

# **Easter Day Celebration**

## **Service of Holy Communion**

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2021, 10.30am**

*The Easter fire will be lit (from all the prayer requests made over the year) in readiness to light the new Paschal candle.*

*We start our service outside by the war memorial.*

## **Welcome**

We gather:

a community of faith in God's subversive world.

We gather to celebrate that no darkness can extinguish light,  
to remember that love will always be more powerful than death,  
and to trust that peace will always be stronger than violence.

We gather,

people of faith in the light of God's world.

Welcome to worship.

*Brief words of welcome are given.*

## **The Service of Light**

Christ yesterday and today,

**All: the beginning and the end,**

Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him,  
and all ages;

**All: to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever.**

**Amen.**

*The Easter Candle is marked with these words:*

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.

**All: Amen.**

*Five incense studs are inserted into the Easter Candle as a reminder of the five wounds of Christ:*

By his holy and glorious wounds  
may Christ our Lord guard and keep us.

**All: Amen.**

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the awesome 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.

*The Easter Candle is lit and lifted high.*

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

The light of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

*The procession moves towards the altar.*

*Three times it stops and the Minister carrying the candle says:*

The light of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### **Hymn – Crown him with many crowns**

**All: Crown Him with many crowns,  
the Lamb upon the throne;  
hark How the heav'nly anthems drowns  
all music but its own:  
awake, my soul And sing  
of Him Who died for thee,  
and hail Him as thy matchless King  
through all eternity.**

**Crown him the Lord of years,  
the Potentate of time,  
Creator of the rolling spheres,  
ineffably sublime.**

**All hail, Redeemer, hail!  
for thou hast died for me;  
thy praise shall never, never fail  
throughout eternity.**

## **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.**

## **Collect**

Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory:

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.**

## **New Testament Reading – Acts 10.34-43**

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism <sup>35</sup> but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. <sup>36</sup> 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.

<sup>37</sup>You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached – <sup>38</sup>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.

<sup>39</sup>“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, <sup>40</sup>but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. <sup>41</sup>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. <sup>42</sup>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. <sup>43</sup>All 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 Reading – Mark 16.1-8**

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

**All: Alleluia.**

He has defeated the powers of death.

**All: Alleluia.**

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing.

**All: Alleluia.**

He has the words of eternal life.

**All: Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *Mark*.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. <sup>2</sup>Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb <sup>3</sup>and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?”

<sup>4</sup>But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

<sup>6</sup>“Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. <sup>7</sup> But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’”

<sup>8</sup> Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Reflection

### Musical Meditation – *Easter meditation*

### Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**All I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**All I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**All I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

*Between each petition:*

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

*At the end the following may be said:*

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**All** and also with you.

*We offer one another a sign of peace.*

## Offertory hymn – Love's redeeming work is done

**All** 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.

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!

## Preparation of the Table

Lord of life,  
with unbounded joy we offer you our sacrifice of praise.

As we are fed with the bread of heaven  
may we know your resurrection power;  
through Christ our risen Lord.

**All Amen.**

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here.

**All God's Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Thanks and praise fill our hearts, almighty God,  
for you are the Lord of creation and new creation,  
of covenant and new covenant.

You brought your people out of slavery  
to freedom in the Promised Land,  
and you brought your Son from the depth of death  
to the glory of resurrection life.

And so we gladly thank you, with your people on earth  
and all the company of heaven,  
saying the hymn of your unending praise.

**All 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.**

Joy and gladness are our song, redeeming God,  
for in your conquest of death we see the destiny of every hope in you.  
Come among us in the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that your children may be blessed with power and grace,  
and that this bread and cup may become for us  
the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks,  
broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying,  
'Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.'

After supper he took the cup.  
Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, 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.’

Great is the mystery of faith:

**All** **Christ has died:**  
**Christ is risen:**  
**Christ will come again.**

Hope and glory are our breath, merciful God,  
for you have rolled away the stone of despair,  
the stone of oppression, the stone of lament, the stone of grief,  
the stone of death, the stone of sin, the stone of fear.  
Come and stand among us and breathe on us your peace,  
breath on us your power, breathe on us your eternal life,  
that all who labour, all who stumble, all who hunger  
and all who fall shall meet you in the breaking of the bread  
and be lifted up by your touch.  
Shape your church to be your risen body;  
make our lives life-giving like your life,  
and make our communion holy with your saints,  
until you come again in glory  
and we eat with you in your kingdom,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, ever one God.

**All** **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us.

**All** **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.**



## Breaking of the Bread

*The president breaks the consecrated bread.*

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,  
whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

**All** Lord, our hearts hunger for you;  
give us this bread always.

## Giving of Communion

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

**All** Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*Instructions are given for those who are wishing to receive communion or a blessing. After which we say together:*

**All** Jesus,  
I believe that you are present in our communion.  
Whether I am here physically or virtually,  
I love you above all things,  
and I desire to receive you into my soul.  
Come, I pray, spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace you as if you were already there  
and unite myself wholly to you.  
Never permit me to be separated from you.  
Amen.

## Prayer after Communion

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.

**All** Amen.

**All** Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body 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.**

## **Notices**

### **Worship Song – *The power of the cross* (performed by Sara, Emer and Rob)**

Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day  
Christ on the road to Calvary  
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then  
Nailed to a cross of wood

This, the power of the cross  
Christ became sin for us  
Took the blame, bore the wrath  
We stand forgiven at the cross

Oh, to see the pain written on Your face  
Bearing the awesome weight of sin  
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed  
Crowning Your bloodstained brow

This, the power of the cross  
Christ became sin for us  
Took the blame, bore the wrath  
We stand forgiven at the cross

Now the daylight flees, now the ground beneath  
Quakes as its Maker bows His head  
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life  
Finished the vict'ry cry

This, the power of the cross  
Christ became sin for us  
Took the blame, bore the wrath  
We stand forgiven at the cross

Oh, to see my name written in the wounds  
For through Your suffering I am free  
Death is crushed to death, life is mine to live  
Won through Your selfless love

This, the power of the cross  
Son of God, slain for us  
What a love, what a cost  
We stand forgiven at the cross

### ***The Blessing and Dismissal***

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

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

**All Amen.**

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

**All 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.

**All Amen.**

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

**All Amen.**

With the risen life of Christ within you,  
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

**Rev Joe and the Church Wardens wish everyone a safe  
and peaceful Easter!**