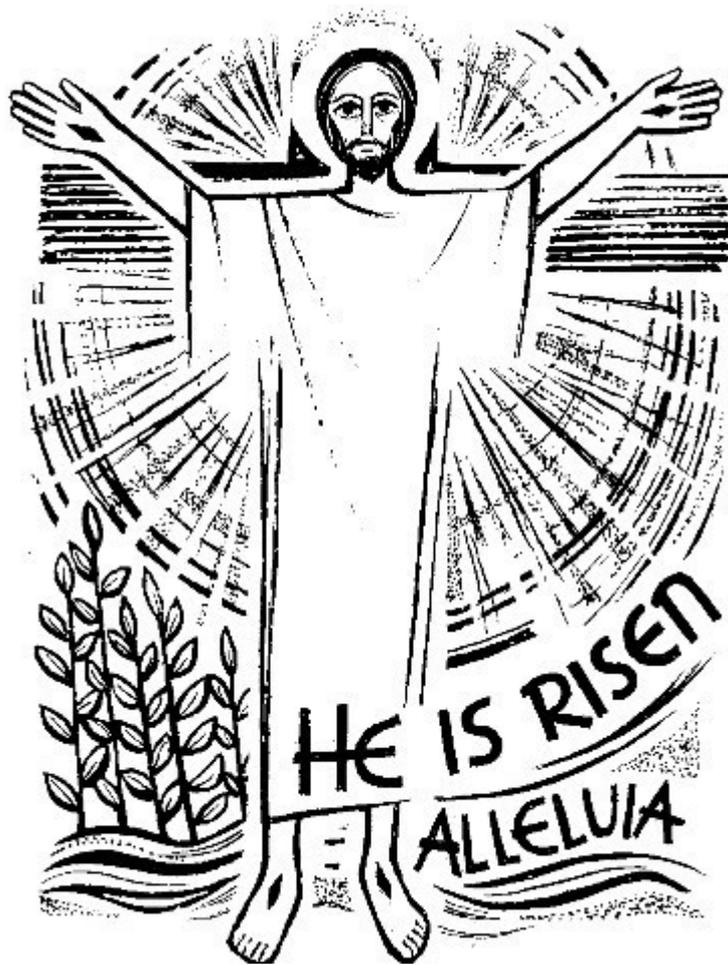


**The Parish Church  
of  
St. Edmund King and Martyr,  
West Kingsdown**



An Order of the Eucharist  
for the

# Easter Season

## The Gathering

**Hymn:** Led like a lamb

Led like a lamb to the slaughter  
In silence and shame  
There on Your back You carried a world  
Of violence and pain  
Bleeding, dying, bleeding, dying  
You're alive, You're alive  
You have risen, Alleluia!  
And the power and the glory is given  
Alleluia, Jesus, to You

At break of dawn, poor Mary  
Still weeping she came  
When through her grief she heard Your voice  
Now speaking her name  
Mary, Master, Mary, Master!  
You're alive, You're alive  
You have risen, Alleluia!  
And the power and the glory is given  
Alleluia, Jesus, to You

At the right hand of the Father  
Now seated on high  
You have begun Your eternal reign  
Of justice and joy  
Glory, glory, glory, glory  
You're alive, You're alive  
You have risen, Alleluia!  
And the power and the glory is given  
Alleluia, Jesus, to You

You're alive, You're alive  
You have risen, Alleluia!

And the power and the glory is given  
Alleluia, Jesus, to You

**Introductory Sentence:**

In our Gospel reading today we will hear how Jesus is the true vine and we are the branches who are called to bear much fruit. We come together to worship, to affirm our dependence on God and to commit to being fruitful disciples.

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

**The Greeting:**

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 Preparation:**

**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:**

Let us come before God in thankfulness and humility, acknowledging those ways in which we have failed to be faithful disciples.

For the times when we have kept your love to ourselves, and not shared it with those around us.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those times when we have known what you require of us, but chosen not to do it.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

For those times when we have been less than you created us to be and missed opportunities to glorify you through our lives.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

### **The Absolution:**

May the God of love and power  
forgive you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to a new life in Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Gloria in Excelsis:**

**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.**

**The Collect:**

Almighty Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:  
raise us, who trust in him,  
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,  
that we may seek those things which are above,  
where he reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit  
one God, now and forever. Amen.

