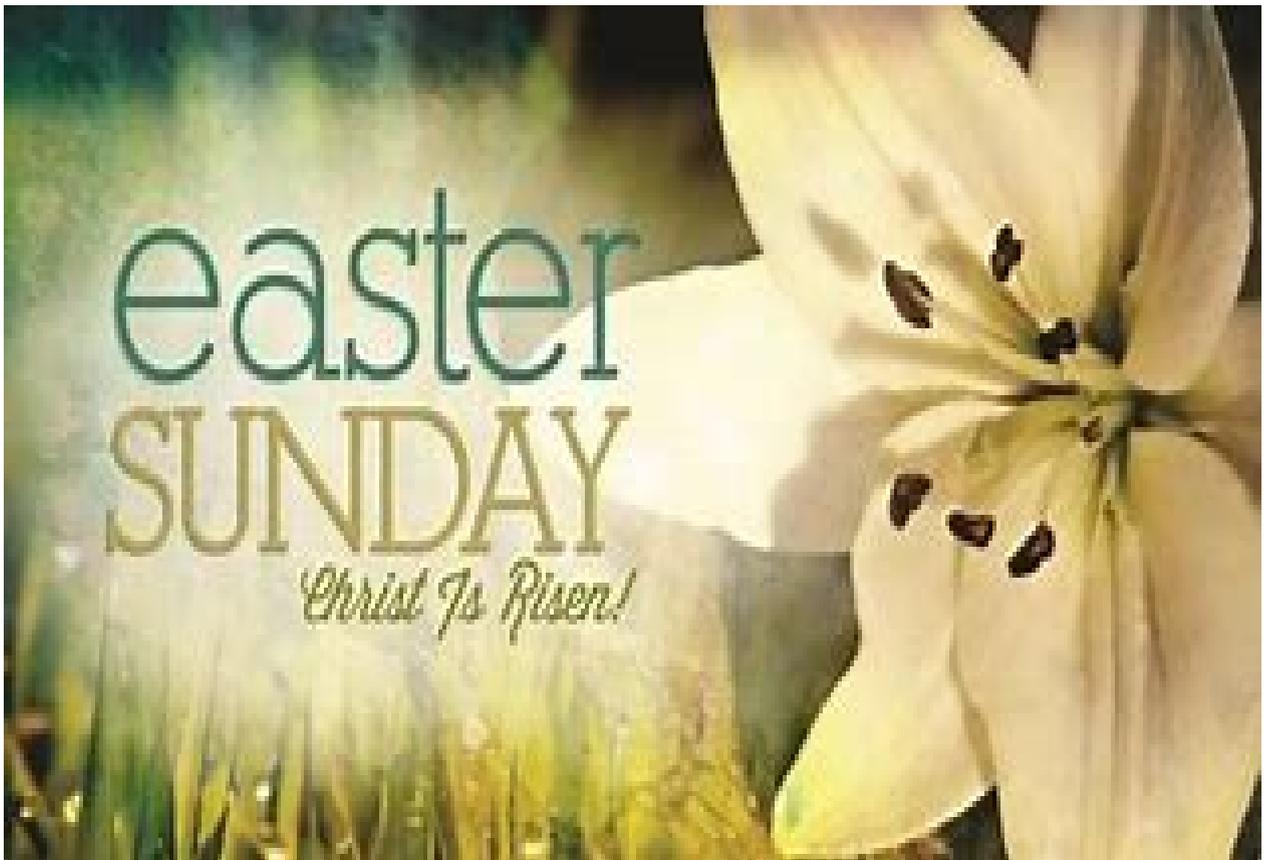




# St. Cross Parish Church

Clayton, Manchester



## Easter Sunday Service

## THE GREETING

*The president says*

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

**All Amen.**

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

## WORDS OF WELCOME

Welcome to worship on this special day. Our liturgy begins with the blessing of the Paschal Candle, which symbolizes Christ's breaking of the darkness of sin and death to bring us all the Easter victory. The Paschal Candle will shine as our symbol of the resurrection throughout the Easter season, at all baptisms and at all funerals. The inscription on the Paschal Candle has already been traced by the Presiding Minister, while saying:

Jesus Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the ending, Alpha and Omega; all time belongs to him, and all ages; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

And the Minister has placed the five nails, representing the five wounds of Christ, into the Paschal Candle, while saying:

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

Thank you for joining us on this special day. We hope the blessings of the Risen Lord are yours this day and always.

