

Easter Day 10:30 am Eucharist

You may wish to have a candle at home, ready to light.

Christ yesterday and today,
All the beginning and the end,

Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages;
All to him be glory and power through every age and for ever. Amen.

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ was raised gloriously from the dead, crushing the power of sin and destroying the sting of death.

Throughout the world Christians celebrate the mighty power of God as Christ calls us out of darkness to share in his marvellous light.

May we, and all Christ's people, shine as lights in the world to the glory of God the Father.

The priest holds the candle up and says: The light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

You may like to your own candle as a sign of Christ's presence in your lives, your home and our community this day.

HYMN

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

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

Gloria in Excelsis

The Gloria in excelsis may be used.

**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.
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 COLLECT

Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.
Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Jeremiah 31.1-6

“At that time,” declares the Lord, “I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they will be my people.”
This is what the Lord says:
“The people who survive the sword will find favour in the wilderness;
I will come to give rest to Israel.”
The Lord appeared to us in the past, saying:
“I have loved you with an everlasting love;
I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.
I will build you up again, and you, Virgin Israel, will be rebuilt.
Again you will take up your timbrels and go out to dance with the joyful.
Again you will plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria;
the farmers will plant them and enjoy their fruit.
There will be a day when watchmen cry out on the hills of Ephraim,
‘Come, let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God.’”
This is the word of the Lord All Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING: Acts 10.34-43

Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us 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 whom God appointed 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.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL:

Alleluia, alleluia. I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one; I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

All Alleluia!

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 28.1-10

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.

His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.

The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.

He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.

Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples:

“He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee.

There you will see him.” Now I have told you.’

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

Suddenly Jesus met them. ‘Greetings,’ he said.

They came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him.

Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid.

Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Christ is risen!

That’s the message we long to hear each Easter . Easter is a time of wonder or at least it should be

But this year is different to other years.This year Easter leaves so many of us wondering –

Wondering what on earth is happening to our world, to our community to our loved ones.

On Holy Saturday I received the news that a good friend had died suddenly.

A friend I had journeyed with and who I had been ordained and priested with

and in the middle of our Easter story I was left wondering where is God in all of this?

Our Easter wonder should be the kind of awe and wonder! But so often our wonder is really another word for worrying.

The two Mary's must have been wondering too

Wondering what the earthquake was all about

Wondering why this angelic being in His lightning white onsie, is moving the stone away from the tomb.

Wondering how on earth Jesus's body – so beautifully cared for and laid to rest just a couple of days ago – has passed through the walls of this stone tomb

Wondering how to NOT BE AFRAID

What with all the earthquakes, lightening and angels and the missing body of a loved one

Wondering what on earth he means by saying Jesus is not here!

Of course he is here – they've just seen the angel roll the stone away. this worth wondering – Jesus hasn't only passed through death - he has passed through the stone as well

Jesus is Risen – In many ways it's the only thing that matters.

That Jesus has been raised from the dead is the only thing I really have to tell you today.

That's it – no if or but's , nothing more – nothing less

Jesus is risen –

It's the same thing the angel told the two women who went to Jesus' tomb. He didn't tell them once but twice.

“He is not here; he has been raised.”

“He has been raised from the dead.” That's the fact - Understand it now

Then they see Jesus.

Then they touched him.

Then they heard his voice.

Now they believe !

That is our Easter message - witness the risen Jesus – worship Him and the joy He brings

This Easter let's leave worry at the foot of the Cross and take back the wonder and awe of the resurrection

Matthew's Gospel, is pretty basic in its narrative

Matthew does not explain how it happened, only that it has.

This is what happened - now believe it

Believe that Jesus has risen

Because when you do - it changes the ground on which we stand and the way in which we live.

Easter Changes everything

How does the word 'Easter' make you feel?

Are you lost in awe and wonder Excited? Glad? Joyful? Relieved?

For the two Mary's their initial reaction was clearly being afraid, and many of us could relate to that this year.

So many people in and around church life know that they're supposed to feel happy and joyful at Eastertide but find in their hearts a little niggles –or perhaps more than a little niggles –saying,

Are you really sure? Isn't that all very odd?

