

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE EASTER SEASON (including ASCENSIONTIDE)

(24 May John and Charles Wesley, Evangelists, Hymn Writers, 1791 and 1788)

Alleluia! The Lord reigns!

Let the earth rejoice! Alleluia!

HYMN – O for a thousand tongues to sing

Hymns Ancient & Modern (2013) 742 – Tune: RICHMOND or LYNGHAM (DESERT)

**O for a thousand tongues to sing
my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!**

**Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life, and health, and peace.**

**He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
he sets the prisoner free:
his blood can make the foulest clean;
his blood availed for me.**

**He speaks; and, listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken hearts rejoice;
the humble poor believe.**

**Hear him, ye deaf; his praise, ye dumb,
your loosened tongues employ;
ye blind, behold your Saviour come;
and leap, ye lame, for joy!**

**My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim
and spread through all the earth abroad
the honours of thy name.**

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

'For the Anniversary of One's Conversion' published 1740

Let us pray

Glory to you, O God:
you raised Jesus from the grave,
bringing us victory over death
and giving us eternal life.

Glory to you, O Christ:
for us and for our salvation
you overcame death
and opened the gate to everlasting life.

Glory to you, O Holy Spirit:
you lead us into the truth
and breathe new life into us.

Glory to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Now and for ever. **Amen.**

If we have fallen into despair,
Lord, forgive us.

If we have failed to hope in you,
Lord, forgive us.

If we have been fearful of death,
Lord, forgive us.

If we have forgotten the victory of Christ,
Lord, forgive us.

Silence

May the living God,
raise you from despair,
give you victory over sin
and set you free in Christ. **Amen.**

The Collect

Lord of Hosts,
purify our hearts
that the King of Glory may come in,
even your Son, Jesus our Redeemer;
for he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Gareth Atkins: *Historical background to the Wesleys (and even to Gareth himself?!)*

Readings

Romans 5: 1-11

A reading from the gospel according to John
Alleluia! Hear the gospel of Christ.

Glory to Christ our Saviour. Alleluia!

John 17: 1-11

Alleluia! This is the gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ our Lord. Alleluia!

Sermon

A collect for the commemoration of John and Charles Wesley

God of mercy,
who inspired John and Charles Wesley
with zeal for your gospel:
grant that all your people may boldly proclaim your word
and evermore rejoice in singing your praises;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn

Hymns Ancient & Modern (2013) 588 – Tune: SAGINA

**And can it be that I should gain
an interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain?
For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be
that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?**

**'Tis mystery all: the Immortal dies!
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds enquire no more.**

**He left his Father's throne above -
so free, so infinite his grace -
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
for, O my God, it found out me!**

**Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
thine eye diffused a quickening ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;**

my chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

A hymn dating from the Conversion of the Wesleys, which they headed 'Free Grace'.

Prayers of intercession – led by ???

The Lord's Prayer

We say together the prayer 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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father
who has created the universe?

We believe and trust in God the Father.

Do you believe and trust in Jesus, the Son of God,
who has redeemed the world?

We believe and trust in God the Son.

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

We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit>

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said: 'Peace be with you!'

Then they were glad when they saw the Lord.

Alleluia! The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

And also with you, Alleluia!

We spend a short time greeting each other at home and on-line.

The offering of the bread and wine

Here is bread, God's good gift.

It will become for us the bread of life.

Here is wine, God's good gift.

It will become for us the cup of salvation.

THE THANKSGIVING

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.

Holy and everliving God,
it is right always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
because in this and every generation
you send forth upon the whole Church
your holy and life-giving Spirit
that the gospel might proclaimed in all the world.

Therefore with angels and archangels
and with all your people on earth and in heaven,
we proclaim your glory, forever praising you and saying:

**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.**

Holy and blessed God,
you have created all things
and made us in your own image.
When we had fallen into sin,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ
to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption
and to offer a perfect sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.
On the night in which he was betrayed
he took the bread;
and when he had given 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 when he had given you thanks,
he gave it to them, saying,
'Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

**Dying you destroyed our death,
rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Therefore, Father,
with this bread and this cup,
we remember his passion and death,
we celebrate his resurrection and ascension,
and we look for the coming of his kingdom.

Accept through him
this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Grant that by the power of your life-giving Spirit,
we who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be united with all your people on earth and in heaven;
through the same Christ our Lord,
**by whom, and with whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours,
almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray

Loving God,
be with us and all your people
in these days when we cannot gather in person,
and help us to hope in that great day,
when we will all gather at your heavenly banquet;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Alan Howard: *The Wesleys and hymns (and perhaps something of his background?)*

HYMN – Love divine, all loves excelling,
Hymns Ancient & Modern (2013) 721 – Tune: BLAENWERN

**Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion,
pure unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty to deliver,
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return and never,
never more thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above;
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.**

**Finish then thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee;
Changed from glory into glory
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Christ our King
make you faithful and strong to do his will

that you may reign with him in glory;
and may almighty God bless you,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Alleluia!

Go in joy and peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ. Alleluia!