



31 March 2024 | Resurrection Sunday

He is risen! He is risen indeed

Deacon:

We welcome you to our Easter Sunday service. We also welcome those joining us via livestream. Please stand as I read the call to worship from Psalm 118:

¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

² Let Israel say: "His love endures forever."

¹⁴ The Lord is my strength and my defence; he has become my salvation.

¹⁵ Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous:

"The Lord's right hand has done mighty things!

¹⁶ The Lord's right hand is lifted high; the Lord's right hand has done mighty things!" ¹⁷ I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.

¹⁸ The Lord has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death.

¹⁹ Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord. ²⁰ This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter.

²¹ I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

²² The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

²³ the Lord has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴ The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.

Let us now sing our opening hymn, Jesus Christ is Risen today

Opening Hymn: Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Jesus Christ is risen today, alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, alleluia!
who so lately on the cross alleluia!
suffered to redeem our loss, alleluia!

But the pain that he endured alleluia!
our salvation has procured; alleluia!
now exalted he is king, alleluia!
and the angels ever sing: alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing alleluia!
unto Christ, our heavenly king, alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. alleluia!

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Minister's Welcome

The Lord is risen. **He is risen indeed!**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

The Sentence of the Day

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Luke 24:34)

Prayer of Approach

Deacon: Let us pray the prayer of approach.

Most gracious and loving God, you who have swallowed up death with the resurrection of Christ Jesus, bring about in us new life with him. Pour your Holy Spirit upon us and give us hearts and minds fitting for your praise.

Grant to us your continual help.

Make us die every day to sin so that we may live with him forever.

You give us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection.

**Give us also the joys of life in your service
and bring us at last to the full joy of life eternal.**

**We ask these things in the name of your risen Son,
he who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, both now, and forevermore. Amen**

The Gloria

Deacon: Let us join with the angels and all the heavenly hosts singing 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.

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have conquered death through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant us by your grace to set our minds on things above, so that with the empowerment of your eternal Spirit our whole life may be transformed; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in everlasting glory. **Amen.**

Ministry of the Word

Heavenly Father, as you breathed your Spirit onto your disciples when you appeared to them, breathe your Spirit into our hearts so we may comprehend all you wish to say to us. May your Word enliven us, so that we bear much fruit to your glory. **Amen.**

The Hymn of the Risen Christ

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us: **so, let us celebrate the feast,**
not with the old leaven of corruption and weakness:

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Christ once raised from the dead dies no more: **death has no more dominion over him.**

In dying he died to sin once for all: **in living he lives to God.**

See yourselves therefore as dead to sin: **and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Christ has been raised from the dead: **the first fruits of those who sleep.**

For as by one man came death: **by another has come also resurrection of the dead;**

For as in Adam all die: even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Glory to God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit: **as in the beginning, so now and forever. Amen.**

The scripture reading is from the book of Acts, chapter 10, commencing at verse 34.

³⁴Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favouritism ³⁵but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. ³⁶You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. ³⁹"We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, ⁴⁰but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. ⁴¹He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Hear the Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Song: Low in the Grave He Lay

Low in the grave He lay Jesus my Saviour!
Waiting the coming day Jesus my Lord!

*Up from the grave He arose
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes
He arose a Victor from the dark domain
And He lives forever with His saints to reign
He arose! (He arose) He arose! (He arose)
Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

Vainly they watch His bed, Jesus, my Saviour!
Vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!
Up from the grave He arose

Death cannot keep his prey, Jesus, my Saviour!
He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord.
Up from the grave He arose

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Hearing the Gospel of our Lord

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark chapter 16 commencing at verse 1. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

¹When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. ²Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb ³and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" ⁴But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. ⁶"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" ⁸Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

⁹When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. ¹⁰She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping. ¹¹When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it. ¹²Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country. ¹³These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either. ¹⁴Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen. ¹⁵He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. ¹⁶Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new

tongues; ¹⁸they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well." ¹⁹After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. ²⁰Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

This is the Gospel of our Lord **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

The Message: How is God's resurrection power working in your life?

Offertory Hymn: Because He Lives

God sent His Son, they called Him Jesus;
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
an empty grave is there
to prove my Saviour lives.