+

*All remain standing*

The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you.**

Let us pray. O God, you are like a refiner's fire, and your Spirit kindles the hearts of your faithful people. Bless this flame and those who keep this Easter celebration so that, burning with desire for life with you, they may be found fit to take part in that festival of Light which has no ending, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen**

*The Paschal Candle is lighted.*

May the light of Christ who rises this day in glory scatter the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Let us pray. Almighty God, pour out your abundant blessing on this lighted candle, so that all who share in your holy mysteries may be filled with your grace and spiritual blessings. Once we were in darkness, but since we have become the Lord's people, we are in the light. Help us to live as people who belong to the light, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen**

*The Presiding Minister proclaims the resurrection, shouting three times:*

Christ is Risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

**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.**

*[There is no confession at this point as this will take place during the renewal  
of Baptism vows]*

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS. *All stand*

**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 OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

**Amen.**

#### THE READINGS *(Please sit)*

A Reading from the Book of Acts, Chapter 10, verses 34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify

that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

This is the word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God**

A Reading from Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians Chapter 15, verses 1-11

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

This is the word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God**

STAND *for the* GOSPEL READING

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

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.

**All            Glory to you, O Lord.**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her,

“Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ**

THE SERMON

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

*The Celebrant addresses the Congregation in these or similar words*

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced the devil and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

Do you, here in the presence of God and the Church, renew the solemn promises and vows made at your Baptism and commit yourself to keep them?

**I do.**

Do you renounce the devil and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the empty promises and deadly deceits of this world that corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the sinful desires of the flesh that draw you from the love of God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and confess him as your Lord and Saviour?

**People I do.**

Do you joyfully receive the Christian Faith, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

**I do.**

Will you obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in them all the days of your life?

**I will, the Lord being my helper.**

*The Celebrant continues...*

Let us now reaffirm our faith in the words of the ancient baptismal confession, the Apostles' Creed.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**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 Celebrant concludes the Renewal of Vows as follows:*

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

**REMAIN SEATED or KNEEL for the PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The responses are:*

Lord, in your mercy

**All hear our prayer.**

In joy and hope let us pray to the Father.

That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his  
glorious and life-giving resurrection ...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That isolated and persecuted churches  
may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter ...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That God may grant us humility  
to be subject to one another in Christian love ...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That he may provide for those who lack food, work or shelter ...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That by his power war and famine may cease through all the world ...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick,  
to comfort and strengthen them. We pray especially for ...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That, according to his promises,  
all who have died in the faith of the resurrection

may be raised on the last day ...

For those who have died recently...

And for those whose anniversary of death we remember at this time...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people,

so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection,

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father,

you have delivered us from the power of darkness

and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:

grant that, as his death has recalled us to life,

so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy;

through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT**

*The president 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.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**All and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

## PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

*The president takes the bread and wine and says:*

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.

**All 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.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

**All Wise and gracious God,  
you spread a table before us;  
nourish your people with the word of life**

**and the bread of heaven.  
Amen.**

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.**

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.

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS *said*

**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.**

*PLEASE SIT or KNEEL*

We thank you loving Father,  
because 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.  
'This is my body', he said, 'given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me'.

After they had eaten, he took the cup,  
gave thanks, and shared wine with his disciples.  
'This is my blood', he said,  
'poured out for you and for all people,  
to save them from their sins.  
Do this in remembrance of me'.  
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 to love one another,  
and to work together for that day  
when the whole world is fed,  
suffering is ended,  
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

With Mary and all your saints  
we give you glory,  
through Jesus Christ,  
in the strength of the Spirit,  
for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All 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.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

AGNUS DEI *said*

**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

Draw near with faith,  
receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.  
Eat and drink in remembrance  
that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Loving God,  
as a mother feeds her children at the breast

you feed us in this sacrament  
with the food and drink of eternal life:  
help us who have tasted your goodness  
to grow in grace within the household of faith,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

**All 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 NOTICES

**THE DISMISSAL**

*Please STAND for the BLESSING*

The God of peace,  
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
that great shepherd of the sheep,  
through the blood of the eternal covenant,  
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,  
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;  
and the blessing ...

**All Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

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