

# Easter Day Dawn Service

for the parishes of Midhurst and Woolbeding  
2021

*The service begins on in the Churchyard of All Hallows at 6:30am in the first light of the Easter dawn, the light that dispels the darkness and fills our lives with the light of Jesus' risen life, a light that will not fail!*

## Opening Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, to you be glory and praise for ever. Your steadfast love extends to the heavens and your faithfulness never ceases. Illuminate our hearts with your wisdom and strengthen our lives with your word, for you are the fountain of life; in your light we see true light. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**All Blessed be God for ever.**

*Those holding the Pascal Candles trace the symbols upon them saying...*

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages; to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever.

**All Amen.**

*The Pascal Candles are then lit and the following prayer said...*

**All 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.  
Amen.**

*Small candles can then be lit from the Paschal Candle.*

## The Easter Gospel Luke 24: 1-12

But 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.

*At the end of the Gospel...*

Alleluia, Christ is risen.

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

## The Exsultet

*An extract from the Exsultet is sung.*

# Thanksgiving for the Resurrection

Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Let us praise and exalt him for ever.

**All Blessing and honour and glory and power be to him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb for ever and ever. Amen.**

Great and marvellous are your works, Lord God the almighty; just and true are your ways, King of saints; all glorious your gifts, Spirit of life. Blessing and honour and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious: and his mercy endures for ever.

*The response at the end of each line is 'for his mercy endures for ever.'*

He has loved us from all eternity: *R*  
And remembered us when we were in trouble: *R*  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: *R*  
He became incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man: *R*  
By his cross and passion he has redeemed the world: *R*  
And has washed us from our sins in his own blood: *R*  
On the third day he rose again: *R*  
And has given us the victory: *R*  
He ascended into heaven: *R*  
And opened wide for us the everlasting doors: *R*  
He is seated at the right hand of the Father: *R*  
And ever lives to make intercession for us: *R*

Blessing and honour and thanksgiving and praise more than we can utter, more than we can conceive, be to you, O most adorable Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, by all angels, all peoples, all creation, for ever and ever.

**All Amen. Alleluia.**

*We 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!**

**But the pains which He endured, Alleluia!**

**Our salvation hath procured, Alleluia!**

**Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!**

**Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!**

*Lyra Davidica (1708) and others*

## The Intercessions

*At the end of each petition...*

...we pray to the Father.

**All Hear our prayer.**

## The Blessing & Dismissal

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life; and the blessing of God almighty; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

We are raised to new life with Christ. Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia!

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

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