

# **Easter Day Celebration**

## **Service of Holy Communion**

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 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 as 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 as people of faith in the light of God's world.  
Welcome to our 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!**

## **Musical Meditation – Easter**

### **Collect**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

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**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

<sup>34-36</sup> Peter fairly exploded with his good news: “It’s God’s own truth, nothing could be plainer: God plays no favourites! It makes no difference who you are or where you’re from – if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open. The Message he sent to the children of Israel – that through Jesus Christ everything is being put together again – well, he’s doing it everywhere, among everyone.

<sup>37-38</sup> “You know the story of what happened in Judea. It began in Galilee after John preached a total life-change. Then Jesus arrived from Nazareth, anointed by God with the Holy Spirit, ready for action. He went through the country helping people and healing everyone who was beaten down by the Devil. He was able to do all this because God was with him.

<sup>39-43</sup> “And we saw it, saw it all, everything he did in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem where they killed him, hung him from a cross. But in three days God had him up, alive, and out where he could be seen. Not everyone saw him – he wasn’t put on public display. Witnesses had been carefully handpicked by God beforehand – us! We were the ones, there to eat and drink with him after he came back from the dead. He commissioned us to announce this in public, to bear solemn witness that he is in fact the One whom God destined as Judge of the living and dead. But we’re not alone in this. Our witness that he is the means to forgiveness of sins is backed up by the witness of all the prophets.”

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### **Hymn – Crown him with many crowns (no. 137)**

**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.**

## **Gospel Reading – Luke 24.1-12**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Mary the mother of James came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared to anoint Jesus' body with. But they found the stone had been rolled away from the tomb, and when they went inside, Jesus' body wasn't there. The women were very confused by this, when suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living in a tomb? He is not here. He is risen.'

The men in dazzling clothes continued, 'Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to be crucified, and on the third day he would rise again?' Then the women remembered Jesus' words. They rushed from the tomb to tell the eleven disciples and others the news. 'Jesus wasn't in the tomb. He is risen!' But the men listening didn't believe them and thought they were making it up.

So Peter got up and ran to the tomb himself. Stooping down to look inside, he saw the linen cloths just lying there by themselves. Then he realised that what the women had said was true. And he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

**Talk – From empty to full**

## 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.

## Thanksgiving and welcome to the newly confirmed

*Addressing Rose's parents:*

Do you receive Rose as a gift from God?

**We do.**

Do you wish to give thanks to God and seek his blessing?

**We do.**

God our creator,

we thank you for the wonder of new life  
and for the mystery of human love.

We thank you for all whose support and skill  
surround and sustain the beginning of life.

We thank you that we are known to you by name  
and loved by you from all eternity.

We thank you for Jesus Christ,  
who has opened to us the way of love.

We praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**All** Blessed be God for ever.

*The minister asks:*

What name have you given this child?

*Olivia and George replies:*

Her name is Rose

*The minister says*

As Jesus took children in his arms and blessed them, so now we ask  
God's blessing on Rose  
Heavenly Father, we praise you for her birth;

surround *her* with your blessing  
that *she* may know your love,  
be protected from evil,  
and know your goodness all *her* days.

**All Amen.**

*Addressing the whole church family:*

Will you do all that you can to help and support this *family*?

**All With the help of God, we will.**

**All God our creator,  
we thank you for the gift of Rose,  
entrusted to our care.  
May we be patient and understanding,  
ready to guide and to forgive,  
so that through our love  
she may come to know your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

Yesterday evening, Daniel joined with others  
at the Cathedral Church of our diocese  
for a service of Baptism and Confirmation.  
Today, we welcome him back here among us.

People of God,  
as one family in Christ,  
will you pray for Daniel;  
and will you continue to seek to uphold him  
in his life in Christ?

**All With the help of God, we will.**

Let us pray.

Dear God, we commend to you your servant Daniel  
newly-confirmed with your Holy Spirit:  
encourage him, we pray,  
in the life to which you have called him,  
that by your grace his words and deeds  
may reflect your truth and your love;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**All Amen.**

Almighty God,  
**All** we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith  
with all those who have been baptised into 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.  
Amen.

Daniel, yesterday you affirmed your baptismal promises  
with your own mouth and from your own heart,  
and you were confirmed with the Holy Spirit of God.  
Rose, today we give thanks for your life,  
and send you our love on your journey in faith.

**All** Daniel and Rose We welcome you today with joyful hearts  
and we pray for you as you continue  
in the fellowship of Christ.

*The people greet Daniel and Rose with an applause!*

## **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. Alleluia.

*We offer one another a sign of peace.*

### **Offertory hymn – Love's redeeming work is done (no.433)**

**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.**

## **Eucharistic Prayer D**

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.**

Almighty God, good Father to us all,  
your face is turned towards your world.  
In love you gave us Jesus your Son  
to rescue us from sin and death.  
Your Word goes out to call us home  
to the city where angels sing your praise.  
We join with them in heaven's song saying:

**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.**

Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven.  
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.  
With signs of faith and words of hope  
he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.



This is his story.

**All This is our song:  
Hosanna in the highest.**

The crowds came out to see your Son,  
yet at the end they turned on him.  
On the night he was betrayed  
he came to table with his friends  
to celebrate the freedom of your people.

This is his story.

**All This is our song:  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;  
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:  
This is my body, given for you all.  
Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;  
he took the cup, gave it and said:  
This is my blood, shed for you all  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

This is his story.

**All This is our song:  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup  
we celebrate the cross  
on which he died to set us free.  
Defying death he rose again  
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

This is his story.

**All This is our song:  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Send your Spirit on us now  
that by these gifts we may feed on Christ  
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.  
May we and all who share this food  
offer ourselves to live for you  
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven

where all creation worships you,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**All** **Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
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 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.

### **Notices**

#### **Worship Song – Halleluiah Jesus lives today**

**Solo** God our father loved us so, that  
He gave his only Son.  
They crucified him not realising  
just what it was they'd done.

**Worship and praise to the Lord  
He gave his life for us.**

**All Hallelujah, Jesus lives today!  
Hallelujah, He will light our way!  
Hallelujah, thank you Lord,  
Jesus lives today!**

**Solo Sadly, they went to  
where He was laid and  
they rolled away the stone.  
But to their wonder  
no body laid there  
no one was in that tomb.  
Then slowly He appeared  
the blessed risen Son.**

**All Hallelujah, Jesus lives today!  
Hallelujah, He will light our way!  
Hallelujah, thank you Lord,  
Jesus lives today!**

**Solo Saviour of the world  
shine your light upon us,  
guide us on our way.  
Then with faith renewed,  
praise to God on high  
our Lord is here today!**

### ***Instrumental***

**All Hallelujah, Jesus lives today!  
Lift our voices as we join to pray,  
Hallelujah, thank you Lord,  
Jesus lives today!**

## **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.**

**Please stay for refreshments and an Easter-egg hunt!**

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