



Sharing Christ in the Community

# **Easter Day Family Communion Service**

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 at 10am

## **THE SERVICE OF LIGHT**

*Please stand*

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

*The Easter candle is lit.*

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

## **SONG**

**357 Jesus Christ is risen today**

## **OPENING PRAYER**

God of glory, by the raising of your Son  
you have broken the chains of death and hell:  
fill your Church with faith and hope;  
for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open  
in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **GLORIA**

***Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.***

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
peace you bring to us;  
We worship you, we give you thanks,  
we sing our song of praise.**

**Jesus, Saviour of all,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away our sins, O Lord,  
have mercy on us all.**

**At the Father's right hand,  
Lord, receive our prayer,  
for you alone are the Holy One,  
and you alone are Lord.**

**Glory Father and Son,  
glory Holy Spirit,  
to you we raise our hands up high,  
we glorify your name.**

*Gloria: Mike Anderson*

**FIRST BIBLE READING: Acts 10: 34-43**

*Please sit*

Then Peter began to speak to them: '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.'

*At the end:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SONG**

**This joyful Eastertide,  
away with sin and sorrow.**

**My Love, the Crucified,  
has sprung to life this morrow:  
*Had Christ, who once was slain,  
ne'er burst his three-day prison,  
our faith had been in vain:  
but now hath Christ arisen,  
arisen, arisen, arisen!***

**My flesh and hope shall rest,  
and for a season slumber:  
till trump from east to west  
shall wake the dead in number.  
*Had Christ, who once was slain,  
ne'er burst his three-day prison  
our faith had been in vain:  
but now hath Christ arisen  
arisen, arisen, arisen!***

**Death's flood hath lost its chill,  
since Jesus crossed the river:  
lover of souls, from ill  
my passing soul deliver:  
*Had Christ, who once was slain,  
ne'er burst his three-day prison,  
our faith had been in vain:  
but now hath Christ arisen,  
arisen, arisen, arisen!***

*George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934)*

**GOSPEL READING: John 20: 1-18** *Please stand*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

*At the end:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **TALK**

### **THE PROFESSION OF FAITH**

*Please stand*

Let us affirm our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**I believe and trust in him.**

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

**I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

### **THE PEACE**

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 Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## **SONG**

**30 Alleluia, alleluia**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & REMEMBRANCE**

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

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 always right to give you thanks,  
God our 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  
and children 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.**

Father, on the night before he died,  
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.  
He took the bread, and thanked you.  
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.  
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you.  
This is my blood,  
the new promise of God's unfailing love.  
Do this to remember me.

Jesus Christ has died.

**Jesus Christ has died.**

Jesus Christ is risen.

**Jesus Christ is risen.**

Jesus Christ will come again.

**Jesus Christ will come again.**

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,  
and remember his death and resurrection,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that we who share these gifts  
may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Pour your Spirit on us  
that we may love one another,  
work for the healing of the earth,  
and share the good news of Jesus,  
as we wait for his coming in glory.  
For honour and praise belong to you, Father,  
with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit:  
one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**



## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

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.**

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 he died for you  
and feed on him in your hearts  
by faith with thanksgiving.

## **THE GIVING OF COMMUNION**

*The President receives communion, gives communion to the other ministers on the dais and then to the congregation.*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**God of truth,  
we have seen with our eyes  
and touched with our hands the bread of life:  
Strengthen our faith  
that we may grow in love for you and for each other;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**SONG                      689   Thine be the glory**

## **BLESSING**

May Christ, who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,  
fill you with his new life;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

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