

Welcome to our virtual Easter Service. In whatever way you are joining us this morning, you are most welcome. Happy Easter!

GATHERING

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 we hear his word and proclaim all that God has done, we can be confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever.

Let us pray:

Eternal God, who made the dawn to shine with the brightness of your one true light: set us aflame with the fire of your love and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

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 Jesus from the dead.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Faithful God, whose word is life;

come with saving power

to free our praise, inspire our prayer

and shape our lives

for the kingdom of your Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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,
 as faithless and not believing.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone,
 and doubted our home in heaven.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

THE ABSOLUTION

May the God of love and power
 forgive us and free us from our sins,
 heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
 and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen**

THE COLLECT PRAYER FOR EASTER

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.**

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES, CHAPTER 10 VERSES 34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and 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 ordained by God 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.'

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has

been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.” This is my message for you.’ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, ‘Greetings!’ And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’

Matthew Chapter 28 verse 1-10

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON/TALK

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

It's traditional at Easter to reaffirm our baptism promises, so we're using these as our affirmation of faith this morning.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made the world?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ, who redeemed humankind?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith; we believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Between the prayers we say

Life-giving God,

Give us new life in you.

At the end of the prayers we say

Merciful God,

accept our prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering our prayers and praise into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us:

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.

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.

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

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.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

He has brought us out of darkness.

He has made us light to the world.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

We are raised to new life with Christ. Go in his peace. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Amen. Alleluia! Alleluia!