

Christ is Risen

A Joint Benefice Service of the Word
for Easter 2 April 19th 2020

Bells <https://youtu.be/dxHdsUHI38c>

If you have a Candle at home this can be used as a *Paschal Candle.

**A new Paschal (Easter) candle is blessed and lit every year at Easter, and is used throughout the Paschal season which is during Easter and then throughout the year on special occasions, such as baptisms and funerals.*

Please light your Easter Candle

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

Amen

Hymn 1

680 This joyful Easter tide (choose one of the links below)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JdWkzkS0Ab4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7TFuqp97cs>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ORSYRgu6Z7g>

The Greeting

The minister greets the people and says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Opening Prayer

All Faithful one, 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.

Hymn 2

305 Lord of the dance

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mgvzwXTpM4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YV15StV6TK0>

Prayers of Penitence

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.

All 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.

All Lord, hear us and help us.

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

In your mercy, forgive us.

All Lord, hear us and help us.

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

All Amen.

The Collect

The Collect is said.

Almighty Father,

you have given your only Son to die for our sins

and to rise again for our justification:

grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness

that we may always serve you

in pureness of living and truth;

through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

Reading(s)

1 Peter 1:3-9

A Living Hope

³ 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, ⁴ and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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, ⁹ for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Psalms 16

Song of Trust and Security in God

A Miktam of David.

¹ Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

² I say to the Lord, 'You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you.'

³ As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble,
in whom is all my delight.

⁴ Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;
their drink-offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.

⁵ The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.

⁷ I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.

⁸ I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.

¹⁰ For you do not give me up to Sheol,
or let your faithful one see the Pit.

¹¹ You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures for evermore

Acts 2.14, 22-32

²² ‘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— ²³ 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. ²⁴ But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵ 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;

²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.”

²⁹ ‘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. ³⁰ 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. ³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

“He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.”

³² This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn 3

716 We Have A Gospel to Proclaim

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-SPYAgCtkw>

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-31

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ 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.’

²⁶ 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.’ ²⁷ 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.’ ²⁸ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ ²⁹ 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.’

The Purpose of This Book

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Sermon by Revd Steven

Let us begin with a prayer. Heavenly Father, give us your grace and Spirit and speak to our hearts and minds, so that we may draw closer to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

On this Sunday, like every Sunday, we celebrate what is at the heart of our Christian faith, the resurrection of Jesus. As we enter through this Easter season, it is a season of Alleluia’s, in recognition that God has raised Jesus from the dead and that sin and death no longer has dominion over us. The resurrection and the cross enables us humans through faith in Jesus to be saved and to receive the inheritance of eternal life which we receive as adopted children of God, which we hear of in our **1 Peter 1:3-9** optional reading today. This inheritance is imperishable, undefiled and unfading kept

in heaven for you, writes Peter in verse 4. What God has stored up for us in heaven will never decay or be ruined or disappear. May we know at this time, these heavenly promises deeply for ourselves.

In our readings today, we hear Peter preaching his first sermon on the risen Jesus where he is speaking to his fellow Jews regarding the resurrection. Peter refers to **Psalm 16** in his sermon which the Jews would of known, where the psalmist says in verse 27 that “²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption.”

The way Jesus fulfils this old testament prophecy is through the resurrection by saving our soul’s, that we too can be resurrected when we die. This is important because without the resurrection we not only die, but die in our sins.

This gives us great hope for ourselves and also a great hope which we can share with others. During this pandemic, we may not feel like saying Alleluia or want to share the resurrection faith we have. This is understandable after three weeks of lockdown and the uncertainty about the future ahead. To enable us to have a mini resurrection is firstly by repentance. When we pray the confession at the beginning of our services, are we really bringing to mind our sins and asking God to forgive them and then try through God’s grace and Holy Spirit given to us, to refrain from doing them again. With Peter’s sermon, he preached what he believed and what was on his heart. May we too use this as an example when sharing our faith with others, to preach what we believe and what is on our hearts - a genuine witness.

In our collect, I have highlighted the words “**put away the leaven of malice and wickedness**”. Could we ask ourselves today, what malice and wickedness do I have in my life? We can then repent of them, so that we may be resurrected from our sins to the new life that Easter and the resurrection brings.

The risen Jesus in our Gospel reading today says to the disciples “Peace be with you”. May we know God’s peace through the forgiveness of our sins and as the disciples were locked in the room

with anxiety and fear, may we know the Peace of the risen Jesus in our own lockdown. This is not an ordinary Peace, but as we know in the Bible, it is a Peace that surpasses understanding and one that can dwell deep in our hearts and minds.

In Peter's sermon, he explains the evidence behind Jesus being the Messiah and his resurrection by saying in verse 22 – **"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 evidence is also shown in our Gospel reading in verse 20 – **"20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord."**

This evidence Thomas wanted to see for himself and is granted by Jesus by appearing again to him. This evidence which was witnessed and recorded by the disciples is the good news that has been preserved and passed down to us over the past 2000 years. Not only are we to receive and experience this good news ourselves and to share this with others, but we are also to help preserve it for the next generations. This activity is what lies at the very heart of God, he gives us his authority to do it and is with us in doing it too. The resurrection brings the dramatic story of the Messianic Son of God to its conclusion, but also gives us great hope that God's Kingdom exists beyond death. This new world gives us great hope, and as we enter a new kind of world at the end of this pandemic, may we carry this good news into by word and deed.

How has God revealed his Easter blessings and new life to you and especially during this week at home?

