

GLOUCESTER
CATHEDRAL

The Easter Liturgy

Saturday, 4 April 2026

8.00 p.m.

The Nave

Safeguarding

Gloucester Cathedral is committed to being a **safe** and **welcoming** place for **all**. The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in the life of the Cathedral is everyone's responsibility.

If someone is in immediate danger, contact the police on 999.

If you have safeguarding concern as a member of the Cathedral Congregation please contact our Congregation Safeguarding Officer, Gill Brook, safeguarding@gloucestercathedral.org.uk or a member of the clergy, clergy@gloucestercathedral.org.uk



Please turn off any mobile devices.



For safeguarding, photography and videography are not permitted during services.



An induction loop is available for those using hearing aids. Please turn your hearing aid to the 'T' position.



Large print booklets are available on request. Please ask a steward.

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Welcome

Welcome to Gloucester Cathedral. There has been a place of worship on this site for over 1,300 years. Today, we join with the generations of people who have gone before us and with the whole company of heaven in the worship of God.

The Eucharist, which means 'thanksgiving', is perhaps the most important act of worship for Christians because it recalls the death and resurrection of Jesus, fulfilling his command at the Last Supper to remember him. Outwardly, the Eucharist takes the form of sharing bread and wine; inwardly, Christ is made present to us in a special way, and we are given a taste of the heavenly banquet, which God has prepared for those who love him.

If you are new and would like to discover more about congregational life, please do introduce yourself to a member of the clergy at the end of the service. There is also information about being part of the cathedral congregation on the website. You can contact the Cathedral clergy by emailing: clergy@gloucestercathedral.org.uk



*The service is sung by
The St Benedict Singers and Lay Clerks*

*The musical setting of the Eucharist is
KLEINE ORGELMESSE by Josef Haydn*

*The president is the Bishop of Tewkesbury
The Right Reverend Robert Springett*

¶ *The Service of Light*

The congregation gathers in silence at the Great West Door, where the new fire has been kindled.

The Bishop of Tewkesbury welcomes the congregation and says

Dear friends 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.

Let us pray.

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.**

The deacon brings the Paschal Candle to the Bishop of Tewkesbury.

The Candle is carved with a cross

Christ yesterday and today,
the beginning and the end,

The Candle is carved with the Alpha and Omega

Alpha and Omega,

The Candle is carved with the year 2026

All time belongs to him,
and all ages;
to him be glory and power,
through every age and for ever.

All **Amen.**

*Five nails of incense studs are inserted into the Candle, reminding us of
the five wounds of Christ*

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

All **Amen.**

The Candle is lit.

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

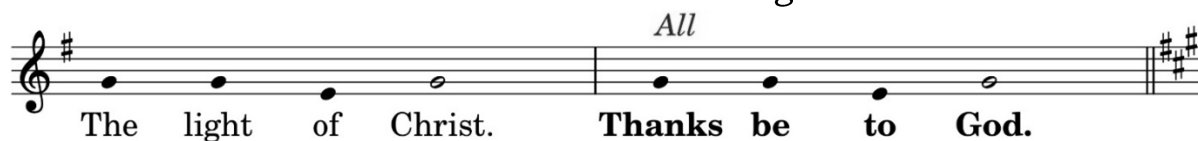
The deacon, bearing the Candle, enters the Cathedral, followed by the other ministers and congregation, and they pause inside the entrance.

The deacon raises the candle and the cantor sings



The procession continues to the centre of the Nave and pauses.

The deacon raises the candle and the cantor sings



The procession continues to the Nave altar and pauses.

The deacon raises the candle and the cantor sings



The congregation moves to their seats and their candles are lit from the Paschal Candle.

The Exsultet

The cantor sings the Easter Song of Praise

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

O Universe, dance around God's throne!

Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!

Sound the victorious trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in glory, revealing the splendour of your creation,
radiant in the brightness of your triumphant King!

Christ has conquered! Now his life and glory fill you!

Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!

The risen Saviour, our Lord of life, shines upon you!

Let all God's people sing and shout for joy.

Night truly blessed, when hatred is cast out,
peace and justice find a home, and heaven is joined to earth
and all creation reconciled to you.

Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy
accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering,
this wax, the work of bees and the hands of your ministers.

As we gaze upon the splendour of this flame
fed by melting wax conceived by mother bee,
grant that this Easter Candle may make our darkness light.
For Christ the morning star has risen in glory;
Christ is risen from the dead and his flame of love still burns within us!
Christ sheds his peaceful light on all the world!
Christ lives and reigns for ever and ever!