And how on earth will this Easter Joy that help pay the mortgage, save my marriage, stop me shouting at the kids, stop me shouting at my parents, feed the hungry, cure the covid virus, save the world, or even make me a better Christian?'

Well, if you've got one of those little niggles today, you're in good company.

The women were afraid . The soldiers were so afraid they were stupefied

It all makes the point: what happened on the first Easter was something nobody expected.

Our challenge this Easter has been to pray through the Easter story in context of what happening around us whilst expecting the unexpected. It is the challenge of **holding your mind, and your whole life**, open to the God who does **unexpected things**. Life-transforming things, things you'd never have imagined in your wildest dreams.

Jeremiah talks of God encouraging us to be joyful even in times of struggle

There will be a time of planting and of harvest again and there will be a time of celebration when we are on the other side of this season of struggle

Luke reminds us in Acts that through Jesus' crucifixion death and resurrection there are no limits to what God is able to do for those who believe, so this story isn't just about Jesus.

It's about **people like us** –muddled and afraid but showing up, going to look, still not understanding, but unable to let go.

It's about **people like us** seeing a stone rolled away when we thought it was impossible, but not yet understanding why it's happened or what's going to happen next.

Praying at Easter isn't about celebrating with a kind of easy certainty.

It's about praying in front of a world full of challenges but equally full of strange new possibilities and of being open to God's future, and yes, of course, it is about Jesus as well.

Before you can understand the resurrection, you have to understand what he had been trying to tell you all along, that it was necessary for him to go and do what he did, to take the sin, shame and death of the world onto himself.

Easter, isn't just an arbitrary miracle, or a moment when God says, 'Look at what amazing things I can do!'

Easter is much more specific than that. It's about the new creation beginning at last, once death has done the worst that it can do. If you think about it, Easter is where it all begins.

Easter is the start, not the finish, of the new story.

This morning Jesus is inviting us on a new adventure –
and all are welcome but you have got to say - yes

Yes I am ready for the unexpected
Yes I will let go of fear
Yes I will forgive as I am forgiven
Yes I am ready to be transformed
Yes I am going to turn my worry
That's the feeling of Easter

Let us pray

Gracious Lord, as we come with the women to the tomb, give us faith to stay with the story, to hold open our minds, hearts and lives to whatever you now want to do. **Amen**

The Creed

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.

Hymn: In Christ Alone

INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray for the world and the Church, and thank God for his goodness.

The following response may be used: Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

The prayers may conclude with:

Merciful Father,

accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn: Blessed be your name

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

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.
The peace of the risen Christ be always with you,
All and also with you. Alleluia

PRAYER AT THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

Lord of life,
with unbounded joy we offer you our sacrifice of praise. As we are fed with the bread of heaven
may we know your resurrection power;
through Christ our risen Lord.
Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER (B)

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 thanks and praise.

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:
**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.**

*If you are making a spiritual communion (i.e. not receiving in person)
you may wish to say the below:*

*In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being
celebrated,*

I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving.

*I present to you my soul and body with the wish
that they may always be united to you.*

*And since I can not now receive you in this sacrament,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.*

I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me.

May I live and die in your love.

Amen.

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, +
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
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.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

Lord, by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free.

You are the Saviour of the world.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and
glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our
Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

All Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:
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.**

BREAKING OF THE 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.

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.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of Life,
who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son
to the death of the cross,
and by his glorious resurrection
have delivered us from the power of our enemy:
grant us so to die daily to sin,
that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All Amen.

Almighty God,
We give you thanks and praise for our life together.
Fill us all, Good Lord, with your Spirit of Love
and as you have fed us with the bread of heaven,
so make us one in hearts and mind,
in Jesus Christ our lord. **Amen.**

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

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
All Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

With the risen life of Christ within you,
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

*For the final hymn, you are invited to fling open your windows and doors
and sing with gusto the great news of the Resurrection.*

HYMN

Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son;
endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won. Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the
folded grave-clothes where Thy body lay.

Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son; endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won.

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb.

Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;

let His church with gladness hymns of triumph sing, for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.

Thine be the glory...

No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of life!!

Life is nought without Thee; aid us in our strife;

make us more than conqu'rors, through Thy deathless love; bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home
above.

Thine be the glory...

A very Happy Easter to you all!

Join us for Zoom Coffee after this service at 11.15am.