

**An Act of  
Spiritual Communion  
for Easter Day**



The Book of Common Prayer instructs us that if we offer ourselves in penitence and faith, giving thanks for the redemption won by Christ crucified, we may truly 'eat and drink the Body and Blood of our Saviour Christ', although we cannot receive the sacrament physically in ourselves. Making a Spiritual Communion is particularly fitting for those who cannot receive the sacrament at the great feasts of the Church, and it fulfils the duty of receiving Holy Communion 'regularly, and especially at the festivals of Christmas, Easter and Whitsun or Pentecost' (Canon B 15).

### *The Welcome and Greeting*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,  
on this most holy morning,  
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.

Thanks be to you, O God, that we have risen this day

**All** **To the rising of this life itself.**

Be the purpose of God between us and each purpose.

**All** **The hand of God between us and each hand,**

The pain of Christ between us and each pain,

**All** **The love of Christ between us and each love.**

O God, who brought us to the bright light of this new day

**All Bring us to the guiding light of eternity.**

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

**All Amen**

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*Prayer of Preparation*

**All Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

*Prayers of Penitence*

In baptism we died with Christ,  
so that as Christ was raised from the dead,  
we might walk in newness of life.

Let us receive new life in him  
as we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**All**    **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All**    **Amen**

*Gloria in Excelsis*

**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. Forgive us, Jesus Christ.**

*The Collect*

Lord of all life and power,  
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son  
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.

### *Readings*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God**

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.

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

**All Glory to you, O Lord**

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

### *Sermon*

#### *Affirmation of Faith (Nicene Creed)*

Let us declare our faith in the words of the creed.

**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*

At the end:

**All Merciful Father accept these prayers,**

**for the sake of your Son our  
Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

*Prayers at the Preparation of the Table*

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.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

**All and also with you.**

*Prayers at the Preparation of the Table*

Risen Lord Jesus Christ,

we believe you, and all we have heard is true.

When you break bread

may we recognize you as the fire that burns within us,  
that we may bring light to your world.

**All Amen.**

*The Eucharistic Prayer*

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.**

And now we give you thanks

because Christ our paschal sacrifice

has made us children of the light,  
rising to new and everlasting life.  
He has opened the gates of heaven  
to receive his faithful people.  
His death is our ransom from death,  
his resurrection is our rising to life.  
The joy of the resurrection renews the whole world,  
while the choirs of heaven sing for ever to your glory.

**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.**

How wonderful the work of your hands, O Lord.  
As a mother tenderly gathers her children,  
you embraced a people as your own.  
When they turned away and rebelled  
your love remained steadfast.  
From them you raised up Jesus our Saviour, born of Mary,  
to be the living bread,  
in whom all our hungers are satisfied.  
He offered his life for sinners,  
and with a love stronger than death  
he opened wide his arms on the cross.  
On the night before he died,  
he came to supper with his friends

and, taking bread, he gave you thanks.

He broke it and gave it to them, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,

he gave you thanks, 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.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**All Lord, by your cross and resurrection**

**you have set us free.**

**You are the Saviour of the world.**

Father, we plead with confidence

his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross;

we remember his dying and rising in glory,

and we rejoice that he intercedes for us at your right hand.

Pour out your Holy Spirit as we bring before you

these gifts of your creation;

may they be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

As we eat and drink these holy things in your presence,

form us in the likeness of Christ,

and build us into a living temple to your glory.

Remember, Lord, your Church in every land.

Reveal her unity, guard her faith,

and preserve her in peace.

Bring us at the last with all the saints  
to the vision of that eternal splendour  
for which you have created us;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
by whom, with whom, and in whom,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

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

As our Saviour taught us so we pray...

**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*

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.**

**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.**

*Prayer after Communion*

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

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

**All** **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.**

*Hymn*

*Blessing*

May Christ, who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future, fill you with his new life; and the blessing ...

*The Dismissal*

We are raised to new life with Christ.

Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

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