



The First Eucharist of Easter
Sunday 20th April 2025
Mass of St Thomas – Thorne



The New Fire

We gather in the churchyard around the fire as it is lit. and listen to the reading of:

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21

We wait in silence.

Eternal God,
who made this most holy dawn
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.**

The Easter candle is marked.

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 forever.
Amen.

Incense studs are inserted into the Paschal Candle.

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

The president lights the Easter candle with the taper, saying

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

We go into church following the minister bearing the candle who raises it as a cantor sings three times:

The light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

We take our places but remain standing.

The Exultet

*The Easter candle is placed on its stand, and all the other candles in the church are now lit.
A cantor sings.*

The president continues

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.

It is right and good that with hearts and minds and voices we should praise you,
Father almighty, the unseen God, through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who has saved us by his death,
paid the price of Adam's sin, and reconciled us once again to you.
Glory to you for ever.

For this is the Passover feast,
when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain,
whose blood consecrates the homes of all the faithful.
Glory to you for ever.

This is the night when you first saved our ancestors,
freeing Israel from her slavery and leading her safely through the sea.
Glory to you for ever.

This is the night when Jesus Christ vanquished hell, broke the chains of death and rose
triumphant from the grave.
Glory to you for ever.

This is the night when all who believe in him are freed from sin, restored to grace and
holiness,
and share the victory of Christ.
Glory to you for ever.

This is the night that gave us back what we had lost;
beyond our deepest dreams you made even our sin a happy fault.
Glory to you for ever.

Most blessed of all nights!
Evil and hatred are put to flight and sin is washed away,
lost innocence regained, and mourning turned to joy.
Glory to you for ever.

Night truly blessed, when hatred is cast out,
peace and justice find a home, and heaven is joined to earth and all creation reconciled
to you.

Glory to you for ever.

Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy
accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering.
Grant that this Easter Candle may make our darkness light.
For Christ the morning star has risen in glory;
Christ is risen from the dead and his flame of love
still burns within us!
Christ sheds his peaceful light on all the world!
Christ lives and reigns for ever and ever! **Amen.**

The Easter Greeting

Alleluia, Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

All the lights in church are turned on and the organ is played.

Gloria

Refrain:

please stand as we all sing:
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to God in the Highest.

**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.**
Refrain

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.
Refrain

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.
Refrain

Collect

please remain standing

Let us pray.
Grant, Lord,
that we who are baptised into the death of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ
may continually put to death our evil desires and be buried with him;
and that through the grave and gate of death
we may pass to our joyful resurrection; through his merits,
who died and was buried and rose again for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

New Testament Reading

please sit

At the end:

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading *please stand*

We all stand and turn to face the Deacon as the gospel is read.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

A sentence from scripture is sung and we all respond:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the reading:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

please sit

After the Homily, the Crucifer and lights lead the ministers to the font.

All turn to face the font or gather around it.

Prayer over the water

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ
was baptised in the river Jordan,
we thank you for the gift of water
to cleanse us and revive us.
Saving God,
give us life.

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea
you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the promised land.
Saving God,
give us life.

We thank you that through the deep waters of death
you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph.
Saving God,
give us life.

Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it
may be made one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection,
to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.
Saving God,
give us life.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them,
bring them to new birth in the household of faith
and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life;
for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.

Renewal of Baptismal Vows

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the paschal mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life within the family of his Church. Now that we have completed our observance of Lent, we renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil.

Therefore I ask these questions:

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins.

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all those who have been baptised in your name. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in 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

and also with you. Alleluia!

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

You are invited to share the peace.

Offertory Hymn

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,

wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;

Love lives again, that with the dead has been:

Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid him, Love whom men had slain,

thinking that never he would wake again,

laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:

Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,

he that for three days in the grave had lain,

quick from the dead, my risen Lord is seen:

Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,

thy touch can call us back to life again,

fields of our hearts, that dead and bare have been:

Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

Preparation of the Table

The gifts of the people may be gathered and presented.

The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.

Be present, be present,

Lord Jesus Christ, our risen high priest;

make yourself known in the breaking of bread.

Amen.

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.

The president praises God for his mighty acts:

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

The president recalls the Last Supper, and we use this acclamation:

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died,

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

The prayer continues and ends with praise to God to which everyone responds:

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

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 the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,

whoever eats this bread will live forever.

Lord, our hearts hunger for you;

give us this bread always.

Agnus Dei

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

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

We receive communion. If you would prefer a blessing, please indicate this by bringing your service booklet with you.

Anthem

Since by man come death - Handel

Prayer after Communion

please sit

Silence is kept.

God of Life,
who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross,
and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy;
grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him
in the joy of his risen life;
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.

Blessing

please stand

God the Father,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gate of everlasting life. **Amen.**

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

God the Holy Spirit,
whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace. **Amen.**
and the blessing of God Almighty... **Amen**

Recessional Hymn

**The Day of Resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness,
The Passover of God!
From death to life eternal,
From earth unto the sky,
Our Christ hath brought us over
With hymns of victory.**

**Our hearts be pure from evil,
That we may see aright
The Lord in rays eternal
Of resurrection-light;
And, listening to his accents,
May hear so calm and plain
His own 'All hail,' and, hearing,
May raise the victor strain.**

**Now let the heavens be joyful,
And earth her song begin,
The round world keep high triumph,
And all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen
Their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord hath risen,
Our joy that hath no end.**

Dismissal

**Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Organ Voluntary

Please stay and join us for a celebratory breakfast!