

Agapé for Easter 2020

The Love Feast has often been held on occasions when the celebration of the Lord's Supper would be inappropriate or when the Eucharist cannot be celebrated—where there is no one present authorized to administer the Sacrament, when there is a desire for a service more informal and spontaneous than the communion ritual, or at a full meal or some other setting to which it would be difficult to adapt the Lord's Supper.

An Agapé or Love Feast is a way of breaking bread together or individually as Jesus did with people in all sorts of settings. You may like to join in at home with some bread and wine or juice. It might be that you are celebrating with a special Easter meal. This service could be said before or after you have enjoyed your Meal!

It does not take the place of the Eucharist and if you would rather not join in breaking bread or offering thanks for the wine then please use the service without.

You will need a candle to represent the Paschal candle and the light of Christ on this Easter day.

Introduction

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

You are invited to light your candle and pray these words:

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

Giving Thanks

We have bread and wine,
gifts of this good earth,
enough for all, if we can share!
Gracious God we give you thanks
for all the many blessings in our lives
and ask that you would bless us now
as we share your good gifts
in Jesus' name.

Amen.

The Collect for Easter Sunday

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your

Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity. **Amen.**

Gospel Acclamation

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

Alleluia. He has defeated the powers of death.

Alleluia. Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing.

Alleluia. He has the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.

Matthew 28:1-10 - The Resurrection of Jesus

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he^[a] lay. ⁷Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead,^[b] and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." ⁸So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

You may wish to read Reverend Andrew's Easter message, or you may not!

Breaking Bread

Loving God, you provide enough for everyone: this earth is fertile, fruitful and abundant, but we are sometimes greedy, wasteful and selfish.

Many go hungry despite our plenty,
many are left outside while we enjoy a feast.
But on the hillside, in the wilderness,
with five thousand and more hungry people,

Jesus took the bread that they had,
broke it and gave thanks to you.
He shared the bread,
so that no one should be left out,
and they all ate and were satisfied.

Blessed be God forever!

Thanksgiving for the Wine

Hurting God, you hurt with our pains,
you weep with our tears;
when you see how we struggle and suffer.
You long for our peace, yet we so often make war.
You long for our healing and wholeness,
yet we so often turn away from you.
But at a wedding in Cana when the wine ran out,
Jesus asked them to fill the empty jars with water,
and by your grace, water became wine,
sadness was turned to joy,
and all were able to share in the best wine of all.

Blessed be God forever!

Sharing Together or individually

Dreaming God,
you long for us to dream your dream,
of a world at peace, a people made one,
a feast for all;
where bread is broken and shared with companions on the road,
where wine is offered with thanksgiving
and shared with all who are hurting,
and all are caught up together
in the Kingdom of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The bread can be shared, using the words:
Bread for the world to share.

The wine can be shared using the words:
The best wine, saved till now.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God we thank you,
for your abundant love in creation,
your compassionate, healing touch in our hurting,
your inspiration for our venturing.
Thank you for bread, and wine to share.
Give us grace to follow
in the footsteps of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Prayers can be offered:

- **For our church families at St Giles and St Eata's.**
- **For the well-being & protection of our loved ones.**
- **For all who are suffering from the coronavirus & those who work in the NHS.**
- **For all who are finding self-isolation and lockdown a difficult time.**
- **That the love and grace of the Risen Christ may be with us all.**

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Concluding Prayer

God who longs for our healing,
meet us in our hurting,
with your compassion.
Jesus who stands with us,
touch us in our brokenness,
that we may be made whole.
Spirit who anoints us with power,
fill us with your grace,
that we may reach out to others.
The Grace of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ and the
Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all, now and for ever.
Amen.

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Canterbury Press 2020
The Church of England: Common Worship
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