

St. Christopher's Church, Hinchley Wood

Sunday 31st March 2024 – Easter Sunday

Welcome to our “Hybrid” Easter Sunday Service. In whatever way you are joining us, via Zoom, or in-person here in the Church, we pray that you may be able to experience the presence of God and the joy of the resurrection this morning.

On this glorious Easter Day let us rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, who died and rose again to save us all. Alleluia, Christ is risen!

Please join in with the words in **bold** print.

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.**

As the Paschal Candle is lit we say together

All **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.**

Hymn: Thine Be the Glory (672)

Confession

Jesus died and rose again to save sinners and wipe our slate clean. Assured of God's forgiveness promised by this miracle of Easter, let us confess our own sins now.

When we find it too hard to roll away the stone of doubt.

Lord have mercy *All* **Lord, have mercy.**

When we are too quick to take offence and too slow to forgive.

Christ, have mercy. *All* **Christ, have mercy.**

When we have too many distractions and leave no time to pray.

Lord have mercy *All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Absolution

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself and cleanse you from all your sins, that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Gloria: Coventry Gloria (963)

Collect

Let us pray that we may walk the risen life of 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.

Reading: (Acts 10.34-43)

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter began to speak: "I now realize that it is true that God treats everyone on the same basis. Those who fear him and do what is right are acceptable to him, no matter what race they belong to. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, proclaiming the Good News of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know of the great event that took place throughout the land of Israel, beginning in Galilee after John preached his message of baptism. You know about Jesus of Nazareth and how God poured out on him the Holy Spirit and power. He went everywhere, doing good and healing all who were under the power of the Devil, for God was with him.

We are witnesses of everything that he did in the land of Israel and in Jerusalem. Then they put him to death by nailing him to a cross. But God raised him from death three days later and caused him to appear, not to everyone, but only to the witnesses that God had already chosen, that is, to us who ate and drank with him after he rose from death. And he commanded us to preach the gospel to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God has appointed judge of the living and the dead.

All the prophets spoke about him, saying that all who believe in him will have their sins forgiven through the power of his name."

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 118

Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good, and his love is eternal.

Let the people of Israel say, “His love is eternal.”

The Lord makes me powerful and strong; he has saved me.

Listen to the glad shouts of victory in the tents of God's people:

“The Lord's mighty power has done it!

**His power has brought us victory—
his mighty power in battle!”**

I will not die; instead, I will live and proclaim what the Lord has done.

He has punished me severely, but he has not let me die.

Open to me the gates of the Temple; I will go in and give thanks to the Lord!

This is the gate of the Lord; only the righteous can come in.

I praise you, Lord, because you heard me, because you have given me victory.

**The stone which the builders rejected as worthless
turned out to be the most important of all.**

This was done by the Lord; what a wonderful sight it is!

This is the day of the Lord's victory; let us be happy, let us celebrate!

Hymn: Now the Green Blade Rises (475)

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.

All Alleluia.

Gospel: (John 20 : 1 - 18)

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the entrance. She went running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!”

Then Peter and the other disciple went to the tomb. The two of them were running, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and saw the linen cloths, but he did not go in. Behind him came Simon Peter, and he went straight into the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there and the cloth

which had been around Jesus' head. It was not lying with the linen cloths but was rolled up by itself. Then the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went in; he saw and believed. (They still did not understand the scripture which said that he must rise from death.) Then the disciples went back home.

Mary stood crying outside the tomb. While she was still crying, she bent over and looked in the tomb and saw two angels there dressed in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and the other at the feet. "Woman, why are you crying?" they asked her. She answered, "They have taken my Lord away, and I do not know where they have put him!"

Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing there; but she did not know that it was Jesus. "Woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who is it that you are looking for?" She thought he was the gardener, so she said to him, "If you took him away, sir, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned toward him and said in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (This means "Teacher.")

"Do not hold on to me," Jesus told her, "because I have not yet gone back up to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them that I am returning to him who is my Father and their Father, my God and their God."

So Mary Magdalene went and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord and related to them what he had told her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Talk

Profession of Faith

And so we join in professing our faith together.

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

All I believe and trust in him.

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

All I believe and trust in him.

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

All I 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.**

Intercessions

Between the prayers we say

Lord, in your mercy

All hear our prayer.

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 Peace

God's promise of peace to all people was fulfilled in our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his earthly life both preached and practised the way of peace, and in his death and resurrection secured it for us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you

We offer a sign of peace to one another

Hymn: Christ the Lord is Risen Today (103)

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

All His 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.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you
because you raised him gloriously from the dead.
For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us,
and has taken away the sin of the world.
By his death he has destroyed death,
and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.

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

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, 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.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of St. Christopher and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours,
almighty Father, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Distribution of Communion

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

All **Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

Holy Communion is distributed to those in the Church.

Chant: Laudate Dominum (933)

Prayer of Spiritual Communion (for Private Prayer)

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

Closing Prayer

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**

Notices

Commission

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.
Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

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

Will you persevere in resisting evil,
and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

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

Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?

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

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?

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

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,
by prayer for the world and its leaders,
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

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

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,
that you may be rooted and grounded in love
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Hymn – This is the Day (676)

The Blessing

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

May God, who surprises us, lead us along the path of truth.

All Amen.

May the risen Christ reveal himself to us as he did to the disciples.

All Amen.

May the Spirit illumine the word and bring us to fresh understanding.

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.

The Dismissal

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

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

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