How sweet to hold a new-born baby,
and feel the pride and joy he gives;
but greater still the calm assurance,
this child can face uncertain days
because He lives.

Because He lives...

*Because He lives I can face tomorrow;
because He lives all fear is gone;
because I know He holds the future,
and life is worth the living
just because He lives.*

And then one day I'll cross the river;
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
and then as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory
and I'll know He lives.

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Because He lives

Gifts and Offerings *The minister will pray for the gifts and offerings.*

The Prayer of the Week

Lord of all life and power, who, through the mighty resurrection of your Son, overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may live his risen life and reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise, honour and thanksgiving, now and for all eternity. **Amen.**

Prayers for the world and our community

Intercessor: Today, I invite you to pray the general thanksgiving with me.

Almighty God and merciful Father;

**we give you hearty thanks for all your goodness
and loving kindness to us and to all people.**

**We bless you for our creation and preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;**

**But above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ.**

For the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

**And, we pray, give us such a sense of all your mercies,
that our hearts may be truly thankful**

and that we may praise you not only with our lips, but in our lives.

**With your grace may we serve you in holiness and righteous all our days,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the holy Spirit,
be honour and glory; now and forever. Amen.**

Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

Deacon says:

Christ our Passover Lamb has been offered for us, therefore we come to celebrate his saving work. Let us confess our sins in repentance and faith, with a sincere and true heart.

Heavenly Father, you have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have broken your holy laws and have left undone what we ought to have done.

We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.

For the sake of your Son who died for us, forgive us cleanse us and change us.

By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Deacon: Please stand to hear God's promise of forgiveness.

Promise of Forgiveness

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ proclaims, "Do not be afraid!" Know that you are washed anew in his rising, and your sins are forgiven. Be at peace and live in the everlasting love of God. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon you. **Amen.**

Greeting of Peace

Christ has reconciled us to God in one body by the cross.

We meet in His name and share His peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also, with you.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere, mighty Creator, everliving God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin, and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people.

And how we give you thanks that you raise him to the life triumphant, and exalted him in glory.

By his victory over death, the reign of sin is ended, a new day has dawned, a broken world is restored and we are made whole once more.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, forever praising you and saying:

**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.

Merciful God, we thank you for these gifts of bread and this wine, and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit, we who eat and drink them may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread; and when he had given you thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

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

After supper, he took the cup, and again giving you thanks he gave it to his disciples saying,

'Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant shed for you and for many.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free. You are the Saviour of the world.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

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

Therefore, we do as our Saviour has commanded; proclaiming his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension and looking for his coming again, we celebrate, with this bread and this cup, his one perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Renew us by our Holy Spirit, unite us in the body of your Son, and bring us with all your people into the joy of your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom and in whom, in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, we worship you, Father, in songs of never-ending praise:

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.

As our Saviour has taught us, we are confident to 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.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread and the Communion

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. We who are many are one body.

for we all share in the one bread.

Let us draw near with faith, to feed on Christ in our hearts with thanksgiving.

Quiet reflective music will be played at this time. During this time, you are invited to thread a fresh flower onto the cross as a sign of the new life Jesus has made available to you.

Announcements

Commitment to live out our worship of the Lord

Eternal God, giver of life, in the breaking of bread we know the risen Lord. May we who celebrate this holy feast walk in his risen light and bring new life to all creation.

Most loving God, **you send us into the world you love. Give us grace to go thankfully and with courage in the power of your Spirit. Amen.**

Almighty God, who redeemed us through the resurrection of Christ, who raised us to newness of life through the waters of baptism, and has brought us out of slavery into everlasting freedom, give you joy and peace in faith and bring you to your eternal inheritance; and the blessing of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you. **Amen.**

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: This is the Day

This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made,
that the Lord has made.

We will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

This is the day that the Lord has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day, this is the day
that the Lord has made.

This is the day, this is the day
when He rose again, when He rose again.
We will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

This is the day when He rose again,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day, this is the day
when He rose again.

This is the day, this is the day
when the Spirit came, when the Spirit came.

We will rejoice, we will rejoice
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

This is the day when the Spirit came,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day,

This is the day when the Spirit came.