

Welcome to Holy Communion at St. Mary's Watton Easter Day 4th April 2021

Prelude: All Heaven Declares

Introit sung by Revd Canon David Foster

I am risen, and I am always with you
alleluia;
You have placed your hand upon me, alleluia;
Your wisdom has been shown to be most
wonderful. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Welcome and Introduction

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:
**He has given us new life and hope
By raising us from the dead.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

1st Hymn – Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, alleluia!
who did once, upon the cross, alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss, alleluia!

2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, alleluia!
unto Christ our heav'nly King, alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save, alleluia!

The Prayer of Preparation

We say together the Prayer of Preparation:

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom
no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration
of Your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love You,
and worthily magnify
Your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:
the first commandment is this:
'Hear O Israel,
the Lord our God is the only Lord.
You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind,
and with all your strength'.

The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'
There is no other commandment greater than these.
On these two commandments
hang all the law and the prophets.
Amen. Lord, have mercy.

God so loved the world
that he gave His only Son,
Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins,
to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life.

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
And confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved You
with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**In Your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy
and walk humbly
with You, our God.
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
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

The Gloria

**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 of the Day

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

Psalm 118: 14-24

The LORD is my strength and my defence;
he has become my salvation.

Shouts of joy and victory
resound in the tents of the righteous:
“The LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!
The LORD’s right hand is lifted high;
the LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!”
I will not die but live,
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.
The LORD has chastened me severely,
but he has not given me over to death.
Open for me the gates of the righteous;
I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.
This is the gate of the LORD
through which the righteous may enter.
I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
you have become my salvation.

The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the LORD has done this,
and it is marvellous in our eyes.
The LORD has done it this very day;
let us rejoice today and be glad.

The Readings

Acts 10: 34 – 43

Then Peter began to speak: “I now realise 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.”

Romans 8: 31-39

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn – This Joyful Eastertide

This joyful Eastertide,
away with sin and sorrow.
My love, the Crucified,
hath sprung to life this morrow.

*Had Christ, that 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, that once was slain,
ne'er burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain:
but now hath Christ arisen,
arisen, arisen, arisen.*

Words: George Ratcliff Woodward (1849-1934)
CCL: 463770

The Gospel: John 20: 1 - 18

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.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, O Lord.

This is the
Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The Talk

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.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds
from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken
through the prophets.
We believe in one, holy, catholic
and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for
the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen**

The Prayers

In faith we pray

We pray to you our Risen Lord

That Jesus, our risen Saviour may you fill us
with the joy of your glorious and life-giving resurrection.

In faith we pray

We pray to you our Risen Lord

That isolated people and separated communities
may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter.

In faith we pray

We pray to you our Risen Lord

That God may grant us humility
to be loving and caring to one another in Christian love

In faith we pray

We pray to you our Risen Lord

That God may provide for those who lack food, work, or shelter

In faith we pray

We pray to you our Risen Lord

That by the power of the Holy Spirit
war and famine may cease throughout all the world

In faith we pray

We pray to you our Risen Lord

That you our Risen Saviours may reveal the light of your presence
to the sick, the weak and the dying, to comfort and strengthen them

In faith we pray

We pray to you our Risen Lord

That God may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon us, his people,
so that we may bear faithful witness to Jesus' glorious resurrection,

In faith we pray

We pray to you our Risen Lord

Risen Lord
You know us and love us
And hear our prayers
Make us one in heart and mind
To serve you with joy forever.
Amen

Offertory Hymn – Now the green blade riseth

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

Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
Quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Thy 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 springeth green.

Words: Martin Rinkart (1586-1649) tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-78)
CCL:463770

The Peace

Alleluia! Christ has been raised from the dead.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The Eucharistic Prayer

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 indeed right,
it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give You thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ
Your Son our Lord.

For He is Your living Word;
through Him You have created all things from the beginning,
and formed us in Your own image.

**To You be glory and praise
for ever.**

Through Him You have freed us from the slavery of sin,
giving Him to be born of a woman and to die upon the cross;
You raised Him from the dead
and exalted Him
to Your right hand on high.

**To You be glory and praise
for ever.**

Through Him
You have sent upon us
Your holy and life-giving Spirit,
and made us a people
for Your own possession.

**To You be glory and praise
for ever.**

Therefore
with angels and archangels,
and all the company of heaven,
we proclaim
Your great and glorious name,
for ever praising You and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might;
Heaven and earth
are full of Your glory.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest.**

Accept our praises,
heavenly Father,
through Your Son
our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow His example
and obey His command,
grant that by the power
of Your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us
His body and His blood;

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.

**To You be glory and praise
for ever.**

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.

**To You be glory and praise
for ever.**

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember
His offering of Himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim
His mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;

we look for the coming
of Your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial
of Christ Your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again

Accept through Him,
our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks
and praise,
and as we eat and drink
these holy gifts
in the presence
of Your divine majesty,
renew us by Your Spirit,
inspire us with Your love
and unite us
in the body of Your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

**To You be glory and praise
for ever.**

Through Him, and with Him,
and in Him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before You
in earth and heaven,
we worship You, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour
and glory and power
be Yours for ever and ever.
Amen**

As our Saviour taught us, we are confident to 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.
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
forever and ever.
Amen**

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.**

**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.**

Jesus is the lamb of God
who takes away
the sin of the world.
Blessed are those
who are called to His supper:

**Lord,
I am not worthy to receive You,
but only say the word,
and I shall be healed.**

**We do not presume
to come to this Your table,
merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in Your manifold
and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up
the crumbs under Your table.
But You are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh
of Your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink His blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by His body
And our souls washed
through His most precious blood,
and that we may evermore
dwell in Him and He in us.
Amen**

Act of Spiritual Communion

**My Jesus,
I believe that you are present with us
when as a church family we worship together.
I love you above all things,
and I desire to bring you into my heart and soul.
Since I cannot celebrate in Holy Communion
your presence in my life,
come spiritually into my heart.
I embrace you because I know you are already there
and I unite myself wholly to you.
Never let me be parted from you.
Amen.**

The Giving of Holy Communion

The 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.
Amen

**Almighty God,
we thank You for feeding us
with the body and blood
of Your Son Jesus Christ.
Through Him we offer You
our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of Your Spirit
to live and work
to Your praise and glory.
Amen**

Final Hymn – thine be the glory

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 naught 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!*

*Words: E.L. Budry (1854-1932)
CCL 463770*

The Blessing

God the Father,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.
Amen.

God the Son,
who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.
Amen.

God the Holy Spirit,
who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.
Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit,
be among us
and remain with us always.
Amen

Go in peace
to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ.
Amen. Alleluia!