

Longford Eight Benefice

Easter Praise

During the hymn the Easter candle is brought into church and the altar candles lit from it.

Hymn

Jesus Christ is risen today *sung by St Martin's Voices*

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia.
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia.
who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia.
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia.

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia.
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia.
who endured the Cross and grave, Alleluia.
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia.

But the pains that he endured, Alleluia.
our salvation have procured; Alleluia.
now above the sky he's King, Alleluia.
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia.

*Surrexit Christus hodie Anonymous Latin, Lyra Davidica (1708),
Compleat Psalmist (1749 Arnold), Charles Wesley (1707-88)*

Tune: Easter Hymn

Greeting

The light of Christ.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Introduction

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.

Happy Easter to you wherever you may be. The candle you saw lit from the Easter fire has been brought into church as a sign of our Lord Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead. From earliest times Easter has been a preferred time for baptism so it is fitting that Christians recall the promises made at their own baptism by renewing their baptismal vows as we shall do today, in place of the Creed.

We are recording this service from the Church of St Michael and All Angels, Church Broughton. Thank you to Steve Johnson and David Legh for their participation in this service. There will be live services at Christ Church, Long Lane and All Saints', Dalbury today.

The Collect

Let us pray,

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.

All Amen.

Bible Readings

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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.’ *Acts 10.34-43*

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

A reading from the Gospel of Mark.

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.

As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. *Mark 16.1-8*

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Homily

Hymn

Love's redeeming work is done *sung by St Martin's Voices*

Love's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won:
lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er!
lo, he sets in blood no more!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal!
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened Paradise.

Lives again our glorious King;
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Dying once, he all doth save;
where thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led,
following our exalted Head;
made like him, like him we rise;
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to thee by both be given:
thee we greet triumphant now;
hail, the Resurrection Thou!

Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Sung by St Martin's Voices. Music: CC from The Church of England.

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The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the paschal mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life within the family of his Church. Now that we have completed our observance of Lent, we renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil.

Therefore I ask these questions:

Do you turn to Christ?

All I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

All I repent of my sins.

Do you renounce evil?

All I renounce evil.

Brothers and sisters, now I ask you to make the profession of Christian faith into which we were baptized, and in which we live and grow.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
who made the world?

All I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ,
who redeemed mankind?

All I believe and trust in him.

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

All I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

**All This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the
household of faith with all those who have been
baptized in your name. Keep us faithful to our
baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the
whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

All Amen.

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.

John 20.19, 20

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

All And also with you.

Hymn

Now the green blade rises *sung by St Martin's Voices*

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

In the grave they laid him, Love whom men had slain,
thinking that he never would awake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for the three days in the grave had lain,
back from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
then your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

*John Macleod Campbell Crum (1872-1958) © Oxford University Press Tune:
Noel Nouvelet*

Intercessions

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.

Jesus, light of the world, bring the light and peace of your gospel
to the nations: *to the people of Syria, Afghanistan, Myanmar and
Yemen and every place where there is conflict.*

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, bread of life, give food to the hungry:
*especially to families in Yemen where children are starving due to the
conflict; to those dependent on Food Banks in our own nation,
and nourish us all with your word.*

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,
be with us and all who follow you in the way;
*give us courage to be witnesses to the love you showed from the cross
and to the hope of resurrection...*

Deepen our appreciation of your truth and fill us with your life.
Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,
recover the straggler, bind up the injured, strengthen the sick
and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.
Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,
we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you *and*
remember before you all who have died this past year...

Raise us with them to eternal life.
Jesus, Lord of life,
**in your mercy, hear us,
accept our prayers, and be with us always. Amen.**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one,
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.**

Conclusion

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All **He has given us new life and hope
by raising Jesus from the dead.**

God has claimed us as his own.

All **He has brought us out of darkness.
He has made us light to the world.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Hymn

Thine be the glory *sung by St Martin's Voices*

Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son;
endless is the victory 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 conquering Son:
Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.
*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son:
Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won.*

No more we doubt thee, glorious prince of life!
Life is nought without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.
*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son:
Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won.*

Edmund L Budry (1854-1932), tr. by Richard B Hoyle (1875-1939)

Tune: Maccabaeus