¶ *The Vigil*

The Bishop of Tewkesbury introduces the Vigil

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.

The First Reading

A reading from the book Genesis.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.'

The LORD God said to the serpent,
'Because you have done this,
 cursed are you among all animals
 and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
 and dust you shall eat
 all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.’
To the woman he said,
‘I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children,
yet your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you.’
And to the man he said,
‘Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,
and have eaten of the tree
about which I commanded you,
“You shall not eat of it”,
cursed is the ground because of you;
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread
until you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
you are dust, and to dust you shall return.’

The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all who live. And the LORD God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them.

Then the LORD God said, ‘See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever’— therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.

3.1-24

As in Adam all die,
All **so in Christ shall all be made alive.**

The Bishop of Tewkesbury says

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed
to destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and great glory
we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Second Reading

A reading from the book of 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.

12.1-24

The Lord is my strength and my might.

All **He has become my salvation**

The Bishop of Tewkesbury says

Lord God our redeemer,
who heard the cry of your people
and sent your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery:
free us from the tyranny of sin and death
and, by the leading of your Spirit,
bring us to our promised land;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Third Reading

A reading from the prophecy of Ezekiel.

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, 'Prophesy 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, 'Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, 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.’

37.1-14

Christ is the resurrection and the life.

All Those who believe in Christ will never die.

The Bishop of Tewkesbury says

Lord God of our salvation,
you speak the word to your scattered people,
and bring up our life from the valley of death:
breathe your Spirit upon your Church,
that we may live and stand before you
confident in your risen Son,
Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All Amen.

Silence is kept.

The Easter Acclamation

The congregation stands.

The Bishop of Tewkesbury proclaims

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The organist plays a joyful fanfare.

The candles in the Cathedral are lit and the lights are switched on. The people's candles are extinguished.

Gloria in Excelsis

The choir sings

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 to God in the highest,
and in earth peace,
goodwill to all people.
We praise you, we bless you,
we worship you, we glorify you,
we give thanks to you
for your great glory.*

*Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,
who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us,
who takes away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer,
who sits at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.*

*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 Bishop of Tewkesbury introduces a period of silent prayer, saying

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

Silence is kept.

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.

All **Amen.**

The congregation sits.

¶ *The Liturgy of the Word*

New Testament Reading

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized 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.

6.3-11

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

The congregation stands to sing

Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Alleluia'. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, with the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia' written below each staff. The first three staves end with a comma, and the fourth ends with a period. The music is written in a style suitable for a congregation to sing.

**Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

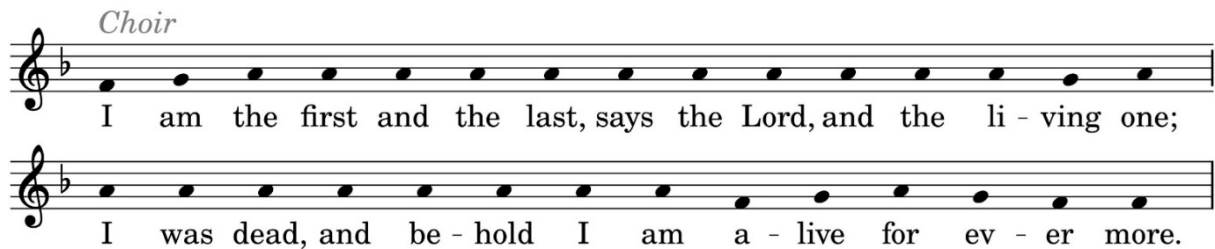
**Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**

**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!**

*Words, Lyra Davidica 1708 et al
Tune, EASTER HYMN; from Lyra Davidica London 1708*

Gospel Reading

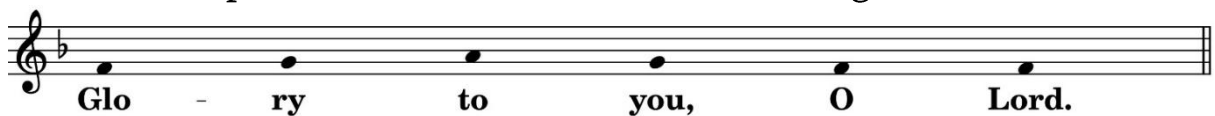
The choir sings the acclamation and all repeat



Bernadette Farrell

When the Gospel is announced, the deacon says

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

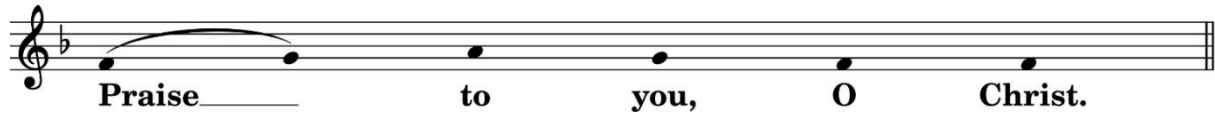


On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.

Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

24.1-12

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



The congregation sits.

¶ *The Liturgy of Initiation*

The candidates for confirmation stand before the Bishops.

The candidates are presented by their incumbent and sponsors.

The Bishop of Tewkesbury addresses the candidates

Have you been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?

I have.

Are you ready with your own mouth and from your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus Christ?

I am.

The Bishop of Tewkesbury addresses the whole congregation

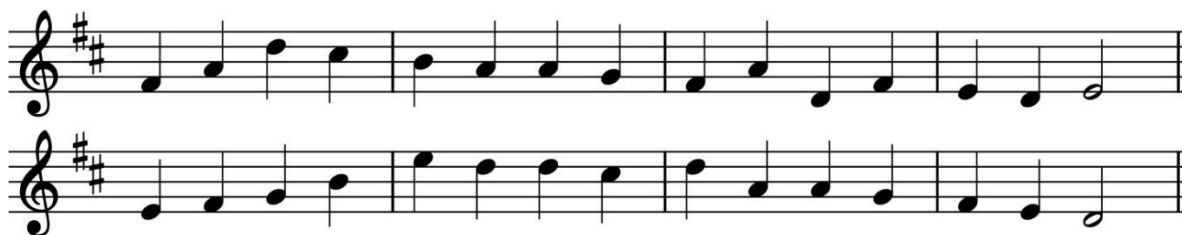
Faith is the gift of God to his people.

In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling.

People of God, will you welcome these candidates and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

All **With the help of God, we will.**

The bishops and candidates move to the font, during which is sung



**At the dawning of creation
when the world began to be,
God called forth the world's foundations
from the deep chaotic sea.**

**When the Lord delivered Israel
out of Egypt's bitter yoke,
then the parting of the waters
of the living water spoke.**

**Water from the rock of Moses,
water from the temple's side,
water from the heart of Jesus,
flow in this baptismal tide.**

**Thus united in this water
each to all, and each to Christ;
to his life of love he calls us
by his total sacrifice.**

Words, David Fox 1956-2008

Tune, ALL FOR JESUS; John Stainer 1840-1901

The Decision and Renewal of Baptismal Vows

The Bishop of Tewkesbury addresses the candidates and the whole congregation

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.**

Prayer over the Water

The Bishop of Tewkesbury stands before the water and says

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.**

Blessed are you, sovereign God of all,

to you be glory and praise for ever.

You are our light and our salvation.

From the deep waters of death

you have raised your Son to life in triumph.

Grant that all who have been born anew by water and the Spirit,

may daily be renewed in your image,

walk by the light of faith,

and serve you in newness of life;

through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ,

to whom with you and the Holy Spirit

we lift our voices of praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Profession of Faith

The Bishop of Tewkesbury addresses the candidates and the whole congregation

Dear friends, I ask you to profess with these candidates 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 Bishop of Tewkesbury sprinkles water on the congregation, saying
Remember your baptism and be faithful to Christ.

The Bishop of Tewkesbury says

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

Confirmation

The candidates move to stand before the bishops at the altar dais.

The Bishop of Tewkesbury says

Our help is in the name of the Lord

All **who has made heaven and earth.**

Blessed be the name of the Lord

All **now and for ever. Amen.**

*The Bishops extend their hands towards those to be confirmed and the
Bishop of Tewkesbury continues*

Almighty and ever-living God,
you have given these your servants new birth
in baptism by water and the Spirit,
and have forgiven them all their sins.
Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them:
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding;
the Spirit of counsel and inward strength;
the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;
and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord.

All **Amen.**

The bishops address each candidate by name, anointing them with the oil of Chrism

N., God has called you by name and made you his own.

The bishops then lay hands on the head of each candidate

Confirm, O Lord, your servant N. with your Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

After the candidates have been confirmed, the congregation says

All **Defend, O Lord, these your servants with your heavenly grace, that they may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more until they come to your everlasting kingdom. Amen.**

¶ *The Liturgy of the Sacrament*

The Peace

The congregation stands.

