

# HOLY COMMUNION

Easter until Pentecost

HIGH WEALD CHURCHES



*Order for the Churches of  
St John the Baptist & St Peter*

Welcome to our worship today. We hope today is an opportunity to rest, reflect, and to be reminded how much God loves you. Please feel free to contact the office, or the clergy of the Benefice (below), if you would like more information or for somebody to be in touch.

The High Weald Benefice is a family of churches including St John the Baptist Penshurst, St Peter's Fordcombe, St Luke's Chiddingstone Causeway and St Mary the Virgin Chiddingstone. Together we are trying to share the love of God with the people of these communities.

Please join in saying the words printed in **bold type**. The text in *italics* is to guide you and explain what's happening. At various points in the service you are asked to be seated or to stand. Do, please, treat these as guidelines, encouraging you to change your posture, in order better to receive that part of the service. Prayer is a bodily activity, but it should be working with you and your environment, not against it!

When it comes to Communion, if you do not normally receive bread and wine in your church, you are welcome to come to the altar for a blessing (take this booklet in your hands, so we know). If you would like to begin receiving the bread and the wine, do please talk to one of the clergy.

The church is served by a hearing loop. If you have an analogue hearing aid, turn your hearing aid to the setting marked T.

We invite you to stay for tea/coffee following our service. If it's not obvious where that is (it isn't always), do please ask someone. We will be happy to help you.

We're so glad you're here and hope to see you again.

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If you would like to find out more and support the work of the churches in this place, please go to <http://www.highwealdchurches.org.uk>, or follow the QR code, below.



*"Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance.  
It is laying hold of his willingness."  
Julian of Norwich, Revelations of Divine Love*

## The Gathering

*The congregation may be welcomed and notices given. You may be invited to stand for the opening hymn.*

### Hymn

*The priest may say*

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

*All*      **Amen.**

### The Greeting

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

*All*      Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*You may wish to sit or kneel.*

### 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.**

### The Beatitudes

Let us hear our Lord's blessing on those who follow him.

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,  
for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,  
for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after  
righteousness,  
for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called children of God.

Blessed are those who suffer persecution for  
righteousness' sake,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

*Silence for reflection*

### **Prayers of Penitence**

*The minister uses an invitation to confession and all respond,*

*All*    **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

*The choir may sing the Kyries ("Lord have mercy"), then the  
priest says,*

May the God of love and power  
forgive *you* and free *you* from *your* sins,  
heal and strengthen *you* by his Spirit,  
and raise *you* to new life in Christ our Lord.

*All*    **Amen.**

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

*If you are able, please stand for the Gloria.*

*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.**

**[Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to God in the highest!]**

**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.**

**[Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to God in the highest!]**

**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.**

**[Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to God in the highest!]  
Amen.**

## **The Collect**

*The priest introduces a period of silent prayer with the words  
'Let us pray' or a more specific bidding.*

*The Collect is said and all respond, **Amen.***

*Please sit.*

## The Liturgy of the Word

### Reading(s)

*At the end of each, the reader may say*

This is the word of the Lord.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

### Hymn

#### Gospel Reading

*If you are able, please stand. The Gospel may be introduced by an acclamation to which all respond **Alleluia**. When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

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

*All [sing]* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end the reader says*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All [sing]* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Sermon

#### The Creed

*If you are able, please stand.*

*All* **We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit**

**and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge  
the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and  
apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

*You may wish to sit or kneel. These responses may be used*

Lord, in your mercy (or) Jesus, Lord of life  
*All* **hear our prayer.** **In your mercy,**  
**hear us.**

*And at the end*

Merciful Father,  
*All* **accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

### The Peace

*If you are able, please stand. The Priest may introduce the Peace with a suitable sentence, such as*

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*

*and then says*

The peace of the risen Lord be always with you.

*All* **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

### Preparation of the Table

#### Hymn

*The gifts of the people may be gathered and presented.*

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

*This or another prayer may be said,*

Be present, be present,

Lord Jesus Christ,

our risen high priest;

make yourself known in the breaking of bread.

*All* **Amen.**

*Please take the posture you would like to hold for the eucharistic prayer whether that is standing, sitting or kneeling.*

### The Eucharistic Prayer

*The priest says*

The Lord be with you

*All* **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.**

*The priest praises God for his mighty acts using this or another preface,*



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
almighty and eternal Father,  
and in these days of Easter  
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 men and women the image of your glory.  
He has placed them 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:

*and all respond [singing]*

**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.**

*The priest recalls the Last Supper.*

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.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

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

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.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us,  
using our preferred form or language.

*The congregation joins in the Lord's prayer using one of the two forms below, or another with which they are familiar.*

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.

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 priest breaks the consecrated bread.*

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,  
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

**All Lord, our hearts hunger for you;  
give us this bread always.**

## Giving of Communion

*The priest says the invitation to communion*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

*The choir sing this or another 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.**

*The priest and people receive communion. All who receive the bread and the wine in their own church are welcome to do so here. If you do not normally receive bread and wine in your church, you are welcome to come to the altar for a blessing. The choir may sing a hymn.*

### **Prayer after Communion**

*A post communion collect may be said.*

*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.**

### **The Dismissal**

#### **Hymn**

#### **Blessing**

*Please remain standing while the priest blesses the people,  
concluding*

... 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*

We are raised in Christ.  
Go in his peace. Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

*The ministers and people depart.*

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