

**Sunday 17 April 2022**

# **Easter Sunday**



The principal theme of this service is joy. All the elements of the service should work together harmoniously to impart that effect: flowers, light, music, and liturgy.

**Sermon** © Revd Dr Paul Monk.

**Liturgy and prayers of intercession** © 2000 The Archbishops' Council.

**Bible readings** © the publishers of the NRSV translation.

The liturgy assumes the service is Eucharistic. The prayers of consecration are included at the end.

The hymns are YouTube links. To hear the hymns please hover the mouse over each link, press Ctrl and then return.

To see service transcripts from previous weeks, please visit the page,

<http://www.medlockhead.co.uk/resources/index.htm>

## 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!**

**HYMN 1 Christ the Lord is risen today** ([please click on this link to hear the hymn](#))

## 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 confess our sins in penitence and faith,

firmly resolved 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**.

**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 Easter Day**

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.**

## **First reading**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Peter said: '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; 40but 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.' *Acts 10:34–43*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

## Second reading

A reading from St Paul's letter to the Colossians

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. *Colossians 3:1-4*

This is the Word of the Lord

**All Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN 2** [Now the Green blade rises](#) (please click on this link to hear the hymn)  
[Low in the grave he lay](#) (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.**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

She ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

The disciples returned to their homes, but Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Thinking him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried

him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned, saying to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, ‘Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God”.’ Mary Magdalene ran to the disciples and said, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her. *John 20:1–18*

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All Praise to you O Christ.**

## Sermon

The Old Testament is a huge book, but here is one story that utterly dominates. Forget creation or Jonah. Forget Elijah and the Priests of Baal or Noah. Forget David and Goliath. Forget Moses receiving the Law. It’s the story of Moses freeing the chosen people from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the promised land. Call it Palestine or Israel, Moses freed the chosen people from their oppression. And to get from A to B, they crossed water—he parted the waters of the Red Sea. The story became a way of defining the self-identity of the chosen people. In effect, they were saying, ‘We are the people that Moses took from slavery and led to freedom.

It’s such a big story that it’s no surprise that it created its own literature. St Paul took this story and used it to weave a spiritual metaphor (1 Corinthians 10:2). It’s possible that Jesus was repainting this same picture in John 8:34 ff. It might have been an established way of reading this central Jewish story. They are saying, ‘Forget a physical Egypt and a physical Palestine. God chose these people and to demonstrate that they were indeed chosen, he led them from slavery to sin and to spiritual freedom. And to get from A to B they crossed water—the water of baptism.’

Baptism at the time of Jesus was a Jewish ceremony. It was a way of saying in as public a way as possible ‘I want to come back to God. Look, I’m washing away the dust and dirt on the outside of my body to symbolise the washing away of all that is not of God from inside me and in my soul.’

But baptism is more than a ceremony dealing with sin because Jesus was sinless yet sought baptism. At the core of the Christian understanding of baptism is the Holy Spirit who enters a human soul. Baptism is therefore also about being filled with God ... and being filled in order to become the person that God wants us to be.

Pushing back the frontiers of self to become fully God’s requires as colossal an effort as pushing back the Red Sea for the Chosen People to cross over. It requires power. It requires effort. It requires God. It therefore requires miracle. And the person who accepts God into their soul is to be so different from the person before-

hand that it's as though they had died and risen again. They are a new creation—we're talking the language of resurrection, each becoming an Easter person.

And *that's* what Easter is about. It's enabling us to come close to God. It's resurrection life for all who choose it, and it's liberating our souls to accommodate the Holy Spirit such that we can grow to become the people God wants us to be. He wants us to be His children, so beings of love and choice, beings of spirituality and availability. The best criterion of assessing baptism is therefore whether we become like Jesus after His baptism: we are baptised into Christ-like-ness.

That colossal change requires power. The only power great enough is God's power. It's resurrection power that comes from an indwelling of God, who comes first through Jesus' resurrection and is now available to all through baptism. No wonder the early Church always baptised its converts on Easter Day. No wonder they took the story of Moses and appropriated its huge themes of slavery and freedom and water.

This Easter, then, we rejoice that Jesus rose from the dead. We celebrate that we can become truly the children of God that He wants, loving us into new life.

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

In joy and hope let us pray to the Father.

That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection ...

we pray to the Father.

**All Hear our prayer.**

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter ...

we pray to the Father.

**All Hear our prayer.**

That God may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love ...

we pray to the Father.

**All Hear our prayer.**

That he may provide for those who lack food, work or shelter ...

we pray to the Father.

**All Hear our prayer.**

That by his power war and famine may cease through all the world ...

we pray to the Father.

**All Hear our prayer.**

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak and the dying,

to comfort and strengthen them ...

we pray to the Father.

**All Hear our prayer.**

That, according to his promises, all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be raised on the last day ...

we pray to the Father.

**All Hear our prayer.**

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection,

we pray to the Father.

**All Hear our prayer.**

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.

**HYMN 3** [Amazing grace!](#) (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

The liturgy of the Communion Service appears below

**HYMN 4** [Thine be the glory!](#) (please click on this link to hear the hymn)

## 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.

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
almighty and eternal Father,  
and in these days of Easter  
to celebrate with joyful hearts  
the memory of your wonderful works.  
For by the mystery of his passion  
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,  
has conquered the powers of death and hell  
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.  
He has placed them once more in paradise  
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.  
And so, in the joy of this Passover,  
earth and heaven resound with gladness,  
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation  
sing for ever the hymn of your glory.

**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 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.