



Christ is Risen

A Joint Benefice Service of the
Word

for Easter 3 April 18th 2021

'Jesus appears to his disciples'.

The recording of this service can be seen here: Link : <https://youtu.be/8mxru7AWusg>

*If you have a Candle at home this can be used as a
Paschal Candle.

Please light your Easter Candle

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

Amen



The Greeting

The minister greets the people and says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Song

The Easter Hallelujah

The Creed

**I believe and trust in Jesus Christ,
who, being in very nature God,**

did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,
but made himself nothing,
taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself and became obedient to death-
even death on a cross.

Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place,
and gave him the Name that is above every name,
that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Confession

Almighty God, long-suffering and of great goodness:
I confess to you, I confess with my whole heart,
my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments
my wrongdoing, thinking & speaking; the hurts I have done to
others, and the good I have left undone.

O God forgive me, for I have sinned against you;
and raise me to newness of life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins and restore
us in his image, to the praise and glory of his Name. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

All 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.**

We now sing the hymn **Breath on me Breath of God**

Gospel Reading for today:

Luke 24:36-49

Jesus appears to the disciples

³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.'

³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, 'Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.'

⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, 'Do you have anything here to eat?' ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.

⁴⁴ He said to them, 'This is what I told you while I was still with you: everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.'

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, 'This is what is written: the Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.'

Talk by Graham Martin

While they were still talking about meeting Jesus on the road to Emmaus,

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you”

They were startled and frightened, thinking they had seen a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself!

Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones as I have.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

Reflection

“Jesus himself stood among them” – five words that changed the course of history, but they are five words that are just as relevant to us in 2021!

These men had spent the day confused, scared and disillusioned – not knowing which way to turn after seeing their hero brutally executed, and not knowing what was in store for their future. It was a living nightmare!

But, in an instant, their lives were changed – Jesus is standing there saying,

‘It is I myself’. That moment of revelation changed them from distressed doubters into dynamic disciples.

It is very important for us to claim these words of Jesus for ourselves –

‘It is I myself’. We are in his presence, and his presence transforms our lives.

Jesus himself stands among us! We may have doubts and fears, we may find it difficult to pray, or we may feel that God is remote!

But, the truth is ‘Jesus himself stands among us’; and that is life changing.

And he longs to hear us say, “Thank you Jesus for loving me and giving me new life and new hope. I want to follow you, worship you and love you – just as you love me”.

Prayer

Song

In your presence I am content – Chris Bowater

And while they still did not believe because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have any thing here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence. He said to them “This is what I told you while I was still with you: everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms”. Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

Reflection

Why were those disciples so distressed and disillusioned? Did they not know that Jesus would have to die and then rise from the dead? Well, yes, they had been told, but the trauma of Good Friday had swamped their emotions – quite understandably! If we had been there I guess we would have forgotten the Bible, and what God had said in his word and what Jesus had said.

But this is a salutary word for us! The Bible is our text book for life – especially the gospels – and it prepares us for what God plans for us and the quality of relationship that he wants with us. He sees us as disciples!

The last words of Jesus, before his ascension were, “Go and make disciples”.

The life we live ‘in Christ’ is wonderful, and he wants us to share it with others.

I think it is true to say that most of us need to spend more time reading and thinking about the Bible, and allow Jesus to ‘open our minds to understand the scriptures’.

And being hungry for ‘the word of God’ will not only enrich our relationship with the Father, but will enable us to encourage others who share that relationship with us

Prayer

Song

Open my eyes that I may see

He told them, “This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

I am going to send you what my Father has promised, but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Reflection

What has my Father promised?

This may have been the question that was going through the minds of these early disciples – and we might be wondering that, as well. ‘You will be clothed with power from on high’. ‘What on earth is he talking about?’ – they might well have asked.

Of course, we know what Jesus meant: he was talking about the Holy Spirit coming at Pentecost. But that was a one-off experience for these few men, never to be repeated. Or is it?

That is not what the Bible tells us. ‘What my Father has promised’ has been repeated thousands of millions of times through all the generations until now.

