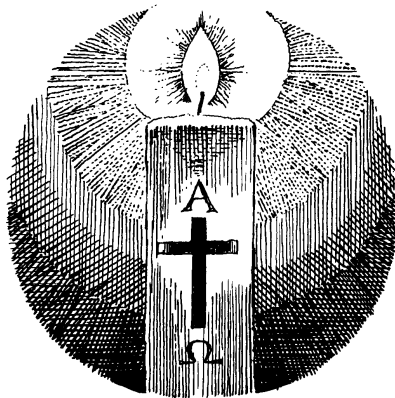


St Edmundsbury
Cathedral



The Easter Liturgy



President:

The Right Reverend Martin Seeley
Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

Easter Day
Sunday 4 April 2021
6.00 am

Welcome to St Edmundsbury Cathedral

The celebration of Easter

Since earliest times, the Christian observance of Easter consisted of a vigil of watching and waiting, fasting and prayer, that lasted through the hours of darkness. The vigil began after evening prayer on Easter Eve when, as every night, the evening candle was lit. As a result, in the Western Church, at this particular service the 'light ceremony' came to symbolise the return of the Light of Christ from the darkness of the tomb, and the beginning of the Easter celebrations.

The Easter Liturgy begins with the lighting of a new fire from which the Paschal Candle (from Latin *Pascha* for 'Easter') is then lit. The resurrection is then proclaimed once everyone has processed into the church in the Service of Light. The Easter Candle, together with the candles held by individual worshippers, illuminate the church. This illustrates the way that Christians understand the Old Testament, and interpret life itself, in the light of the resurrection of Jesus. The history of our salvation in the Scriptures is heard in the light of the Easter mystery.

The lighted Paschal candle contains a twofold symbolism. First, it represents the pillar of fire that went before the Israelites during their flight from Egypt. Second, it represents Christ, the light of the world. The procession into the darkened church likewise has a twofold meaning. It symbolizes the journey of the Israelites out of Egypt, and also the arrival of Christ who is the Saviour of the world. The Service of Light reaches its climax with the singing of the *Exsultet iam Angelica*, the ancient plainchant Easter Proclamation. Following this, the gathered congregation hear the Easter readings, renew their baptismal promises and celebrate the Holy Communion.

The Gloria, Sanctus and Agnus in the Eucharist today are from the Communion Service in F by Harold Darke, 1888-1976



¶ Order of Service

The Easter Vigil and Service of Light

From the earliest times, Christians have gathered on Easter Eve or before dawn on Easter Day to hear the scriptures which recall the story of God's saving work, from creation through to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The ancient Easter Liturgy which follows helps us to enter into the experience of passing from darkness to light. The darkened church symbolises the coldness of the tomb. As the liturgy unfolds, the church is brought to life by the light of the Paschal Candle which symbolises Christ risen from the dead.

Once everyone is assembled in the Garth, the ministers emerge with the unlit Easter Candle and a new fire is lit.

Deacon Brothers and sisters in Christ, in this most holy season, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which through word and sacrament we share in his victory over death.

As we await the risen Christ, let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, recalling how he saved his people in ages past and in the fullness of time sent his Son to be our Redeemer; and let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

A shortened Vigil of Readings is now kept. After the first reading and prayer the following is sung.

**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:**

After the second reading and prayer the following is sung.

**Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three day in the grave had lain,
Quick for the dead, my risen Lord is seen:**

**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.***

Words: J M C Crum, 1872-1958

Music: Old French Melody

harmonised by Martin Shaw, 1875-

1958

Bishop Eternal God,
 who made this most holy day
 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.

All Amen.

The Bishop marks the cross on the Easter Candle and says

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. **Amen.**

The Bishop then inserts incense studs into the Easter Candle and says

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

The Bishop lights the Easter Candle, saying

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

The Candle Deacon takes the Easter Candle and processes into the building, with everyone immediately following as their candles are lit.

The Candle Deacon holds the candle aloft, singing

Deacon The light of Christ.
Choir Thanks be to God.

The Deacon processes into the Cloister, the people following, and sings again.

The Deacon processes into the Nave, the people following, while the candles of all the Cathedral altars are lit and the Deacon sings once more.

Everyone moves into the pews, the Candle Deacon places the candle in the stand and censes it, and then sings

Deacon Alleluia! Christ is risen.
Choir He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Exsultet

Everyone one remains standing as the ancient Easter chant of the 'Exsultet iam Angelica' is now sung by the Candle Deacon and choir. The Exsultet recalls the history of salvation and the events of the Passover at which Jesus suffered, died, rose from the dead for our redemption.

