'nly fire.**

**Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
so shall I never die,  
but live with you the perfect life  
of your eternity.**

## The Easter Acclamation

*We stand*

*President:* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

*All:* **He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

*A joyful fanfare may be played, bells rung, cymbals clashed, noise made.*

## Gloria in Excelsis

The Gloria in Excelsis is sung by the choir; the lights are switched on and the people's candles extinguished.

Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam, Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.

Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe; Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis; qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram.

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis. Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu: in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

*Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, goodwill towards men.*

*We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee,  
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,*

*O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty.*

*O Lord, the only-begotten Son Jesu Christ;*

*O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,*

*that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.*

*Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.*

*Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.*

*For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ,  
with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.*

*President:*

Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

*Silence is kept.*

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.

**All Amen.**

*We sit.*

### **New Testament Reading: Romans 6.3-11**

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*Please stand. The Choir and Congregation sing the Gospel acclamation*



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, alleluia; Alleluia, alleluia.**

## Gospel Reading Matthew 28.1-10

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says:*

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

**All: 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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

## The Liturgy of Initiation

*The choir sings psalm 126.*

*During the singing of this psalm, the procession moves westwards to the font.*

1. When the Lord turned again the captivity of Sion :  
    then were we like unto them that dream.
2. Then was our mouth filled with laughter : and our tongue with joy.
3. Then said they among the heathen :  
    The Lord hath done great things for them.
4. Yea, the Lord hath done great things for us already :  
    whereof we rejoice.
5. Turn our captivity, O Lord : as the rivers in the south.
6. They that sow in tears : shall reap in joy.
7. He that now goeth on his way weeping, and beareth forth good seed :  
    shall doubtless come again with joy, and bring his sheaves with him.

*President:* 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.

## The Renewal of Baptism 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 turn to Christ?

**All: I turn to Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins?

**All: I repent of my sins.**

Do you renounce evil?

**All: I renounce evil.**

May almighty 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 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.

*Deacon:* Saving God,

**All: give us life.**

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery, to freedom in the Promised Land.

*Deacon* Saving God,

**All: give us life.**

We thank you that through the deep waters of death you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph.

*Deacon* Saving God,

**All: give us life.**

Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

*Deacon* Saving God,

**All: give us life.**

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. Amen.

*Deacon* Saving God,

**All: give us life.**

## Profession of Faith

Sisters and brothers and, 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 baptised 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.**

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.**

*The procession returns up the nave, the president sprinkling the people with water from the font.*

## **The Liturgy of the Eucharist**

*President:* 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.**

*Deacon:* Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace, greeting one another with these words:  
"Christ is risen!"*

*The altar candles are lit.*

### **Offertory hymn – HON 339**

**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!**

## Preparation of the Table

Be present, be present,  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
our risen high priest;  
Make yourself known in the breaking of bread.

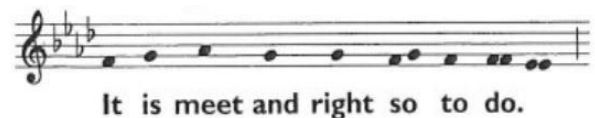
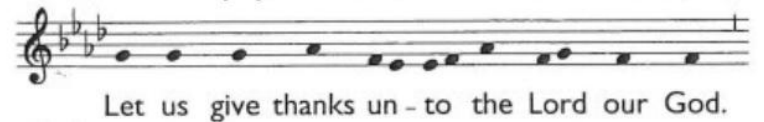
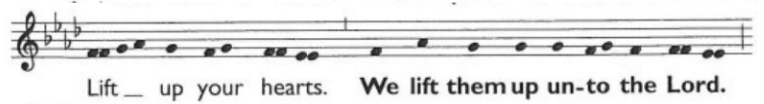
**All:** Amen.

## The Eucharistic Prayer

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

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 at 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 the powers of all creation  
sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

*The choir sings the Sanctus:*

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus  
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt coeli et terra  
Gloria tua.  
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy  
Lord, God of Hosts,  
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Glory be to thee,  
O Lord most high.*

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.

Deacon            Praise to you, Lord Jesus:  
**All                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.

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 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

*We kneel or sit.*

Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has 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

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,  
whoever eats this bread will for ever.

**All: Lord, our hearts hunger for you;  
give us this bread always.**

## Giving of Communion

*The President says the invitation:*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

### Agnus Dei

*The choir sings the Agnus Dei whilst the president and altar party receive.*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.*

*O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.*

*During the distribution, the choir sings 'Let all the world' by Vaughan Williams.*

Let all the world in every corner sing  
My God and King!

The heavens are not too high  
His praise may thither fly:  
The earth is not too low  
His praises there may grow

Let all the world in every corner sing  
My God and King!

The church with Psalms must shout  
No door can keep them out:  
But above all, the heart  
Must bear the longest part

Let all the world in every corner sing  
My God and King!

*Words: George Herbert (1633)*

## Prayer after Communion

*Silence is kept.*

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.**

**Closing hymn – HON 623**

*Please stand.*

**The day of resurrection!  
Earth, tell it out abroad;  
the passover of gladness,  
the passover of God!  
From death to life eternal,  
from earth unto the sky,  
our Christ hath brought us over  
with hymns of victory.**

**Our hearts be pure from evil,  
that we may see aright  
the Lord in rays eternal  
of resurrection-light;  
and list'ning to his accents,  
may hear, so calm and plain,  
his own 'All hail!' and, hearing,  
may raise the victor strain.**

**Now let the heavens be joyful,  
and earth her song begin,  
the round world keep high triumph,  
and all that is therein;  
let all things seen and unseen,  
their notes of gladness blend,  
for Christ the Lord hath risen,  
our joy that hath no end.**

## The Blessing

*President:* God the Father by whose love Christ was raised from the dead, open to you who believe the gate of everlasting life.

**All:** Amen.

*President:* God the Son who in bursting the grave has won a glorious victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

**All:** Amen.

*President:* God the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

**All:** Amen.

*President:* And the blessing of God almighty,  
✚ the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All:** Amen.

*Deacon:* With the risen life of Christ within you,  
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

**All:** Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

*Organ Voluntary:* Toccata in G by Theodore Dubois



**Growing Disciples, Building Community, Transforming Lives**

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