



Sundays **8:00am** Eucharist **10:00am** Sung Eucharist
5:00pm Meditation & Eucharist
Weekdays **9:00am** Morning Prayer in St Martin's Chapel
Thursdays **10:15am** Eucharist

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FACEBOOK Please visit and [facebook/St George's Anglican Church Malvern](https://www.facebook.com/StGeorge'sAnglicanChurchMalvern)



St George's Anglican Church Malvern

The worship of the church over three great days
now culminates in....

EASTER DAY

6AM

*The New Fire, The Vigil, the Renewal of Baptismal Vows
and the First Eucharist of Easter*



Stanley Spencer (1891-1959)

The Resurrection (1924-7)

Spencer painted scenes from the life of Christ set in his native
Thames side village of Cookham.

From Maundy (Holy) Thursday evening to Good Friday and the emptiness of Saturday (Easter Eve) worshippers have been on a journey of faith and imagination. Services have been without ending or blessing as each flowed into the next.

Our worship culminates in the **Vigil and First Eucharist of Easter**. We begin in the darkness gathering outside the church to light the **new fire** and the **Paschal Candle**, the symbol of Christ. The Paschal Candle takes its name from the Greek word *Pasch* meaning Passover. Christ leads humanity from death to life, just as once Moses led God's people from slavery in Egypt to new life in the promised land.

The Easter (Paschal) Candle is marked with traditional symbols: the cross, the symbol of life and death; the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, Alpha and Omega; a reminder that Christ is the beginning and end of all things; the numerals of the current year, a reminder that the Lord of all ages is present here and now; and five nails inserted to symbolise the wounds of Christ. The Candle will burn all day today, and every time we worship during the **Fifty Days of Easter** until Pentecost. After that time, it will be lit for baptism and confirmation, and for funerals. As soon as Christ's resurrection is acclaimed in the congregation the church is flooded with light and sound. We sing the great hymn of praise, the *Gloria in excelsis* and made plenty of joyful noise! At each Eucharist today we renew the vows made at our baptism. **Baptism and Easter** are linked. Baptism used to take place only at Easter in the early church. By renewing baptismal vows today we complete our Lenten preparation. We affirm our identity as Christ's own, a people called to be the Body of Christ in the world today. The climax of our Easter worship is the **Eucharist** in which we are sacramentally reunited with the Risen Lord. Like the first disciples, we too are invited to the Lord's table that we might know him in the breaking of the bread.

Easter Day begins the greatest season of all in our Church year.

2 Today we commence the great fifty days leading to **Ascension** and

this is the table of the Risen Lord and here none are strangers.

The words of administration are:

The body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. **Amen.**

THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Please stand

Living God,
make us apostles of the risen Christ.
Give us joyful hearts, words of hope,
and grace to recognise the Lord Jesus when he meets us,
wherever we are on the road.

Blessing

The blessing of the Living God, who brings light out of darkness,
be upon you now and for ever. **Amen.**

The blessing of the risen Christ, who sends you as apostles into all
the world be upon you now and for ever. **Amen.**

The blessing of the Holy Spirit, who fills the church with joy and
praise, be upon you now and for ever. **Amen.**

The blessing of our God, the holy and glorious Trinity,
be upon you and remain with you now and for ever. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION HYMN 386

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, alleluia, alleluia!
In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia!

through whom, with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, eternal God, now and for ever.

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

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to pray,

**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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE COMMUNION

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus
in the breaking of the bread.
**The disciples knew the Lord Jesus
in the breaking of the bread.**
The bread which we break, alleluia,
is the communion of the body of Christ.
**The disciples knew the Lord Jesus
in the breaking of the bread.**
We are one body, alleluia,
for though many we share one bread.
**The disciples knew the Lord Jesus
in the breaking of the bread.**

All who wish to come to communion are welcome for

Pentecost. In worship we do not simply recall past events.
We celebrate the risen Lord who is present now with no less reality than on
that first Easter Day, and whose saving work of love continues through all
time.

EASTER VIGIL AND FIRST EUCHARIST

The people gather near the entrance of the church, in darkness.

The priest says

Beloved in Christ, on this holy night when our Lord Jesus Christ passed
from death to life, the Church invites her members throughout the world to
come together in vigil and prayer. This is the passover of the Lord. We re-
call his death and resurrection by hearing his word, celebrating his myster-
ies, and accepting his promise of life. We are confident that we shall share
his victory over death in his eternal kingdom.