**The Liturgy of the Word**

**New Testament Reading: Acts 8:26-40**

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup> He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides

me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this

scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> As they were going along the road, they came to some

water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down

into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away;

the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was

passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

For the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**Gospel Reading:** John 15:1-8

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,

And everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

**Alleluia.**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Homily:**

May I speak in the name of God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit and may he place into your hearts this day what is missing in my words. Amen.

*'I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.'*

A vine is a remarkable plant. As it grows it develops a very thick winding stem from which the branches emerge. They can grow such that it can be hard to determine which is the original branch and which are developing branches. They are intertwined all seeming to belong to each other. In this beautiful passage Jesus uses this wonderful image of the vine and its branches to show that he is 'owning' us, making us part of him, allowing us access to that which God gives him. He will love us and value us, respect us and never let us go. In him we

will find our authenticity, our confidence and our relevance to God and to the rest of the world.

When Jesus says, 'I am' in relation to the vine he is speaking from his divine nature. He, Jesus as God, is the vine. The vine, and the wine that comes from it, are symbols of love, his love in the form of his blood poured out for us and given to us as the sacramental wine at Communion. He is the visible source of love in his ministry on earth and he invites us to become a part of that vine, a part of that love.

Jesus calls us to abide in him as branches of the vine, to make the choice to live in him and remain with him always, through thick and thin, through whatever life throws at us, through the good times and the bad. If we chose to live in Jesus, we are fruitful. Being fruitful is about having the wisdom to manifest Christ in our lives, putting him at the centre of all we do. Our relationship to him is the key to our fruitfulness, to what we can accomplish spiritually. All that we do should point to Christ and arouse curiosity in him. We are strong when we are grafted onto the Christ-vine and vulnerable when we are detached from it. By being grafted on to the Christ-vine Jesus offers and we receive a life of love.

Let us picture once again the thick winding stem of the vine and the intertwining branches all seeming to belong to each other, all at first glance look alike. However, if we take a deeper look, we realise that no two are exactly the same. They may weave and curl in similar ways, they may produce similar fruit, but each is unique. And this is symbolic of Jesus' call to each of us. He calls us in our uniqueness to become joined with him in a similar purpose, that of spreading the love of God wherever we are. We produce the same fruit from our individual branch, and are integrally united with the original stem. Whether or not we are fruitful vines depends on us.

We are nurtured and cared for by the Father, and we can show our love of God by following the teaching of Jesus who is the true vine but we, we individually, must truly abide in him if we are to accomplish the proclamation of his Gospel to the world.

As we begin to emerge from this time of pandemic we each need to give ourselves time and space to examine who we are, where we now find ourselves on our faith journey and to listen to God's call on our lives. Much has happened during the past fourteen months; the impact of the pandemic has changed who we are. Do you feel disconnected from the church family? Have you lost God's purpose in your life? Are you struggling to reconnect with worship? Maybe you are asking yourself what a life in Christ is all about. These are all natural responses after such a long time of disconnection and isolation. However, they are responses that can bring us hurt and pain.

Last week our Gospel reading spoke of Jesus as the Good Shepherd and we heard how a good shepherd is watchful over his sheep, knows them intimately and protects them from all dangers. A shepherd is particularly loving to those sheep that stray. Jesus knows us and he understands and wants nothing more than to bring us back into the fold, to be part of the vine and be fruitful.

*'I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.'*

Amen

## **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**

Let us pray.

**Prayers of Intercession:**

Jesus said, "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." Trusting in his word, we bring our prayers before God.

We pray for the Church, for all the disciples of Jesus who seek to bear fruit in the world.

Lord, bless the Church with the knowledge of your indwelling presence. May we learn to abide in you and know that you are in us. Give wisdom to all who go out in mission and all who preach your word. We pray for the young in faith, that they will be given the opportunity to grow and bear fruit.

Lord, you abide in us;

**We ask that we may abide in you.**

We remember the nations of the world and especially those that are not at peace at this time. We ask your guidance on all who care for the world's poor, refugees and war-torn peoples. We pray for the time when the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of Christ our Lord.

