

St Andrew's Church, Bedford



**HOLY EUCHARIST
EASTER SEASON**

Welcome

Happy Easter! This is the most joyful season of the Church's year. Easter Day is the cornerstone of Christianity on which our faith is built. Our celebrations don't just last for a day; there are seven whole weeks from Easter Day through to the Ascension, when the risen Jesus returns to his Father, and ending at Pentecost, when we celebrate Jesus' parting gift to the Church, the Holy Spirit. This is a season of joy, Alleluias and thanksgiving. Our Paschal candle, first lit on Easter Eve, remains burning for the whole of this season, a sign that the glorious light of God has conquered the darkness of this world through the resurrection of Jesus.

The following symbols will help you to stand, sit or kneel at the times which are usual in this church; if you find it more comfortable to sit throughout, please do so.



We welcome donations to support the ministry of St Andrew's. You will find a contactless giving machine at the back of Church, or alternatively you may like to give cash in the bowl. UK taxpayers are encouraged to complete a yellow Gift Aid envelope to enhance the value of their gift.

For Younger Worshippers

Our children's groups meet during term time. The children go out to the Church Centre during the first hymn and rejoin us in Church during the Peace. You are encouraged to sit with your children in the pews in the main part of the Church and are welcome to use the area at the back should you have a buggy, or if your child needs to move around or to find a book or activity. The Quiet Room is available should you wish to step out of the main service for a little while. It is found through the door at the end of the left-hand aisle; the service can be relayed through a speaker.



Opening Hymn



The Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

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

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**



Prayer of Preparation

All **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.**



Confession

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.



We have lived by our own strength,
and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us.

All **Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us.

All **Lord, hear us and help us.**



We have lived for this world alone,
and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us.

All **Lord, hear us and help us.**



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.

All **Amen.**



Gloria

All **Glory to God, Glory to God
Glory to God in the highest.** *Repeated as a refrain **

**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.)**



Collect

The priest prays the Collect, the special prayer for the day.



Readings

At the end of each the reader says

This is the Word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**



Gradual Hymn



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.

All **Alleluia!**

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

All ♪ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All ♪ **Praise to you O Christ.**

All ♪ **Alleluia.**



Sermon



Creed

All **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.



Intercessions

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

or

Lord, hear us.

All **Lord, graciously hear us.**

At the end

Merciful Father,
All **accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
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 Lord be always with you
All **and also with you.**

A minister says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We exchange the Peace by shaking hands or other means by which you feel comfortable, saying 'Peace be with you.'



Offertory Hymn

During this hymn, the altar is prepared, the bread and wine are brought up, and the children return to join their parents in the pews.



Prayer over the Gifts

Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ,
our risen high priest;
make yourself known in the breaking of bread.

All **Amen**



Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here. Or The Lord be with you.

All ♪ **His Spirit is with us.**

♪ **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.**

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.

All ♪ **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.

Great is the mystery of faith

All ♪ **Christ has died:**
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

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 [N and] 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

All **Amen.**



The Lord's Prayer

All **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.**



Breaking of Bread

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup
All **we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

All **♪ 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.**



Or

All **Jesus, Lamb of God,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,
grant us peace.**



Giving of Communion

Alleluia!

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

All **Therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia!**

If you receive Communion at your own church, please do come and share bread and wine with us today. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, come to the altar rail, bringing this service book with you.



Communion Hymns

Anthem



Prayer after Communion

The priest says the Post Communion Prayer for the day. All respond

All **You have opened to us the Scriptures, O Christ,
and have made yourself known
in the breaking of bread.
Abide with us, we pray that
blessed by your royal presence,
we may walk with you all the days of our life,
and at its end behold you in the glory
of the eternal Trinity,
one God for ever and ever
Amen**



Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead
our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**



Hymn

Dismissal

He is not here. He is risen!
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

All **In the name of Christ.**
Alleluia! Alleluia