Deacon Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
O Universe, dance around God's throne!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Sound the victorious trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in glory,
revealing the splendour of your creation,
radiant in the brightness of your triumphant King!
Christ has conquered! Now his life and glory fill you!
Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!
The risen Saviour, our Lord of life, shines upon you!
Let all God's people sing and shout for joy.



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.

Choir Glory to you for ever.

Deacon For this is the Passover feast,
when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain,
whose blood consecrates the homes of all the faithful.

Choir Glory to you for ever.

Deacon This is the day when first you saved our ancestors,
freeing Israel from her slavery,
and leading her safely through the sea.

Choir Glory to you for ever.

Deacon This is the day when Jesus Christ vanquished hell,
broke the chains of death
and rose triumphant from the grave.

Choir Glory to you for ever.

Deacon This is the day when all who believe in him
are freed from sin
restored to grace and holiness,
and share the victory of Christ.

Choir Glory to you for ever.

Deacon This is the day that gave us back what we had lost;
beyond our deepest dreams
you made even our sin a happy fault.

Choir Glory to you for ever.

Deacon Most blessed of all nights!

Choir Crowning glory of all feasts!

Deacon Evil and hatred are put to flight
and sin is washed away,
lost innocence regained, and mourning turned to joy.

Choir Glory to you for ever.
Deacon Feast 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.

Choir Glory to you for ever.

 Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy
 accept our sacrifice of praise,
 your Church's solemn offering,
 this wax, the work of bees
 and the hands of your ministers.

Choir Glory to you for ever.

 As we gaze upon the splendour of this flame
 fed by melting wax conceived by mother bee,
 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!

Choir Amen.

A fanfare is played on the organ, the Sanctus bell is rung, bells of the people are rung, all the lights of the Cathedral are raised and the Edmund Consort sings

The Gloria

Glory be to God on high,
and in earth, peace,
goodwill towards men.

We praise thee. We bless thee.
We worship thee. We glorify thee.
We give thanks to thee
for thy great glory.

O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son
Jesus Christ, O Lord God,
Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
thou that takest away the sins
of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins
of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand
of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord,
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art the most high,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

All remain standing for

The Collect

Bishop Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ
in glory.

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the powers of death and hell:
fill your church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way stands open
in our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Candles are extinguished, and all sit for

The New Testament Reading

read by the Sub-Deacon

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6: 3-11, NRSV

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Acclamation

Cantor Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Choir Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Cantor I am the first and the last, says the Lord,
and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.
Choir Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Gospel

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

All Glory to you, O Lord.

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Mark 16.1-8, NRSV

Deacon This the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Choir Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Everyone sits for

The Sermon

The Right Reverend Dr Martin Seeley
Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich

After a time of silence, everyone stands and the organ sounds. As the procession moves to the Font, everyone turns to face it.

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

The Bishop addresses the whole congregation

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:

All Do you turn to Christ?
I turn to Christ

All Do you repent of your sins?
I repent of my sins

All Do you renounce evil?
I renounce evil.

Bishop May almighty God who has given you the desire to follow Christ give you strength to continue in the way.

The Prayer over the water

Bishop Praise God who made heaven and earth,
All **who keeps his promise for ever.**

Bishop Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Bishop Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ
was baptized in the river Jordan:
we thank you for the gift of water
to cleanse us and revive us.

Deacon Saving God,
All **Give us life.**

Bishop We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea
you led your people out of slavery
to freedom in the Promised Land.

Deacon Saving God,
All **Give us life.**

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

Deacon Saving God,
All **Give us life.**

Bishop Bless this water, that all 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.

Deacon Saving God,
All **Give us life.**

Bishop Send your Holy Spirit upon us,
and raise us with Christ to full and eternal life;
for all might, majesty, authority, and power are yours,
now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Profession of Faith

Bishop And now I ask you to make the profession of the Christian faith into which you were baptized, and in which you live and grow.

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

All 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?

All 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?

All I believe and trust in him.

Bishop This is the faith of the church.

**All This is our faith.
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

The Bishop says

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. **Amen.**

¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

All remain facing the font as the Bishop leads

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.

All Alleluia. The peace of the risen Christ be always with you
And also with you. Alleluia.

Deacon Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

If you have other members of your household with you, you may wish to share the peace with them now. If are alone, know Christ's Peace to be with you now.