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

The new fire is lit and the priest says

Lord of all creation, we thank you for the gift of fire, in which you revealed
your name to Moses, answered the prayer of Elijah, and came upon your
Church at Pentecost: + Bless this new fire to be a sign for us of your pres-
ence, that, set aflame with the fire of your love, we may come to the feast of
everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Taking the paschal candle, the priest traces a cross on it and marks the Greek letters Alpha
and Omega, and the four numbers of the current year, saying*

Christ *yesterday and today *the beginning and the end, *Alpha and
*Omega, *all time *belongs to him *and all the *ages. To him be glory and
power through every age and for ever.

Placing five nails in the extremities and the centre of the cross the priest says

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

The priest lights the candle from the new fire saying

May the Light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts
and minds.

*The lighted candle is carried through the church building in darkness, the bearer pausing
three times: at the door, in the middle of the nave, and finally within the sanctuary. At each*

pause these words are sung:

The Light of Christ

the people respond **Thanks be to God.**

When the candle is placed in its stand, the priest says

Accept, Lord, we pray, this + candle which we have set up in honour of your Son's resurrection; grant that the brightness of his risen glory may illumine our hearts and cast out the darkness of sin; that in these paschal mysteries we may have true fellowship with him who is our resurrection and our life, the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*All the candles in the church, including the people's candles, are lit from the paschal candle; then the **Exultet**, an ancient hymn of praise, is sung:*

The people join the refrain:

Most holy night, most blessed of nights,
when Christ broke the chains of the darkness!
God's mighty love is stronger than death.
Christ our Light shines forever.

THE VIGIL OF READINGS

The priest says

Dear friends in Christ, in this our solemn vigil, let us listen to God's word, recalling how God saved his people throughout history, and in the fullness of time sent his own Son to be our Redeemer.

First Reading *Genesis 1:1 - 2.4a*

Psalm 136

- give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:
 for his mercy endures for ever.
- give thanks to the God of gods:
 for his mercy endures for ever.
- give thanks to the Lord of lords:
 for his mercy endures for ever.

Silence

Prayer: The reader prays

Creator God, you made us wonderfully in your own image, and yet
4 more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature: grant that as
your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, was made in human form, so we may

Bright image of your glory,
he learnt obedience to you in all things,
even to death on a cross,
breaking the power of evil,
freeing us from sin, and putting death to flight.

You raised him from death,
exalting him to glory,
and the new day dawned.
On the night he was betrayed
your Son Jesus Christ shared food with his friends,
is companions on the way.
While at the table he took bread,
blessed, and broke it,
and giving it to them, said:
'Take, eat; this is my body.'

He took a cup of wine,
and, giving thanks, he gave it to them, and said,
'This is my blood of the covenant,
which is poured out for many.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, living God, as we obey his command,
we remember his life of obedience to you,
his suffering and death,
his resurrection and exaltation,
and his promise to be with us for ever.
With this bread and this cup
we celebrate his saving death until he comes.
Accept, we pray, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
and send your Holy Spirit upon us and our celebration
that all who eat and drink at this table
may be strengthened by Christ's body and blood
to serve you in the world.

As one body and one holy people,
may we proclaim the everlasting gospel
of Jesus Christ our Lord,

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands .
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE EUCHARIST

Incense is blessed and intentions are offered

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right to praise you, faithful God,
always and everywhere,
for with your only begotten Son
and life-giving Spirit,
you are the one true God from everlasting to everlasting.

At the dawn of time you wrought from nothing
a universe of beauty and splendour,
bringing light from darkness
and order from chaos.

You formed us, male and female, in your image,
and endowed us with creative power.

We turned away from you but you did not abandon us.

You called us by name and searched us out,
making a covenant of mercy,
giving the law, teaching justice by the prophets.

And so we praise you,

joining with your faithful people of every time and place,
singing the eternal song:

**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.

When the fullness of time was come,
you sent your Son to be born of Mary.

be made partakers in divine life; through the same Jesus Christ our
Lord. **Amen.**

Second Reading *Exodus 14:10-31; 15.20-21*

Canticle *Exodus 15*

I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously:

horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my might,

and he has become my salvation;

this is my God, and I will praise him,

my forebears' God, and I will exalt him.

Silence

Prayer: The reader prays

Lord God our redeemer, who heard the cry of your people, and sent
your servant Moses to lead them out of slavery: free us from the
tyranny of sin and death; and, by the leading of your Spirit, bring
us to the promised land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Third Reading *Isaiah 55:1-11*

Canticle *Isaiah 12*

Surely God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid,

for the Lord God is my strength and my might;

he has become my salvation.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

And you will say in that day:

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; Holy One of Israel.

