



St James's
PICCADILLY

The Eucharist at Dawn

With blessing of the New Fire,
renewal of Baptismal vows,
and Easter procession

Easter Day
Sunday 5th April 2026
at 6.15am



Order of Service

From 5.45am, you are invited to enter quietly and join those who are already keeping vigil in the side chapel.

At 6.15am the response is said:

Let us go out to greet the dawn.

For Christ is rising from the dead.

Please leave the church and move silently into the Garden with those who are gathering for the lighting of the Dawn Easter Fire. Please pick up a candle to take it outside with you.

Please gather around the Easter Fire just as, in St John's Gospel story, the disciples gathered around the fire with breakfast beside the lake as they returned from fishing and found Christ waiting for them.

THE BLESSING OF THE NEW FIRE

The new fire is lit.

READING: John 21.3-13.

Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they

were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

THE LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The priest says

Eternal God, who made this holy dawn 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 Christ, who lives for ever.

Amen.

Five nails are inserted in the form of the Cross upon the Paschal Candle, framed by the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet and accompanied by the date of 'this year of Our Lord' 2025.

The priest says

Christ yesterday and today,
the beginning and the end,
Alpha and Omega;
all time belongs to God,
and all the ages.

To Christ be glory and power through every age
for ever and ever.

**Through his death and glorious resurrection,
may Christ guard us and keep us.**

The Paschal Candle is lit from the new fire.

The priest says

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

*The newly lighted Paschal Candle is carried into the Church.
All follow...*

At three points we stop and sing:

The cantor sings

The Light of Christ
Thanks be to God!

The Paschal Candle is carried to the font and all gather in that space. In silence, its flame is passed amongst us, symbolising the movement of the Holy Spirit.

*The **Exsultet** is sung. (Exsultet means Rejoice! which is the first word of this ancient song from the 4th century).*

The Clergy exclaim

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

HE IS RISEN INDEED. ALLELUIA!

The lights of the church burst on, bells are rung.

If you have bells, whistles or voices, use them now to proclaim the Good News of the resurrection.

After the celebration of Christ's resurrection, the cantor leads the Gloria while we remain around the font holding candles.

THE GLORIA *(Peruvian)*

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

To God be glory for ever!

Alleluia amen, alleluia amen, alleluia amen.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to Christ Jesus!

To God be glory for ever!

Alleluia amen, alleluia amen, alleluia amen.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit!

To God be glory for ever!

Alleluia amen, alleluia amen, alleluia amen.

THE COLLECT *for Easter Day*

The priest says

Let us pray.

O unfamiliar God,

we seek you in the places you have already left,

and fail to see you even when you stand before us.

Grant us so to recognise your strangeness that we need not cling to our familiar griefs, but are freed to proclaim the resurrection in the name of Christ.

Amen.

THE BLESSING OF THE WATERS

The priest says

Beloved Creator God, you have given us grace through sacramental signs which tell of the wonders of your unseen power and purpose.

In baptism we use your gift of life-giving water which you have made a rich symbol of the grace you give us in this sacrament.

Blessed be God for ever!

Through the waters of the Red Sea you led the people of Israel out of slavery, to be the people of your new covenant set free by baptism from slavery and death.

In the waters of the River Jordan your Son was baptised by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. After his resurrection, Jesus told his disciples to go and baptise all peoples in your name.

Blessed be God for ever!

The Paschal Candle is lowered into the water...

Living God:

send your Spirit upon these waters.

May all who are buried with Christ in the death of baptism also rise with him in newness of life.

God of every age: bless this water,
and through it quench our deepest thirsts.

Amen.

The Paschal Candle is placed in the stand.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

The priest says

As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the Paschal Mystery and our own baptism we too have died with him and have risen with him.

Now that we have completed our keeping of Lent and Passiontide we come to renew the promises made at our baptism.

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins.

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil.

Let us affirm the Christian faith into which we were baptised and in which we live and grow.

Do you believe and trust in God who made heaven and earth?

We believe in God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in God's Son, Jesus Christ, who redeemed humankind?

We believe in Jesus Christ.

