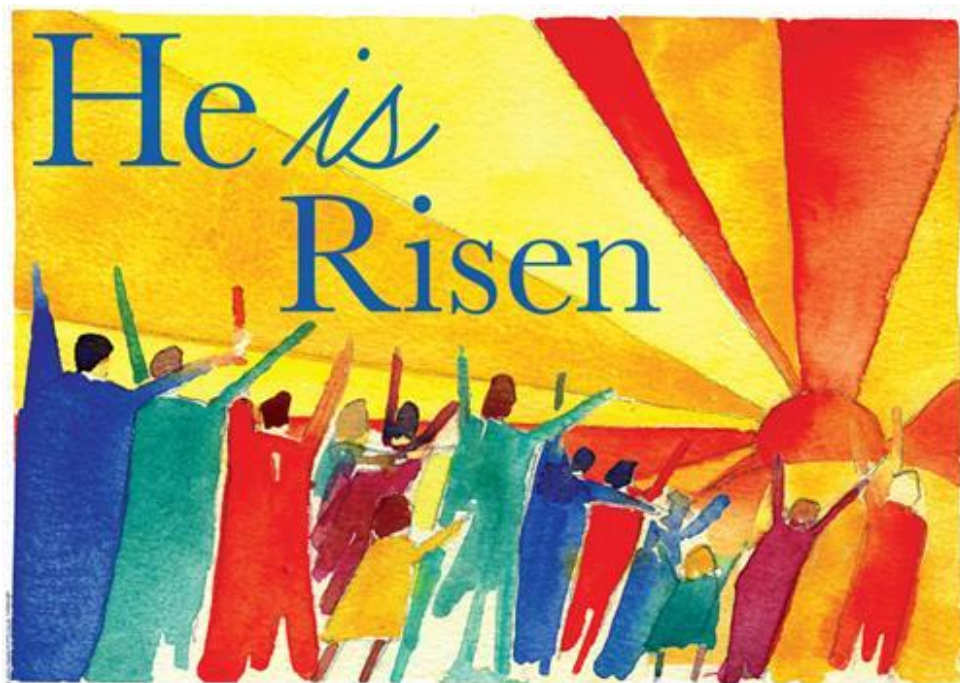


**The Benefice of
St Mary Magdalene, Geddington
and
St Mary the Virgin, Weekley**



**Easter Season
Eucharist**

At Easter Christians celebrate Christ's rising from the tomb. After suffering the betrayal of his friends and torture of death on the cross, Jesus Christ rose again from the dead and came to tell his friends that he forgave them and loved them still.

As part of this celebration, Christians gather round the Lord's Table as one family to give God thanks. Jesus taught us about the inclusive love of God, and he himself placed children at the heart of God's kingdom. Here at St Mary Magdalene's and St Mary the Virgin, we aim to do the same.

This morning's service is a great act of thanksgiving – a Eucharist – where the blessings of God are recounted and where we remember how Jesus died for us to give us life. Family Communion is a joyous, yet solemn, occasion when we receive from God in bread and wine, in the words of scripture and in the prayers, in the sharing of friendship and mutual concern. From this each individual and the whole church is strengthened to go out into the world and live lives that are filled with the love of God.

May God's blessing be with you and your loved ones as you participate in this act of worship today. Enjoy!

*Come to this table not because you are strong
but because you are weak.*

*Come, not because any goodness of your own
gives you a right to come,*

but because you need mercy and help;

*Come, because you love the Lord a little
and would like to love him more.*

*Come, not because you are worthy
to approach him, but because he died for sinners.*

*Come, because he loved you.
and gave himself for you.*

The Gathering

Alleluia. Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Prayers 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.

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 new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Collect

Let us pray...

Reading(s)

At the end of the reading, the reader may say

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. **Alleluia.**

He has defeated the powers of death. **Alleluia.**

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing. **Alleluia.**

He has the words of eternal life. **Alleluia.**

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

Glory to you, O Lord

At the end of the reading, the reader will say

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Alleluia

Sermon

Prayers of Intercession

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Then they were 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

Prayer before Communion

With this bread that we bring

We shall remember Jesus.

With this wine that we bring

We shall remember Jesus.

Bread for Christ's body,
wine for his blood,
gifts from God to this table we bring.
We shall remember Jesus.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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.

Lord of all life, you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.
You give us your love, even when things go wrong.

Jesus knew hurt and pain.
Through him you wipe away our tears,
and fill us with your peace.

**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.**

We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.
Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.'
So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.

As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit, and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.
Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with St Mary Magdalene, St Mary the Virgin and all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever.
Amen

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:
**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.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei

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

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

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

The Sharing of Communion

God's holy gifts
for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
To the glory of God the Father.**

Spiritual Communion

**Lord Jesus Christ, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I humbly pray that you would come spiritually to my soul. Come, Lord Jesus, come and cleanse me, heal me, strengthen me, and unite me to you, now and for evermore.
Amen**

Prayer after Communion

**Lord, in these days of mercy,
make us quiet and prayerful;
in these days of challenge,
make us stronger in you;
in these days of emptiness,
take possession of us;
in these days of waiting,
open our hearts
to the mystery of your cross. Amen**

The Blessing

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

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

God the Holy Spirit,
who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you
always. **Amen**

The Dismissal

We are raised to new life in Christ.

Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

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