Lord, you abide in us;

**We ask that we may abide in you.**

We give thanks for all who have shared their faith with us. In our turn may we also bear fruit and bring others to the love and presence of our God. Lord, bless our homes with the glory of your presence. Help us to live in and share your peace.

Lord, you abide in us;

**We ask that we may abide in you.**

We bring before you all who doubt or despair, all who are surrounded by darkness or illness. May they come into the light of your love and know that you are with them. In the silence of our hearts we pray for those known to us..... and by name those on our prayer list David Jackson, Steve Gray, Seb

Sullivan, Angie Skinner, Seamus McGeoghan, Edna Jones, Doris Healey, Alison, Spencer, Val, Morris, Barbara Arundel, Greta Chesney, Angela Beale, Joy Johnson, David Mullen, Kim Johnstone, Marion & Brian Dethridge, Julie, David Clegg, Ron White, Tatiana Crosby, Edith Lewis and Brian Collier.

Lord, you abide in us;

**We ask that we may abide in you.**

Lord, you abide with us through life and we abide with you through death. In your love you have given us eternal life through Christ our risen Lord. We give you thanks for this great gift. We ask that you bless all our loved ones departed with the joy of your love and your presence. We especially remember Edward Pettyfer, Elise Elliott, Stella Shead and Greame Bieth We remember too those whose anniversary of death occurs in May, John Jupp, Doreen Blundell, Malcom Bain, Eric Dimmick, John Guyver, Terry Hopgood, Jean Luttrell, Bill Hudson, Norman Whiting, Robert Goy and Denis Sharman. May they rejoice in the fullness of life eternal.

Merciful Father,

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

**Sharing the Peace:**

"I am the vine, you are the branches," says the Lord. "Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit."

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you**

**Preparation of the Table:**

Risen Lord Jesus Christ,

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

When you break bread

may we recognise you as the fire that burns within us,

that we may bring light to your world. **Amen.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness  
we have this bread to set before you,  
which earth has given and human hands have made.  
It will become for us the bread of life.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:  
through your goodness  
we have this wine to set before you,  
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.  
It will become for us the cup of salvation.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

### **The Eucharist 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.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
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,  
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  
**Lord, by your cross and resurrection  
you have set us free.  
You are the Saviour of the world.**

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 St. Edmund  
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. **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 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 the one bread.**

**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.**

**Giving of Communion:**

Jesus is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world.  
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,  
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

**We do not presume  
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,  
trusting in our own righteousness,  
but in your manifold and great mercies.  
We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs  
under your table.  
But you are the same Lord  
whose nature is always to have mercy.**

**Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,  
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to  
drink his blood,  
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body  
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,  
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.  
Amen**

*During Communion we will listen to 'You are the vine', 'From  
heaven you came', and 'There is a redeemer.'*

*For those of you sharing with us at home you are invited to  
make your own Act of Spiritual Communion*

### **An act of Spiritual Communion**

**My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most  
Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and desire  
to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this  
moment receive You sacramentally, come at least  
spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were  
already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never  
permit me to be separated from You.**

### **Prayer after Communion:**

Merciful Father,  
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,  
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:  
keep us always under his protection,  
and give us grace to follow in his steps;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work  
to your praise and glory. Amen.**

## **The Dismissal**

**Hymn:** At the name of Jesus

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,  
every tongue confess him King of glory now;  
'tis the Father's pleasure, we should call him Lord,  
who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

Humbled for a season, to receive a name  
from the lips of sinners unto whom he came;  
faithfully he bore it spotless to the last,  
brought it back victorious when from death he passed.

Name him, brothers, name him, with love as strong as death,  
but with awe and wonder, and with bated breath;  
he is God the Saviour, he is Christ the Lord,  
ever to be worshipped, trusted and adored.

In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue  
all that is not holy, all that is not true;  
crown him as your captain in temptation's hour,  
let his will enfold you with its light and power.

Brothers, this Lord Jesus shall return again,  
with his Father's glory, with his angel train;  
for all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow,  
and our hearts confess him King of glory now.

### **The Blessing:**

Jesus said, "My Father is glorified by this,  
that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."  
Let us go out into the world to bear fruit and glorify God.  
And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
Amen.

## **The Sending Out:**

The Eucharist has ended.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

### **Acknowledgements**

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