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

We believe in the Holy Spirit.

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith. We believe in one God:
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit.**

Eternal God,

we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith
and with all who have been baptised in your name across the
ages and across the world.

Keep us faithful to our baptism and so make us ready for that
day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in Christ.

Amen.

On Ash Wednesday we were marked with ash, and the words
"remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return".

Today we are marked with the water of new life, knowing that
love is strong as death and it is to that love we have returned.

*Water is sprinkled from the font onto those present as a
reminder of our baptismal covenant with God.*

HYMN

[Tune: Noel Nouvelet; Words: J.M. Campbell Crum (1872-1958) alt.]

... during which we move out into the garden.

**Now the green blade riseth
from the buried grain,
wheat that in the 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 by hatred slain,
thinking that never
he would wake again,
laid in the earth
like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again,
like wheat that springeth green.

Forth he came at Easter,
like the risen grain,
he that for three days
in the grave had lain;
quick from the dead,
my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again,
like wheat that springeth green.

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.

Repeat as necessary, until all are in the garden.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE GOSPEL: John 20.1-20

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you

have laid him, and I will take him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.” ’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

The priest says

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said “Peace be with you”.

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

The priest says

Creator God, give us a heart for simple things:
love and laughter, bread and wine, tales and dreams.
Fill our lives with green and growing hope,
make us a people of justice whose song is Alleluia
and whose name breathes love.

Amen.

The priest leads the Church's Thanksgiving for creation and Redemption in Christ...

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

The priest continues the Church's prayer of thanksgiving ...

SANCTUS (*Wetherick*)

The cantor sings

Holy, holy, holy.

Holy, holy, holy.

God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

The cantor sings

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Holy, holy, holy*

God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

*(repeat as a canon, 2nd part starting at *)*

The prayer of consecration continues recalling Christ's command to his disciples at the Last Supper, ending with "as often as you drink it in remembrance of me"

The cantor sings

Great is the mystery of faith.

Sing after the cantor

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer...

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The priest says

Let us pray in the words that Jesus gave us.

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 Bread is broken and the priest says

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The priest says

Draw near with faith.

Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.

Eat and drink in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

THE COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The priest says

You have risen O Christ.

Let all creation greet the good news
with jubilant shout;
for our Easter dawn has come,
the long night is past
our Christ now lives in triumph,
today and to the end of ages.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

In Christ we are reconciled to God.

Alleluia!

Death and life have engaged in a wondrous struggle.

Alleluia!

We have seen the glory of the risen Christ.

Alleluia!

Christ is risen from the dead.

**All you that sleep, awake, arise from the dead,
for Christ has set us free.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen!

HYMN

[Tune: Easter Hymn; Words: 14th Cent. Latin, trans. New Century Hymnal]

**Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia,
our triumphant holy day; alleluia,
who did once upon the cross; alleluia,
suffer to redeem our loss; alleluia!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing; Alleluia,
unto Christ our heavenly king; alleluia,
who endured the cross and grave; alleluia,
sinners to redeem and save: alleluia!**

**Christ appears in full array, alleluia!
Sing with joy this paschal day, alleluia!
Christ now from the dead is raised, alleluia!
Holy Trinity be praised, alleluia!**

Please move to the courtyard gates where Easter eggs will be distributed. Follow the clergy and musician to Piccadilly Circus.

Everybody is welcome to stay for a cooked breakfast in the Church Hall.

On our journey to Piccadilly Circus, we sing ...

**This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made,
that the Lord has made.**

**We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.**

**This is the day that the Lord has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

**This is the day, this is the day when he rose again,
when he rose again.**

**We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it,
and be glad in it.**

**This is the day when he rose again,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

This is the day, this is the day when he rose again.

Halle- halle- halle- lujah!

Halle- halle- halle- lujah!

Halle- halle- halle- lujah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah! (rpt)



St James's Church, 197 Piccadilly, London W1J 9LL
Tel: 020 7292 4860 • www.sjp.org.uk • [@StJPiccadilly](https://twitter.com/StJPiccadilly)