Do you remember that John the Baptist said, ‘I baptise you with water, but he (Jesus) will baptise you with the Holy Spirit?’

There is a danger in thinking we can ‘make it’ on our own. We don’t need the Holy Spirit and we can do without the challenge of such an experience.

Jesus knew that may be what most of those men were thinking; so see how wise and thoughtful Jesus is: ‘stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high’.

The message for us is the same! Prepare yourselves – wait – pray – listen; and what my Father has promised he will give. And we shall need it!

Prayer

Song

Holy Spirit, living breath of God – Krysten and Keith Getty

I

Prayers of Intercession

Intercessions for Easter 3 lead by Chris Orrin

Living God, long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Help us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and joy and amazement as real as was theirs when he appeared to them.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Gracious God help us all to play an active part in the vision of our churches as we leave lockdowns. The Bishop's advice last year was not to take everything out of the cupboard we put away when we stopped services last year. Give us confidence to see afresh our path focusing on Christ's call to all of us to be witnesses and to make disciples of all mankind in this 21st century.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Creator God, you gave us a beautiful world to live in and to care for. We know that in many areas our Stewardship has been a failure yet, through the victory of Jesus Christ, we know also that you can restore all things in glory; and so we pray for a change of heart and attitude, an awakening to a better way of living, and the courage to reject wrong principles. Help us to plan our future cherishing our world and caring for our environment as we care for each other.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Father, we pray for our Church communities, that each of us might make use of our individual talents enabling our churches to flourish as a witness to the "One Body" of the church. Help us to spread the warmth of your love to everyone we meet.

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Loving God, we pray for those who do not share our Easter joy especially those living in the shadow of darkness and despair and for those whose illness narrows their view of the world. We especially pray for all those who have requested prayer and in the quietness of our hearts we raise before You those who we know who are also in need.

Tom Clarke

Jo Cable

Gerry Lewsey

Sadie Russell

Jean Webber
Elliott
Sue Wilson
Sarah, Diane and Den's daughter
Tony Grinstead
Anne Cowell
Eunice Siggins
And all known to us:

Lord, in your Mercy: **Hear our Prayer**

Merciful God, we pray for those whose hearts have been saddened by the death of someone close and dear to them, for members of our families who have died and whose anniversary we recall. Help us to experience the comfort of the Holy Spirit within us, and the fellowship of the church family around us until we are reunited once more in your heavenly kingdom.

We are thinking of Jean Webber at this time after the sad loss of **Fr. Lionel**.

Rose Seabourne we pray for her family.

George Ferguson we pray for his family at this difficult time.

Matthew Lee. We pray for his parents June and Joe all Matthew's family and friends who will dearly miss him. Matthew's funeral is on Friday 30th April.

Sally Stewart we pray for her brother Roderic and family, and for Penny Lucas.

After the funeral of HRH Prince Philip yesterday:

O Lord, we humbly entrust our brother Philip, Duke of Edinburgh into your hands. In this life you embraced him with your tender love, and opened to him the gate of heaven. The old order has passed away, as you welcome him into paradise, where there will be no sorrow, no weeping nor pain, but the fullness of peace and joy with your Son and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Faithful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding, surround the Queen and the Royal Family with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness and strength to meet the days to come.

Merciful Father
**Accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen**

We now sing the Gloria

Gloria in Excelsis

All 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 Grace

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and evermore.

Hymn 5

Be Still for the presence of the Lord (Lent 1 21st Feb 2021)

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Notices:

Sunday 18th Zoom Service see:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81577064131?pwd=NHV2UzhTUesrVUFWbHd2RE9CQnczUT09>

Meeting ID: 815 7706 4131

Passcode: 995432

St Lawrence Virtual Coffee Meeting – Wednesday 21 April – 2.30pm

Topic: St Lawrence Virtual Coffee Meeting

Time: Apr 21, 2021 02:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85198129823?pwd=aTVrZ0wzTEVHc3EyNkpyRG01Ynl4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 851 9812 9823

Passcode: 660072