

## Holy Communion From Easter Day to the eve of The Ascension

### ***Greetings to the Downland churches congregation and friends.***

I very much hope that you will be able to join our on-line Downland Benefice service of Holy Communion on Easter Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 at 10.30 a.m.

To do so, from 10.15 a.m. on Sunday, please click on this link <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/360251281> and follow the instructions that appear on your screen.

Please let me know if there is anyone or anything you would like to be included in our prayers of intercession or in my private prayers for you.

Attached with this email is the liturgy for our Easter Sunday service. We will use the same liturgy until the Ascension (21 May). Also attached, is a message from our bishop in this Holy Week.

A reminder of the correct details of our various bank accounts so that one off or regular offerings can be made by bank transfer or by standing order. Please don't forget to sign a gift aid declaration if you are a UK taxpayer.

<b>Church account name</b>	<b>Sort code</b>	<b>Account number</b>
Parochial Church Council St Andrews Edburton	60 20 35	97258377
Pyecombe Parochial Church Council	20 49 76	20733059
Parochial Church Council of Poynings	20 88 13	83307336
St John the Evangelist, Newtimber PCC	40 52 40	00010836

I look forward to 'seeing' you on Easter Sunday.

With every blessing,

Tim

### ***The Gathering***

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

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

Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

### **Prayer of Penitence**

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.

Like Mary at the empty tomb,  
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Like the disciples behind locked doors,  
we are afraid to be seen as your followers.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Like Thomas in the upper room,  
we are slow to believe.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

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.  
**Amen.**

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**

*The Collect for the day is said, and all respond* **Amen.**

### **The Liturgy of the Word**

## Readings

*Either one or two readings from Scripture precede the Gospel reading.  
At the end of each the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Reading**

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.

**Alleluia.**

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says:*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon The Creed**

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**

*This response may be used*  
Lord, in your mercy  
hear our prayer.

*And at the end*

Merciful Father,  
accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### ***The Liturgy of the Sacrament*** **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 Lord be always with you  
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.  
*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

### **Preparation of the Table** **Taking of the Bread and Wine**

Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory the splendour and the  
majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.**

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here.  
**His Spirit is with us.**

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 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:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood; 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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

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

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks  
and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of  
your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

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

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:  
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.  
Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.

### **Giving of Communion**

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

*We receive the bread and the wine. While it cannot be consecrated  
remotely, we can nonetheless symbolically share in this Communion  
together.*

### **Prayer after Communion**

*Silence is kept. The Post Communion or another suitable prayer is said,  
after which we say together:*

God of our salvation,  
you have restored us to life,  
you have brought us back again into your love  
by the triumphant death and resurrection of Christ.  
Continue to heal us, as we go to live and work  
in the power of your Spirit  
to your praise and glory.  
Amen.

### **The Blessing and dismissal**

May Christ, who out of defeat brings new hope  
and a new future, fill you with his new life;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

We are raised to new life with Christ.  
Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**



*From Bishop Martin:*

This is to be a Holy Week like no other in living memory for most of us.

It is clear that parishes across the diocese are rising to the challenge as preparations are now in hand to present the drama of the Lord's passion, and the joy of his resurrection, in new and exciting ways.

My personal experience of Holy Week is that it feels like the beginning of a week in retreat. All other demands are set to one side. It's a busy and demanding time. Tempers fray, life is intensified, our limitations and priorities are exposed. These are indications of authenticity. They are the terms and conditions of our humanity, in which we enter Jerusalem, stand bereft at Calvary, and come starkly to the tomb.

Like any retreat, it takes a bit of time to get into the rhythm of the days. This year, we have the unprecedented gift of time, because there is nowhere else to go. How will you use that time?

There are already more than enough suggestions on our website and on social media. So forgive me if I make another suggestion. I hope it will help you deal with the rest.

Do not make yourself busy. Resist the attraction of too much streaming and the temptation to check on what others did, and how many hits they got.

This Holy Week is a week for being re-created, for understanding the complexity of nature, even in its destructive manifestations, and marvel at it. Take God as your example, from the opening of Genesis. Do one thing well in each day. Review your day: discern the points at which you can rejoice and give thanks from what is good.

Keep an eye on the Genesis list. Rejoice in creation – sun, moon, stars, hills, rivers, seas, etc. Take note that the beasts of the field are made on the 5<sup>th</sup> day (Thursday), as the paschal lamb is prepared. Take note that humanity, the crown of God's creation, is made on the 6<sup>th</sup> day, as we are re-made on the wood of the cross.

And on the 7<sup>th</sup> day, take note of what sabbath rest is and does. It is the gaze of love that transforms irrevocably what it sees, in its intensity and delight. It is eternity at peace with itself, capable of whatever space is needed for the recovery of what was lost (the harrowing of hell).

Do not make yourself busy but delight on Easter Sunday in the 8<sup>th</sup> day of creation: God's new work. This is the day of the new creation. It is the day of your baptismal renewal when you became a pledge and sign of the perfection of God's work.

The truth of this holy week is not diminished by the limitations on our freedom to assemble. Death is a part of the whole story. Fear and grief are the part we play in the story; joy and peace and glory must be the conclusion that we can demonstrate to the people among whom we live and whom we are called to lead by hope and love into the future.

Please be assured of my prayers for each of you. May God bless you in the sabbath rest and re-creation of the paschal mystery of Easter.

And keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, who was wounded for our sins, that you might bear in your life and ministry, the love and joy and peace, which are the marks of Jesus in his disciples.

+Martin