IN THE EASTER GARDEN

Easter Sunday at St Barnabas

Our service begins outside

THE NEW FIRE

Sisters and brothers in Christ, this is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the mighty power of God as Christ calls us out of darkness to share in his marvellous light. As we hear his word and proclaim all that God has done, we can be confident that we shall share his victory over death, and live with him for ever in God.

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

The new fire is lit

The Easter Candle is marked

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.
Amen.

The Easter Candle is lit

By his holy and glorious wounds
may Christ our Lord
guard and keep us.
May the light of Christ,
rising in glory,
banish all darkness
from our hearts
and minds. **Amen.**

The light of Christ
Thanks be to God

We enter the church together to stand around the font, where the Easter candle is place in its stand

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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.

Sing, choirs of heaven! Let saints and angels sing! Around God's throne exult in harmony! Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave! Salute your King in glorious symphony!

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing, choirs of earth! Behold, your light has come! The glory of the Lord shines radiantly! Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death! The night is past, the day of life is here!

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing, Church of God! Exult with joy outpoured! The gospel trumpets tell of victory won! Your Saviour lives; he's with you evermore! Let all God's people sound the long Amen!

Amen!

Alleluia.
Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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.**

We take our places in the pews as we sing our opening hymn
JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TO-DAY

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

Matthew 28:1-10

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

TODAY'S REFLECTION

We sing a hymn of response
LOVE'S REDEEMING WORK IS DONE

RENEWING OUR HOPE

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. Now that we have completed our observance of Lent, we renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil.

Do you turn to Christ?
I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?
I repent of my sins.

Do you renounce evil?
I renounce evil.

Lord our God, be with us as we recall the wonder of our creation and the greater wonder of our redemption. Bless this water: it makes the seed to grow, it refreshes us and makes us clean. You have made of it a servant of your loving kindness: through water you set your people free, and quenched their thirst in the desert. With water the prophets announced a new covenant that you would make with humanity. By water, made holy by

Christ in the Jordan, you made our sinful nature new. Let this water remind us of our baptism; let us share the joys of our brothers and sisters who are baptised this Easter. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Water is sprinkled over all the people.

Almighty God, in our baptism you have consecrated us to be temples of your Holy Spirit. May we, whom you have counted worthy, nurture this gift of your indwelling Spirit with a lively faith and worship you with upright lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

I ask you now to profess the faith of the Church. Do you believe and trust in God the Father?
I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?
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?
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.

Those who are baptised are called to worship and serve God. Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?
With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?
With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?
With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?
With the help of God, I will.

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.
Amen.

TODAY'S PRAYERS

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, bread of life, give food to the hungry and nourish us all with your word.
[our concerns today are mentioned]

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.
[our concerns today are mentioned]

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.
[we name those who have asked for prayer]

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.
[we name those who in our memorial list]

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us,
accept our prayers,
and be with us always.
Amen.

THE PEACE

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 risen Christ be always with you.
And also with you.
Alleluia.

We sing a hymn of offering
NOW THE GREEN BLADE RISETH

PRAYERS AT THE TABLE

The Lord be with you
And also with you

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.

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 gates 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:

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.

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.

Jesus Christ is Lord!
Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the World.

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 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. **Amen!**

We sit or kneel as the service continues

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.

SHARING COMMUNION

The bread is broken

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.

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,
whoever eats this bread
will live for ever.
Lord, our hearts
hunger for you;
give us this bread always.

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

You are warmly welcomed to receive communion or a blessing. Please put your hands in front of you to receive the bread, if you normally have bread and wine in your own church. Keep your hands at your sides if you would prefer a blessing today.

During Communion we sing
ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA,
GIVE THANKS TO THE RISEN LORD

This booklet, produced by Sarah Northall for Easter 2023, includes material from Common Worship (2000) and from Common Worship: Times and Seasons (2006) which are copyright © The Archbishops' Council. Scripture passages are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Anglicized edition.

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

Father, your steadfast purpose
is the completion
of all things in your Son.
May we who have received
the pledges of the kingdom,
live by faith,
walk in hope
and be renewed in love,
until the world reflects your glory,
and you are all in all;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE BLESSING

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

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

We sing the hymn
THINE BE THE GLORY