Silence

Prayer: the reader prays

O God, by the power of your Word you have created all things, and
by your Spirit you renew the earth: Give now the water of life to
those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in
your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Fourth Reading *Ezekiel 36:24-28*

Psalm 43

Give judgment for me, O God,
take up my cause against an ungodly people:
deliver me from the deceitful and unjust.
For you are God my refuge -
why have you turned me away:
**why must I go like a mourner
because the enemy oppresses me?**
O send out your light and your truth,
and let them lead me:
**let them guide me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling.**
Then I shall go to the altar of God,
to God my joy and my delight:
**and to the harp I shall sing your praises,
O God, my God.**
Why are you so full of heaviness, my soul:
and why so unquiet within me?
O put your trust in God:
**for I will praise him yet,
who is my deliverer and my God.**

Silence

Prayer: The reader prays

Grant, Lord, that we who are baptised into the death of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, may continually put to death our evil desires and be buried with him; that, through the grave and gate of death, we may pass to our joyful resurrection; through his merits, who died and was buried and rose again for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All stand, and the priest says:

Christ is risen! Alleluia!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*All the lights in the church are turned on and bells are rung, and the organ plays a fanfare.
All join in singing the Gloria in Excelsis*

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

We do.

Will you continue in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

We will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fail, repent and return to the Lord?

We will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

We will, with God's help.

Will you seek to serve Christ by loving your neighbour as yourself?

We will, with God's help.

Will you work and pray for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

We will, with God's help.

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Water is then splashed over the people as a sign of the renewal of our baptismal vows.

The service continues with the Greeting of Peace. Remaining at the font, the priest says:

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The peace of the Lord, crucified and risen, be always with you.

And also with you.

The members of the congregation greet one another with a sign of peace.

The Paschal Candle is returned to its stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN 393

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

The priest says to the congregation:

Dear friends, in baptism, through the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection, we have died and been buried with Christ, so that we may rise with him to new life. Now that we have completed the observance of Lent, let us renew the promises made in our baptism.

Water is poured into the font, and the priest says:

We thank you, Creating God, for the gift of water. Your Holy Spirit moved over the waters in the beginning of creation. Through water you led the children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt into the land of promise. In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah.

We thank you for the water of baptism, in which we are buried with Christ in his death that we may share in his resurrection, and through which we are renewed by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we make disciples of all nations and baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Springs of water, bless the Lord.
Give glory and praise to our God,
who lives and reigns forever.**

The priest asks the congregation:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made the world?

We believe and trust in God the Father.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, Jesus Christ, who redeemed our human race?

We believe and trust in God the Son, Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God?

We believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God,

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
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.
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. Amen.**

The priest prays the Collect for Easter Day Let us pray:

O God, the power of the powerless,
you have chosen as your witnesses
those whose voice is not heard.
Grant that, as women first announced the resurrection
though they were not believed,
we all may have courage
to persist in proclaiming your word,
in the power of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The people extinguish their tapers. All sit for the reading from the New Testament.

A reading from the acts of the Apostles.

Peter began to speak to the Gentiles: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was

with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.' *Acts 10.34-43*

Reader Hear the Word of the Lord

ALL **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn to the Risen Christ

- 1 Christ our passover has been | sacrificed | for us:
so let us |cele|brate the |feast,
- 2 Not with the old leaven of cor|ruption and |wickedness:
but with the unleavened bread of sin|ceri|ty and |truth.
- 3 Christ once raised from the dead | dies no |more:
death has |no more do|minion |over him.
- 4 In dying he died to sin | once for |all:
in |living he | lives to |God.
- 5 See yourselves therefore as | dead to |sin:
and alive to God in |Jesus | Christ our |Lord.
- 6 Christ has been | raised • from the |dead:
the |first fruits of | those who |sleep.
- 7 For as by |one man came |death:
by man has come also the resur|rection | of the |dead;
- 8 For as in | Adam all |die:
even so in Christ shall |all be | made a|live.

Easter Anthems from A Prayer Book for Australia, 423

ALL **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

The stone which the builders rejected has become
the cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing and marvelous in our eyes.

ALL **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Reader The Lord be with you.

ALL **And also with you,**

Reader The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

ALL **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

All four gospels agree that the women were the first to learn that the tomb where Jesus' body had been laid was empty. In Matthew's gospel they receive a commission: go and tell the others that he has been raised from the dead and will meet them, just as Jesus first met the faithful women when he was newly risen.

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And 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. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you."

So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Matthew 28. 1-10

Reader For the Gospel of the Lord

ALL **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

SERMON

A hymn is sung, while the ministers proceed to the font, carrying the lighted paschal candle. The people face toward the font.

HYMN **TiS 484** *Tune 403*