The Bishop of Tewkesbury introduces 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.

Alleluia. The peace of the Lord be always with you

All **and also with you. Alleluia.**

The deacon says

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

As the altar is prepared, the congregation remains standing to sing



**Now the green blade riseth, from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
*Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.***

**In the grave they laid him, Love by hatred slain,
Thinking that never he would wake again.
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
*Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.***

**Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain,
quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
*Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.***

**When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
thy touch can call us back to life again;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
*Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.***

*Words, J. M. C. Crum 1872-1958
Tune, NOEL NOUVELET; Old French Melody*

When the altar is prepared, the Bishop of Tewkesbury says

Lord of life,
with unbounded joy we offer you our sacrifice of praise.
As we are fed with the bread of heaven
may we know your resurrection power;
through Christ our risen Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Bishop of Tewkesbury says

The Lord be with you

All **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 and praise.**

The Bishop of Tewkesbury recalls God's mighty acts

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, women and children 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:

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt cæli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

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

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,
that is, this very night,
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.

Jesus Christ is Lord:



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "Lord, by your cross and re-sur-rec-tion you have set us". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "free. You are the Sa-viour of the world." The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes.

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 the Blessed Virgin Mary,
 Peter, Benedict, Kyneburga and 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.



The congregation sits.

The Lord's Prayer

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

<i>All</i> Our Father,	Notre Père...
who art in heaven,	
hallowed be thy name;	Vater Unser...
thy kingdom come;	
thy will be done;	Onze Vader...
on earth as it is in heaven.	
Give us this day our daily bread.	Padre Nuestro...
And forgive us our trespasses,	
as we forgive those who trespass against us.	Ojcie Nasz...
And lead us not into temptation;	
but deliver us from evil.	Baba Yetu...
For thine is the kingdom,	
the power and the glory,	E to matou Matua...
for ever and ever.	
Amen.	Ein Tad...

Breaking of the Bread

The Bishop of Tewkesbury breaks the consecrated bread

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

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

Giving of Communion

The Bishop of Tewkesbury says the invitation to communion

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The ministers and people receive Communion.

If it is your custom to receive Communion in your own church, you are welcome to do so today. If you would rather receive a blessing, please bring this order of service with you so that we may know how best to minister to you.

Communion is offered in both bread and wine, though you may wish to receive the bread only. For hygiene reasons, intinction (dipping the bread in the wine) is prohibited.

If you require a gluten-free wafer, please tell the stewards who will direct you to the front.

The choir sings

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,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*O Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*O Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.*

The choir sings the Communion motet

Surrexit Christus hodie, Alleluia,
humano pro solamine. Alleluia.

*Christ is risen today, Alleluia,
for the comfort of all people. Alleluia.*

In hoc Paschali gaudio, Alleluia,
Benedicamus Domino. Alleluia.

*In this paschal joy, Alleluia,
Bless the Lord. Alleluia.*

Words, St Albinus

Music, Samuel Scheidt c.1587-1654

Prayer after Communion

The Bishop of Tewkesbury introduces a period of silent prayer, saying

Let us pray.

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.**

¶ *The Dismissal*

The Blessing

The Bishop of Tewkesbury says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

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

All **Amen.**

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

All **Amen.**

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.**

And the blessing of God almighty,
✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

The Giving of a Lighted Candle

The bishops give the candidates a lighted candle, during which is sung



**Jesus lives! thy terrors now
Can, O death, no more appal us;
Jesus lives! by this we know
thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us.**

**Jesus lives! henceforth is death
but the gate of life immortal:
this shall calm our trembling breath,
when we pass its gloomy portal.**

**Jesus lives! for us he died;
then, alone to Jesus living,
pure in heart may we abide,
glory to our Saviour giving.**

**Jesus lives! our hearts know well
naught from us his love shall sever;
life, nor death, nor powers of hell
tear us from his keeping ever.**

**Jesus lives! to him the throne
over all the world is given:
may we go where he is gone,
rest and reign with him in heaven.**

*Words, C. F. Gellert 1715-69
tr., Frances Elizabeth Cox 1812-97
Tune, ST ALBINUS; H. J. Gauntlett 1805-76*

The Bishop of Tewkesbury says

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and has given us a place with the saints in light.

You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.

All **Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.**

The Dismissal

The deacon says

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

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

*The congregation remains standing as the bishops lead out the newly
confirmed.*