The Edmund Consort sings

The Offertory Hymn

Light's glittering morn bedecks the sky;
heaven thunders forth its victor-cry:
Alleluia, alleluia.

The glad earth shouts her triumph high,
and groaning hell makes wild reply:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia.

That Eastertide with joy was bright,
the sun shone out with fairer light,
when, to their longing eyes restored,
the glad apostles saw their Lord:

He bade them see his hands, his side,
where yet the glorious wounds abide;
the tokens true which made it plain
their Lord indeed was risen again:

Jesu, the King of gentleness,
do thou thyself our hearts possess,
that we may give thee all our days
the tribute of our grateful praise:

All praise be thine, O risen Lord,
from death to endless life restored;
all praise to God the Father be
and Holy Ghost eternally:

Words: James Mason Neale 1818-1866

based on Aurora lucis rutilat (Latin, 4th century)

Music: Laast uns Erfreuen, melody from an Easter hymn
in Geistliche Kirchengesang, Colone, 1623
arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

All remain standing for

The Preparation of the Table

Bishop Lord of life,
with unbounded joy we offer you our sacrifice of praise.
As we are fed with the bread of heaven
may we know your resurrection power;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. **Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Bishop and Edmund Consort sing the Sursum Corda.



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and on this day of our redemption
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 us the image of your glory.
He has placed us 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:

Choir Holy, holy, holy Lord,
 God of hosts,
 Heav'n and earth are full of thy glory.
 Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Amen.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord:
Hosanna in the highest.

Bishop Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
 through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
 and as we follow his example and obey his command,
 grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
 these gifts of bread and wine
 may be to us his body and his blood;

 who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
 took bread and gave you thanks;
 he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
 do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Deacon

Jesus Christ is Lord:

All

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us
free, you are the Saviour of the world.**

Bishop

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

All

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

*All sit or kneel as the consecrated bread and wine are raised in the sight of the
people and the Sanctus bell is rung*

The Lord's Prayer

Bishop Rejoicing in God's new creation at Easter, let us pray with confidence as our Lord Jesus taught us, saying:

**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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Bishop Jesus says, I am the bread of life,
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.
**Lord, our hearts hunger for you;
give us this bread always.**

All remain seated or kneeling as the Edmund Consorts sings the

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
grant us thy peace.

Bishop Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The Communion

Please follow the directions of the cathedral wardens.

Gluten free bread: please indicate to the administering priest if you require a gluten free Communion bread.

Spiritual Communion

‘Spiritual Communion’ is a historic practice in the church for anyone who cannot receive the bread and wine physically. It is possible because Communion is always a spiritual practice and not simply physical. Through God’s grace, whilst we cannot receive the bread and wine, we can still receive the sacrament in our hearts, and share in communion with Jesus. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere who cannot receive the bread and wine at this time. The following prayer is one form of words to use for Spiritual Communion.

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day. Amen.

after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

The Anthem

Most glorious Lord of life, that on this day
didst make thy triumph over death and sin,
and having harrowed hell, didst bring away
captivity thence captive, us to win:

This joyous day, dear Lord, with joy begin,
and grant that we for whom thou diddest die,
being with thy dear blood clean washed from sin,
may live for ever in felicity:

And that thy love we weighing worthily,
may likewise love thee for the same again;
and for thy sake, that all like dear didst buy,
with love may one another entertain;

So let us love, dear Love, like as we ought;
love is the lesson which the Lord us taught.

Music: Sir William Henry Harris, 1883-1973

The Prayers after Communion

All sit or kneel as silence is kept and the Bishop prays

Bishop 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.**

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.

All stand. The Bishop gives

The Easter Blessing

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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

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

God the Holy Spirit,
who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.
Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, ✠ the Son,
and the Holy Spirit,
be among you, and remain with you always.
Amen.

All remain standing for

The Dismissal

Deacon With the risen life of the Lord within you,
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!
All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Everyone remains standing as the procession leaves and the organist plays

The Organ Voluntary

St Edmundsbury
Cathedral



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St Edmundsbury
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The Canon Precentor: The Reverend Canon Philip Banks
The Cathedral Curate: The Reverend Sarah Geileskey
The Cathedral Curate: The Reverend Ben Edwards
Assistant Director of Music: Richard Cook
Conductor: William Saunders

*William Saunders is currently overseeing the Cathedral's music
in this period before our new Director of Music begins in May 2021*

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