

Agape Easter Breakfast

Hot drinks served as people arrive from the beach and take their seats. (music in background)

7am. When everyone is seated.

Easter Greeting

Leader: The Lord is risen!

All: He is risen indeed - Hallelujah!

Worship Song: 'As we are gathered Jesus is here'.

Welcome

Leader: On the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and appeared to Mary Magdalene. On that same day he sat down at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of bread.

In company with all believers, we come to his table to meet the risen Christ in the breaking of bread. To share his love, in the sharing of our Easter breakfast.

Agape

Reader: 'Agape' is the New Testament word for 'self-giving love'. It was the word given to the first Communion services held by the Early Church, and reminds us of the informal meals Jesus shared with his friends. Let us rejoice in this time of mutual sharing, and in the unity his risen presence gives to us.

Lighting the Paschal Candle

Leader: We light the Paschal Candle to symbolise the presence of our Risen Christ, the Light of the World, here with us now. (*after candle is lit*) Christ is our Light.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: We give thanks to God for light.

The light shed by the sun by day and the moon by night.

The light shed by the evening lamp, for in its light we see each other.

The light that shines from the Paschal Candle, a sign of Christ, our Risen Lord.

The light we give each other as we share this meal, our joy, our trust, and our Easter hope.

Whilst this is said the night lights on the tables in front of each place are lit.

A time of silence as we listen to the singing of 'The light of Christ has come into the world'

Resurrection - a New Way of seeing life.

2.

Let us pray:

Lord, we praise you for the light of Christ that conquers all the darkness in our lives.

We praise you for the love of Christ that shares our pain and fills us with hope.

We praise you Father, for the sense of hope and anticipation with which Christ's resurrection has filled our lives. We praise you that, in him, we have been enabled to view the life of the world and our own lives in a whole new way. Because of his resurrection we can know that he is still with us in the pressures we face, the pain we bear and the darkness of our temptations.

We praise you that because of his empty tomb, our lives, our friendships and our worship have been given new meaning. We praise you that our shame of the past has been dealt with, our fears for tomorrow understood and our uncertainty for today has been transformed, all because the stone was rolled away. Lord, we praise you that in Christ's resurrection we have the assurance, that, though we were lost, now we have been found. Though we were empty, each day we are being filled. Though once we merely existed, now we are receiving new life. Though we were alone, now he is always with us until the end, and beyond.

We come to praise our living Lord. Amen.

Leader: Let us join in saying The Lord's Prayer.

Setting the Table

Leader: On the table set in the midst of us, and at which Christ is present, we set symbols to remind us of his promises to us.

The Paschal Candle to remind us of Jesus who said: 'I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life'.

Reader: *2 people bring up a plate of Easter biscuits and a jug of wine from where they are sitting and place in front of the candle - then one says: Food and drink, symbols of Jesus who said: 'I am the Bread of Life. The bread that I shall give is myself for the life of the world'.*

Reader: *1 person to bring up a cross from where they are sitting, to place on the table in front of the candle and then says: A cross to remind us of the sacrificial love of Jesus, who commanded us to love one another as he has loved us.*

All: Lord, we welcome your presence with us. May the food and companionship we share, refresh our spirits in the light of your presence. Amen.

Worship song: 'How deep the Father's love for us'.

The Communion

3.

Leader:

On the night before he died, Jesus shared a meal with twelve of his disciples in an upstairs room in Jerusalem.

Listen now to the words from Mark's gospel:

Reader: While they were eating, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take; this is my body'.

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, and all of them drank from it. He said to them, 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.'

Mark 14: 22-25

Leader: We are the friends and disciples of Jesus today. He invites us to break bread together, to remember him and to pray that God's Kingdom will come.

We have bought this food and drink to the table of Jesus.

With them we bring ourselves, all that we are and all that we own.

May the ordinary become holy, and heaven be opened to the people of earth.

May God be blessed forever!

Let us pray

Loving God, teach and strengthen us, remind us of Jesus Christ, and what he has done for us. Help us to live as he lived, to love as he loved and to obey the two great commandments he gave us: 'To love God and to love one another'. Amen.

In the silence now we are conscious of having let you down and having let one another down. We offer to you our failings and burdens.

~ Silence ~

With faith in your unending love we seek your forgiveness, and feel the weight lift from us, as we hear the words of Jesus: "Your sins are forgiven."

We remember also that he said: "Follow me."

Let us share the peace together.

Jesus on the night he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said: 'This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

Eat this, it is the bread of life. Do this in remembrance of him.

Let's share our food and fellowship together, with Easter joy in our hearts.

Plates of Easter biscuits in the centre of the table are passed round, each serving their neighbour with the words: "The joy of the risen Christ be with you", reply- "and also with you", and eating as they receive.

Leader: Then Jesus took the cup, saying: 'This cup is a sign of the new promise with God, marked by my blood. As often as you drink the wine, remember me.'

Jugs of grape juice at the centre of the table are passed round, each serving their neighbour with the words: "The peace of the risen Christ be with you" (reply-) "and also with you".

Please wait until all are served, then we shall drink together as one family in him.

Drink this, it is the cup of blessing.

(when all have received)

Leader: Most gracious God,

We praise you for what you have given and for what you have promised here.

You have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.

You have fed us with the bread of life, and renewed us for your service.

Now we give ourselves to you and we ask that our daily living may be part of the life of your kingdom, and that our love may be your love reaching out into the life of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Worship song: 'Led like a Lamb'

Continue with breakfast: porridge or cereal and bacon rolls, toast coffee or tea.

(When all are finished)

Leader: Let us pray:

Loving God, you have fed us generously at this table, as we have remembered Jesus, and rejoiced in his resurrection presence today.

We are ready now to follow him, and to be your people your world. May you show us the way, make us holy and fill us with love.

Let justice flow like a river. Let the desert bloom with peace. Let the hungry be fed, the naked be clothed the lost be found, the chained be freed, and the poor blessed with plenty.

Amen

Leader: After the service, please extinguish your night light and wrap it in the serviette provided. Then take it home to relight and place on a suitable window ledge, so that the sign of the presence of the risen Christ can shine out into our world this Easter.

Worship song: 'Allelujah, Allelujah, give thanks to the risen Lord.'

Leader: The meal is ended. Christ goes before us into the day and the week ahead.

All: Let us go in peace to love and serve one another in the power of the risen Christ. Amen.