

Easter Day Service

Welcome and Introduction

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Hymn: Jesus Christ is risen today

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 pain which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation hath procured, Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!

Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Alleluia!

All: Those who believe in him shall never die. Alleluia!

Pause for Reflection, leading into Confession

Confession

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength,
and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
doubting and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone
and in these challenging times,

We are reminded, there is a home in heaven....

In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Holy Spirit
and raise us to new hope and life in 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

God of Glory
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death
and have filled 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.

OT Reading: 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.”

²This 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.”

³The LORD appeared to us in the past,^[a] saying:

“I have loved you with an everlasting love;
I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.

⁴I 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.

⁵Again you will plant vineyards
on the hills of Samaria;
the farmers will plant them
and enjoy their fruit.

⁶There 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

NT Reading: Acts 10: 34-43

Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism, ³⁵but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. ³⁶You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— ³⁸how 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.

³⁹“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, ⁴⁰but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. ⁴¹He 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. ⁴²He 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. ⁴³All 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

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation

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.

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.

²There 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. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷Then 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.”

⁸So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹Suddenly Jesus met them. “Greetings,” he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

Talk for Easter Day

Today's readings are full of praise, fulfilled prophecy and evidence-based proof. Death is done and, with it, all the doubting which has dogged the disciples! Peter, is a new creation, full of confidence, from courage born out of the love and the life and the light of Jesus.

Let's go back three days.

The Maundy Thursday Reflection brought by Revd Kyla, closed with Jesus being arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Surrounding Jesus was a darkness which was **physical**. Jesus was awake and praying all the time, yet the disciples could not keep their eyes open to keep watch with him. It was in the darkness of night, when only the torches of those coming to arrest him, lit their way.

Surrounding Jesus was a darkness which was **emotional**. Jesus felt so alone. Jesus prayed to the Father, "If it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me". But no, this was his call to see through. God the Father would continue to strengthen him for it.

Surrounding Jesus was a darkness which was **spiritual**. No one was with him who understood His Message. The disciples were spiritually as well as physically asleep and, including Peter, would deny they knew him and would all desert him. No one was on his side...no one had his back, except those who would beat it. He would have been taken right back to the lonely experience of his preparation for ministry, with only the devil for company in the wilderness.

Yet, Jesus showed completely his alignment with humankind in this beautiful, but fragile world, as he lived out his calling as the Son of man, the Son of God. And therein lies the hope. As we focus on the light of God, we come from behind the shadow of the crucifixion, to stand in front of the empty cross, where its light illuminates all of life ahead and God speaks into every situation and every age group. This is the resurrection life and light of Jesus.

Anna was four years old when **Fynn**, then only 16 himself, found her wandering round London's dark, fog-shrouded Docklands, one night in the 1930s. Badly neglected and abandoned, he took her back to his **mother's** home, to be cared for by his own family. From that first moment, their times together were filled with delight and discovery. **Anna** had an astonishing ability to ask--and to answer--life's largest questions. Her total openness and honesty amazed all who knew her. The impact of this extraordinary child on **Fynn**, his friends and the people in their neighbourhood was to be immense.

"The sun is nice", said Anna, "But it lights things up so much that you can't see very far".

I agreed that sometimes the sun was so dazzling, that on occasion one was quite blinded. That wasn't what she meant.

"Your soul doesn't go very far in the daylight, 'cos it stops where you can see...the night time is much better. It stretches your soul right out to the stars". (From Mr God, This is Anna, Fount 1979 p 152).

The hope of the risen Lord Jesus Christ is the light that transforms even the nighttime of life's doubts and difficulties, so we can see far beyond with the eyes of faith, just like Anna; just as the disciples discovered. Faith is at the heart of the Good News.

Jesus now comes not **physically** himself, but through the people who believe in him and who reach out in his Name, through his strength and love within them, pointing to God the Father.

Jesus comes **emotionally** through the courage and confidence of faith, which reaches the parts nothing else can, in order to lead us to trust in him, as our Lord and Saviour.

Jesus comes **spiritually**, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to give us life for evermore, because Good Friday's cross broke any power of sin and death and hopelessness; the darkness for which Jesus died and rose again on Easter Day.

From her Wednesday Wild Church Reflection, Charlie reminded us "There is hope as we focus on the light of God, which illuminates all of life. Try to notice the light around you as you go about your day today. Let it draw you into the presence of the God".

I pray we can all take this hope into our hearts and our minds this Eastertime. I pray that we allow God's light to penetrate all our darkneses with his love. Jesus Christ is alive! This is what we celebrate today, every Sunday and every day, forevermore. Amen.

Hymn for personal response

Introduction followed by:

**Lord I come to you
Let my heart be changed renewed
Flowing from the grace that
I've found in you
And Lord I've come to know
The weaknesses I see in me
Will be stripped away
By the power of your love**

**Ch:
Hold me close let your love surround me
Bring me near draw me to your side
And as I wait
I'll rise up like an eagle
And I will soar with you
Your Spirit leads me on
By the power of your love**

**Lord unveil my eyes
Let me see you face to face
The knowledge of your love
As you live in me
Lord renew my mind**

As your will unfolds in my life
In living everyday
By the power of your love

Ch:
Hold me close let your love surround me
Bring me near draw me to your side
And as I wait
I'll rise up like an eagle
And I will soar with you
Your Spirit leads me on
By the power of your love

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.

Intercessions

In joy and hope let us pray to the Father.

That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection....

We pray to the Father.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

That the persecuted church throughout the world and those isolated or in camps, as displaced peoples, may know you are amongst them.

May they find fresh strength, peace and hope, alongside those who support them this Eastertime.

We pray to the Father.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For God's presence to be felt in the midst of war zones, whether the violence of battle or the war against the unseen Coronavirus and many other diseases, or the extremes of poverty and lack of clean water.

We pray to the Father.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all those looking after all who are unwell, often at their own cost;
For the anxious, the sick, the weak and the dying,
may your risen life this Easter bring light into their darkness
and lift them into the knowledge of your abiding love.

We pray to the Father.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,
we give you thanks for all who have lived and died in faith.
Be the light shining for all those who are in their twilight hours.
and gather them with you, into your everlasting Kingdom of peace. **Amen**

The Peace

Alleluia! The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.
And also with you. Alleluia!

Hymn: 'Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord'

*Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.*

**Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of creation. Refrain.**

**Spread the good news o'er all the earth.
Jesus has died and has risen. Refrain.**

**We have been crucified with Christ.
Now we shall live forever. Refrain.**

**God has proclaimed the just reward:
Life for all men, alleluia! Refrain.**

**Come, let us praise the living God,
Joyfully sing to our Saviour. Refrain.**

The Holy Communion

Be present, Lord Jesus Christ,
our risen high priest;

make yourself known in the breaking of bread.

Amen

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.

And now we give you thanks,
because in his victory over the grave,
a new age has dawned,
the long reign of sin is ended,
a broken world is being renewed
and humanity is once again made whole.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name
for ever praising you and singing:

**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.**

In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night he was betrayed at supper with his friends
he took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you, for the forgiveness of sins
do this in remembrance of me.

**Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit, that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

As we eat and drink these holy gifts
as we worship together
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.

With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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 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.**

The body of Christ given for us. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ shed for us. **Amen.**

God of truth,
thank you for feeding us with the body
and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Strengthen our faith,
that we may grow in love for you
and for each other;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.
Amen.

Notices

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.**

Refrain:

***Thine be the glory, risen conquering 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 the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.**

Refrain:

***Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry, 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.**

Refrain:

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.*