



Easter Sunday Dawn Holy Communion

Welcome.

We gather this Easter dawn to greet the day and to praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has caused us to be born again to a living hope.

First Reading Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light", and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

As the fire rises,
as the sun ascends,
may heart and mind become flame,
burning with life's vigour.

As the seed bursts,
as the tomb cracks,
may body and soul become song,
a hymn of praise and glory.

With Christ all things rise:
the cross takes root
the desert is watered,
the dust of death blossoms into life.

May we be witnesses of this life today:
the life that is not defined by fear and death;
that life that is more than enough for all;
the life that is the glory and song of God through all creation.

[The Earth Cries Glory: Daily Prayer with Creation. Steven Shakespeare]

Second Reading Psalm 118:14-24

The LORD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

“The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;
the right hand of the LORD is exalted;
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.”

I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.

The LORD has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the LORD’s doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

We breath, and feel the stirring of life all around us, in the earth beneath our feet, the tender shoots of new growth, the freshness of the morning light, the birds singing, the buds unfurling, the sun’s rays breaking through, this invitation to new life bursting all around us

The prayers of the people

Gospel Reading John 20:1-18

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.

Song: Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when He rose up from the dead?

The Dawn Eucharist - this prayer is shared between the worshippers unless specified that the minister speaks

Today is the day of promise.
Today is the day when our hopes find their focus.
Today is the day when your cross stands empty
and we see the stone rolled from your tomb.

Today is the day
when women lead the way,
simply believing,
simply hoping.
Today is the day
when all creation groans in anticipation
of the resurrection
which *your* resurrection promises.

So come,
eat, drink and make merry.
for Christ is risen from the dead.
Christ is risen from the dead
And we shall rise with him!

At Easter, in Easter,
we see the agony of Good Friday,
when God died,
when God was left hanging on a cross of wood.

At Easter, in Easter,
we see the humiliation of the most lovely,
despised and rejected,
scourged and crucified,
as your children suffer still.

Yet in that cruellest of agonies
we find our hope and our joy.
In crumpled cloths and a rolled-away stone
we see the buds of new life
and claim your promise.

So in meeting here
to take bread and wine,
we touch holy ground.
With fear and trembling
we break the bread of life
and take the cup of promise
from hands pierced with nails,
pierced with love.

In bread and wine
we remember,
we look back
to your death and resurrection.

In bread and wine
we look forward
in eager anticipation
of the time when all things shall be born again.

*Minister: For on the night of his betrayal,
the night when even love and friendship failed,
Jesus took a piece of bread.
He gave thanks.
Facing death, Jesus gave thanks,
and offered the bread to the friends who had failed him
and who would fail him.*

'Take and eat. This is my body. I give it freely to you, Remember me when you break bread.'

*Then after supper, he lifted a cup of wine.
Again he gave thanks in the midst of his sorrow
and passed it around the company.
'Drink this, all of you. For in this wine is my promise to you
and to all the world, sealed in my blood.'*

*And Christ's promise is true.
Today, at Easter,
as at every Eucharist,
we recall with awe and wonder
the love that could not die.*

**And so we ask that as we eat bread and drink wine
we might remember the promise
and look forward in hope.**

Minister: In breaking this bread, we share in the death of Jesus, in the pain of the world, and in the hope of resurrection.

The bread is broken

Minister: In sharing this wine, we share in the passion of Jesus, in all the blood shed in the world, and in the hope of resurrection.

The bread and wine is shared.

**You have fed us with your body
and refreshed us with your blood.**

Two thousand years ago,
your disciples struggled to understand
what your promise meant
to them and to us.
In the midst of sorrow and suffering
we struggle to understand

and to believe.

Give us the faith of children.

Give us the laughter of children.

Give us the excitement of children

and send us out to share our hope with your world.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!



**St Michael's
Wandsworth
Common**

EASTER 2026
LOVE RESIST SERVE RISE

PALM SUNDAY 29 MARCH
10AM SERVICE WITH DONKEY PROCESSION

MAUNDY THURSDAY 2 APRIL
7PM AGAPE MEAL & NIGHT OF PRAYER

GOOD FRIDAY 3 APRIL
10.30AM WALK OF WITNESS

EASTER SUNDAY 5 APRIL
6AM DAWN COMMUNION ON THE COMMON
10AM ALL AGE COMMUNION

April Sundays

10am

05 April - We are Easter people

12 April - We are values led people

19 April - We are responsible people

26 April - We are a team of people

**We are
St. Michael's
Wandsworth Common**



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