

Easter Day Celebration

Family Holy Communion

Sunday 9th April 2023, 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.

God's Family Gathers

We meet in the name of God,
All Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Come, let us rejoice, because Jesus who was dead is alive again.
Let us rejoice because he lives for evermore!
Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Brief words of welcome are given.

The Service of Light

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

Opening Hymn – Jesus Christ is risen today (no.348)

**All 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!**

**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!**

**But the pains which he endured, alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing, alleluia!**

God's Family Listens

The Collect (*our church prayer*)

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

**All 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.**

Gospel Reading – *Matthew 27-28, Mark 15-16, Luke 23-24, John 19-20*

The empty tomb.

After Jesus had died on the cross, his body was taken away and was prepared for burial according to Jewish custom. Afterwards, Jesus' body was taken to a tomb that had just been dug out of the rock. Mary Magdalene and some other women watched, as a large stone was rolled across the entrance and the tomb was sealed.

The next day was the Jewish Sabbath and Pilate decided to have the tomb guarded. He remembered only too well what Jesus had said, about rising from the dead!

At sunrise, Mary Magdalene and some women returned to the tomb. When they reached it, they found that the stone covering the entrance had been rolled back and the guards had disappeared.

Inside, the women found an angel.

“Do not be afraid,” said the angel. “Jesus is not here. He is risen from the dead. Look, this is where his body was. Go and tell his disciples the good news. You will see him soon in Galilee, just as he promised.”

The women, filled with both fear and happiness, ran back to tell the disciples.

On hearing the news, John and Peter ran to the tomb and saw the burial clothes lying there. They believed what had been said to them and hurried away, leaving Mary Magdalene weeping by the entrance.

Then a voice asked her, “Why are you crying?”

Mary thought that it must be the gardener.

“Sir, if you’ve taken my Lord, please tell me where to find him,” she said, “and I will go and take him away.”

“Mary!” came the reply. It was Jesus! She was overjoyed.

“Go and tell my friends that you have seen me,” Jesus told her.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Talk

Worship Song – Arise

**All One thing we ask of You
One thing that we desire
That as we worship You
Lord come and change our lives**

**Arise, arise, arise, arise
Arise, take Your place
Be enthroned on our praise,
Arise King of kings, Holy God, as we sing
Arise, arise, arise, arise**

**One thing we ask of You
One thing that we desire
That as we worship You
Lord come and change our lives**

**Arise, arise, arise, arise
Arise, take Your place
Be enthroned on our praise, arise
King of kings, Holy God, as we sing arise
Arise, arise, arise**

**We lift You up, we lift You up
We lift You up on our praises,
We lift You up, we lift You up
We lift You up on our praises**

**We lift You up, we lift You up
We lift You up on our praises,
We lift You up, we lift You up
We lift You up on our praises**

**Arise, take Your place
Be enthroned on our praise,
Arise King of kings, Holy God, as we sing
Arise, arise, arise, arise**

God's Family Prays

Between each petition we respond, with actions, the following Taizé chant:

**Oh, Lord hear my prayer
Oh, Lord hear my prayer
When I call answer me
Oh, Lord hear my prayer
Oh, Lord hear my prayer
Come and listen to me**

**Blessed is the Lord
All for he has heard the voice of our prayer;
therefore, shall our hearts dance for joy
All and in our song we will praise our God.**

Offertory hymn – Love's redeeming work is done (no.637)

**All The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness,
the passover of God!
From death to life eternal,
from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over,
with hymns of victory.**

Our hearts be pure from evil,
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection-light;
and list'ning to his accents,
may hear so calm and plain,
his own 'All hail' and, hearing,
may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful,
and earth her song begin,
the round world keep high triumph,
and all that is therein;
let all things, seen and unseen,
their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord hath risen,
our joy that hath no end.

God's Family Remembers

- Minister* The Lord is here
All **God's Spirit is with us.**
- Minister* Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**
- Minister* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**
- Children* Why is it right to give thanks and praise?
All **Listen, and we will hear.**
- Left side* Lord of all life,
we give you thanks
because Christ's sacrifice
has made us children of the light,
rising to new and everlasting life.
- Right side* Jesus has opened the gates of heaven
to receive his faithful people.
His death is our ransom from death,
his resurrection is our rising to life.

All **The joy of the resurrection renews the whole world,
while the choirs of heaven
sing for ever to your glory, saying:**

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

Left side We thank you,
loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.

Right side He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.

All **Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.**

Children Why do we share this bread and wine?

All **Listen, and we will hear.**

Minister On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.

'So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Children How do we follow Jesus Christ?
All Listen, and we will hear.

Minister Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.
And now with all your saints
we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever.
All Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

All Risen Lord Jesus Christ,
we believe you, and all we have heard is true.
When we break bread
may we recognise you are the fire that burns within us,
that we may bring light to your world.
Amen.

Giving of Communion

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Please come forward to receive the bread and wine, or a blessing.

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 Generous God,
you have fed us at your heavenly table.
Set us on fire with your Holy Spirit,
that through us the light of your glory
may shine in all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Notices

Going out to Serve God

Before we go, we say what we believe and share The Peace:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All We 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.
Amen.

Holy water is sprinkled onto the congregation!

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.

Worship Song – You're alive (Led like a lamb) (no.380)

All Led like a lamb to the slaughter,
In silence and shame,
There on Your back You carried a world
Of violence and pain
Bleeding, dying
Bleeding, dying

**You're alive, You're alive, You have risen
Alleluia!
And the power and the glory is given
Alleluia,
Jesus, to You**

**At break of dawn, poor Mary,
Still weeping she came,
When through her grief she heard Your voice
Now speaking her name
Mary, Master
Mary, Master**

**You're alive, You're alive, You have risen
Alleluia!
And the power and the glory is given
Alleluia,
Jesus, to You**

**At the right hand of the Father,
Now seated on high
You have begun Your eternal reign
Of justice and joy
Glory, glory
Glory, glory**

**You're alive, You're alive, You have risen
Alleluia!
And the power and the glory is given
Alleluia,
Jesus, to You**

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.**