



Sunday 19 April 2020

- All the Bible readings come from the *New Revised Standard Version*.
- The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration have been included at the end rather than in situ because many following the service will be in isolation and unable to celebrate the sacrament.
- The hymns are Youtube links. To hear the hymns please hover the mouse over each link, press Ctrl and then return.

Introduction and welcome

HYMN 1 [Led like a lamb to the slaughter](#) (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The Welcome

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

All Amen.

The Lord be with you

All And also with you.

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

All He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Preparation

All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.’

And the second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All Amen. Lord, have mercy.

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.

Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
and, confessing our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolve to keep God’s commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

All Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.

**We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Gloria

This version of the Gloria is sung to the tune of 'Cwm Rhondda'. Click [here](#) for the tune.

**All Glory be to God in Heaven,
Songs of joy and peace we bring,
Thankful hearts and voices raising,
To creation's Lord we sing.
Lord we thank you, Lord we praise you,
Glory be to God our King:
Glory be to God our King.**

**Lamb of God, who on our shoulders,
Bore the load of this world's sin;
Only Son of God the Father,
You have brought us peace within.
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,
Now your glorious reign begin:
Now your glorious reign begin.**

**You O Son of God are Holy,
You we praise with one accord.
None in heav'n or earth is like you,
Only you are Christ the Lord.
With the Father and the Spirit,
Ever worshipped and adored:
Ever worshipped and adored.**

The Collect for Low Sunday

Risen Christ,
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts,
that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,
to the praise of God the Father.

All Amen.

First reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

[On the Day of Pentecost] Peter stood with the eleven remaining disciples and raised his voice, saying, 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence." Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a

prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, “He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.” This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.’

This is the Word of the Lord

Acts 2:14a, 22–32

All Thanks be to God.

Second reading

A reading from the First Letter of St Peter

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. *1 Peter 1:3–9*

This is the Word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 2 He is Lord! He is Lord! (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

Gospel reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

All Glory to you O Lord.

It was the first evening of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples were meeting were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with

you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.' *John 20:19-29*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you O Christ.

Sermon

In our gospel reading this morning, it is the evening of what we call now Easter Sunday. Mary Magdalene has seen and talked with the risen Lord but none of the other disciples have seen him and we may suppose that they have dismissed Mary's witness as hysterical nonsense.

The disciples are gathered together behind locked doors. All seems lost, and they feel (as they are identifiably Galilean) that their very lives are threatened in a possible Jewish backlash after the events leading up to the crucifixion.

We are simply told 'Jesus came and stood among them. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.' But Thomas was not among them on that Sunday evening.

Thomas is only mentioned as being among the number of the apostles in the synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. It is in John's gospel that his significance is revealed.

First, he is heard encouraging the other disciples to go to Judea with Jesus (John 11.16) then (not knowing what Jesus means...when he talks about going away) he elicits the response that Jesus himself is the Way (John 14:5-7)

But probably, and most notably (as we heard in today's gospel reading) he is the apostle who remains unconvinced by reports of the resurrection and, despite the

others insisting that they have seen Jesus, he tells them ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and in his side, I will not believe’.

A week later Jesus offers him that very visceral proof of his identity and Thomas then acclaims the risen Christ with the words that have been described as the great (and to my mind most moving) climax to John’s gospel: ‘My Lord and my God’.

I’ve always taken great comfort from the fact that none of Jesus’s followers started out as Saints. Jesus chose ordinary men and women (not the great and the good) and they certainly had human flaws and weaknesses:

- Peter was so impetuous. He often said and did the wrong thing and eventually denying Jesus three times before his death.
- The brothers James and John wanted a ‘private word’ with Jesus, asking to be assured of the best seats, at his side, in heaven.
- Matthew was a tax collector... a role that set him apart from ‘decent’ company.
- Judas was lured to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.
- And Thomas ... ‘doubting’ Thomas (the practical one) ... wanted to have things spelled out for him; wanted to see things with his own eyes before he could believe.

And there are times when we, ordinary and imperfect men and women also have doubts. Unlike Thomas, we have never seen Jesus or heard his teaching first-hand.

Yet, at the end of today’s reading Jesus has words for us ‘Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.

Unlike Thomas, we do have the glories of the gospels to read, re-read, and to study. They detail Jesus’s life and ministry and the stories of the early church. They provide us with a comprehensive ‘blue-print’ by which we are to live our lives as his disciples, even to the present age.

Although we cannot physically touch the risen Christ in the way those first disciples could, we can meet him in prayer. We can meet him in the bread and wine—his body and blood—at the Eucharist. We can meet him as we serve others and show how our lives are transformed as a result of what happened at that first Easter. We can still meet him ... and believe. Amen.

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

All He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Creed

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
the 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.**

Prayers of intercession

Lord, as we come to you from places in fear, in 'lockdown'.
Come to us and help us to remember that we are still your Church.
Give us new insights into what it means that you live in us and we in you.
May all of us celebrate the reality of your presence among us,
filling us with new life and new hope.

Lord, in your presence

All We lift our hearts to you.

Lord, we bring to you our nation,
our world and all the places fastened shut to keep you out.
Help those in authority, at this troubled time,
to have the needs of all people at the forefront of their plans and actions;
let no one be left behind or forgotten.
For we know you care for all your creation and allow none to be lost.

Lord, in your presence

All We lift our hearts to you.

Lord, we bring to you our homes and families,
our neighbours and friends,
those who are risking everything to keep us safe and well.
Help us all to face what is before us with courage and hope for the future,
believing in your goodness and mercy.

Lord, in your presence

All We lift our hearts to you.

Lord, we bring to you those who are suffering
as a result of illness, stress, overwork and isolation,
drawing especially close to any who are vulnerable and frightened at this time.
Grant us refreshment and hope, comfort and healing,
and the peace only you can give.

Lord, in your presence

All We lift our hearts to you.

Lord, we bring to you those who approach death with great fear,
those who will die isolated from loved ones,
those unprepared to meet you, and all who mourn.

Have mercy on us all
and gather us into your everlasting kingdom of peace and joy.

Lord, in your presence.

All We lift our hearts to you.

Lord, we bring to you the love of our hearts
as we remember your boundless love for us.
We thank you that you are with us,
a constant and faithful presence in our lives in all our joys and sorrows.

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. Alleluia!

HYMN 3 At the name of Jesus (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

The Dismissal

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 the grave has won a glorious victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

All Amen.

God the Holy Spirit, whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

All Amen.

And the blessing of God the Almighty:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

be with you now and remain with you always.

All Amen.

HYMN 4 Jesus Lives! (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

All He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

Eucharistic Prayer (prayer E)

The Lord be with you

All and also with you.

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, you made the world and love your creation.

You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our Saviour.

His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death.

And so we gladly thank you,

with saints and angels 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.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with St Barnabas and all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All **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.**

Breaking of the Bread

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.**

All **Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

All **We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us.
Amen.**

Communion is distributed.

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.