During this time of lockdown, may we know the joy of the resurrection and its new life it brings us, both now and eternally. May we give our own Alleluia's that the risen Jesus cleanses us from all malice, wickedness and sin, that we can know and feel, like Thomas, the Peace of the risen Jesus and may this cast away any doubts and fears we may have, **Amen**.

Home Prayer for This Week

You may want to spend sometime this week, in a personal quiet space where you can read this Gospel reading, pray, close your eyes and ask the risen Jesus to come and meet with you, through his Holy Spirit. Open your heart and mind to him.

End

Affirmation of Faith

This Affirmation of Faith or an authorized Creed is used

Let us declare our faith
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received,
and this we believe.
Amen.

Hymn 4

727 What a friend we have in Jesus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cscMcqHquuY>

Prayers of Intercession

Intercessions for Easter 2 by Clive Bennett (St Lawrence Church Centre)

Heavenly Father we come before you ever seeking your will for our lives.

We thank you Father that you sent your Son our Saviour, Jesus, to redeem us from the world in which we abide, and that through His sacrifice we are able to meet you this morning as your children.

We cry out to you at this time of tribulation asking you not to prolong this pandemic which has struck the world so violently. We do not claim to understand the why or wherefore but we know of a certainty that we can trust you to be beside us in our suffering. Weeping with those who weep, rejoicing with those rejoice. Comforting and sustaining us in our problems.

We thank you Father for our local shops in the villages around us and for the dedication and courage of those who maintain and stock this necessary lifeline at this time. We thank you too for the residential homes the nurses and staff who daily turn up for work ignoring the dangers in order to attend to the needs of the elderly. These times of trouble have revealed such a wealth of love and concern for our neighbours. Help us not to forget easily these beautiful moments of compassion and care when this crisis time has passed.

Great and mighty God hear us when we call upon you for our nation and all those in leadership within our government. Be with those trying to organise and steer a way through this ordeal. Sustain and uphold the NHS and the dedicated men and women tirelessly struggling to make some sense of their present situation. Give them strength and courage to continue.

Heavenly Father awaken our world to a revelation of Jesus Christ. Turn our hearts from war and violence to see there is a better way.

Reveal yourself in power to the leaders of our fellowship of Churches in the Dengie. To Steven. Peter. Ken. Brigid and Lionel. Comfort and strengthen them. Give them guidance and wisdom. Help them make decisions that will reveal your kingdom and glorify your Name in our villages. Help them to rely and trust you in all things.

And finally Father we, your church thank you that we know of a certainty that you have all things in your hand” Not a sparrow falls to the ground without you are aware.” As we move into another week of fearfulness and uncertainty. Let us rejoice as the hymn says “Trusting in your word, trusting your cross, trusting in your faithfulness “ a world in the hands of a loving creator God . Ever willing to hear the cries and pleas of His children.

Lord in your Mercy

Hear our prayer

Let us pray for all those who are suffering or struggling with life. May the love of our risen Christ comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit; May that love be with all who are left on their own and feel lonely and unable to cope, or are unwell.

We also think of

Michael Pudney

Jean & Eddie Foster,

Ray Luck,

Jessica Davis

Nigel and Wendy Cole - now recovering at home.

Lee Pryer

Angus Bettany

Shirley Hill

All residents at Down Hall and the Swan care homes and in a moment of quiet all those others known to us, and for those you care for them and share their suffering.

We have been asked to remember in our prayers this week the folks from the Church Centre: Simon, Sadie, Penny, Shirley ,Mary for healing, and families: Vicky’s Family especially Neve, and Elaine, John and family.

Lord in your Mercy

Hear our Prayer

At this time, hear us as we remember those who died in the faith of Christ; we pray especially for all who mourn and all those loved by us yet seen no more. May they rejoice with us this Easter Day in the fullness of life eternal.

We include in our prayers...;

William Bachell - who passed away yesterday at Basildon Hospital

Marie Kitchenham - who passes away on 7th April

Ann Symes,

Jean Oyler,

Michael Davies

Peter Winter

And all others known to us:

May God in his infinite love and mercy bring the whole Church, living and departed, in the Lord Jesus, to a joyful resurrection and the fulfilment of his eternal kingdom.

Today is Easter Day in the Orthodox church, also called Pascha, it is the oldest and most important festival in the Eastern Christian tradition, celebrating Jesus Christ's resurrection.

We remember today our fellow Christians in the Eastern churches



We can listen to this Ukrainian chant for the prayer 'Kyrie Eleison' "Lord, have mercy upon us"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjzQl-ZyDL4&autoplay=1>

This response may be used

Jesus, Lord of life:

All in your mercy, hear us.

Merciful Father

Accept these 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

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.

Gloria in Excelsis

This song may be said or:

All 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.

Or sung:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g5ZdtCEwytM>

Praise

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

All He has brought us out of darkness.

He has made us light to the world.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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.

All may exchange a sign of peace by sending, emailing, texting or Facebook messages to all in your congregation and the wider world that you wish to exchange peace with:

Hymn 5 may be sung

137 Crown him with many crowns

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuMh_ept-Js

Blessing

May Christ,

who accepted the cup of sacrifice

in obedience to the Father's will,

keep us steadfast as we walk with him the way of his cross.

Amen.

Let us now go in peace to love and serve the Lord in the name of Christ. **Amen.**

End

Coffee time

Our church buildings are presently empty but our hearts are full of the Lords love and mercy.

From Heaven you came (The servant King)

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=from+heaven+you+came+youtube&ru=%2fsearch%3fq%3dfrom%2bheaven%2byou%2bcame%2byoutube%26FORM%3dHDRSC1&view=detail&mmscn=vwrc&mid=F9873341AC14E3722C32F9873341AC14E3722C32&FORM=WRVORC>

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