

**The Blofield Benefice**

**Holy Communion**

**during**

**The Easter Season**



## Introduction to the Season

The Great Fifty Days of Eastertide form a single festival period in which the tone of joy created at the Easter Vigil is sustained through the following seven weeks, and the Church celebrates the gloriously risen Christ:

Triumphant in his glory now,  
his sceptre ruleth all,  
earth, heaven and hell before him bow,  
and at his footstool fall. *(Fulbert of Chartres)*

Early Christians gave the name Pentecost to this whole fifty-day span of rejoicing, which Tertullian calls 'this most joyful period' (*laetissimum spatium*). It is sometimes also called 'Great Sunday'. In those places where the custom of lighting the Easter Candle at the beginning of Easter is followed, the lit Candle stands prominently in church for all the Eastertide services. The Alleluia appears frequently in liturgical speech and song; Morning Prayer begins with the traditional collection of Pauline texts known as the Easter Anthems, and white or gold vestments and decorations emphasize the joy and brightness of the season.

On the fortieth day there has from the late fourth century been a particular celebration of Christ's ascension. He commissions his disciples to continue his work, he promises the gift of the Holy Spirit, and then he is no longer among them in the flesh. The ascension is therefore closely connected with the theme of mission. The arrival of the promised gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost completes and crowns the Easter Festival.



## The Gathering

Hymn

*The president may say*

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

*All*

**Amen.**

## The Greeting

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*All*

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*(The Paschal candle may be lit)*

## Prayer of Preparation

*All*

**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.**

## Invitation to confession

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.  
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil  
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

*cf 1 Corinthians 5.7,8*

Like Mary at the empty tomb,  
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Like the disciples behind locked doors,  
we are afraid to be seen as your followers.  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Like Thomas in the upper room,  
we are slow to believe.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*The president says*

May the Father of all mercies  
cleanse *you* from *your* sins,  
and restore *you* in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All*

**Amen.**

## **The Collect**

*The Collect is said.*

*All* **Amen.**

## **¶ The Liturgy of the Word**

### **Readings**

#### **First Reading**

*At the end the reader may say*

*All* This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Sermon**

#### **Prayers of Intercession**

The Lord's Prayer.

*All* **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.**

## **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

### **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.

*cf John 20.19*

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

### **The Eucharistic Prayer (prayer F)**

*All* The Lord be with you  
**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.**

You are worthy of our thanks and praise,  
Lord God of truth,  
for by the breath of your mouth  
you have spoken your word,  
and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image  
and placed us in the garden of your delight.  
Though we chose the path of rebellion  
you would not abandon your own.

Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace.  
You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets  
to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace.

As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth,  
we echo the song of the angels in heaven,  
evermore praising you and *saying*:

*All*

**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.**

Lord God, you are the most holy one,  
enthroned in splendour and light,  
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ  
you reveal the power of your love  
made perfect in our human weakness.

Embracing our humanity,  
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;  
loving us to the end,  
he gave himself to death for us;  
dying for his own,  
he set us free from the bonds of sin,  
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave up himself for us all  
he 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 we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,  
we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb,  
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high  
and we long for his coming in glory.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption,  
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation  
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
form us into the likeness of Christ  
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Look with favour on your people  
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.

Bless the earth,

heal the sick,

let the oppressed go free

and fill your Church with power from on high.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth  
to feast with [*N and*] all your saints  
at the table in your kingdom,  
where the new creation is brought to perfection  
in Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

*All* **Amen**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

*The president breaks the consecrated 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.**

### **Giving of Communion**

*The president says the invitation to communion*

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

*All* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*The president and people receive communion.*

### **Prayer after Communion**

*Silence is kept.*

*All* **Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and brought us home.  
Dying and living, he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.**

**Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
so we and all your children shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

### **Blessing**

May Christ,  
who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,  
fill you with his new 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.**

*A minister says*

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

*All*

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

*The ministers and people depart.*