



ST. LAURENCE CHURCH

FAMILY COMMUNION
31ST. MARCH 2024

EASTER SUNDAY



ZOOM DETAILS:

Meeting ID: 457 244 0784
Passcode: 5i1UCa

Christ our passover has been sacrificed; let us celebrate the feast of Easter by getting rid of the old ways of evil and eating the new bread of sincerity of truth. A Happy Easter to you all and may the Risen Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God, who made this most holy day to shine with the brightness of your one true light: set us aflame with the fire of your love, and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly

glory through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE EASTER CANDLE IS BLESSED

Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega all time belongs to him, and all ages; to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever.
Amen.

THE EASTER EXULTET IS SUNG

HYMN (PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss, 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!

But the pains that he endured, alleluia!

Our salvation have procured; alleluia!

Now above the sky he's king, alleluia!

Where the angels ever sing, alleluia!

WELCOME

The Vicar welcomes the congregation

Alleluia, Christ is Risen

He is risen indeed. Alleluia

Posies of flowers are placed on the cross.

(Silence is kept before we confess our sins.)

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.

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.

Lord, hear us and help us.

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

In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

May the Father forgive us by the death and resurrection of his Son, and strengthen us to live in the power of the Spirit all our days.

Amen

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

We pray together:

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 reign with him in glory; to whom with you

and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. Amen

READING Acts 10:34-43 read by Bob Ash

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— how 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.

"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, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He 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. He 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. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who

believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

HYMN (PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for men in all the earth;
the gospel of a saviour’s name:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,
not in a royal house or hall
but in a stable dark and dim:
the Word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of his death at Calvary,
hated by those he came to save;
in lonely suffering on the cross
for all he loved, his life he gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
empty the tomb, for he was free;
he broke the power of death and hell
that we might share his victory.

Tell of his reign at God’s right hand,
by all creation glorified;
he sends his Spirit on his church
to live for him, the lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name him king;
Jesus is Lord of all the earth;
the gospel-message we proclaim:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

THE GOSPEL READING

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

A reading from the Holy Gospel
according to Mark Chapter sixteen
beginning at the first verse

Glory to you O Lord

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?”

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. “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. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’” Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

This is the Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you, O Christ.

REFLECTION
RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL
VOWS

The Vicar addresses the congregation
In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

All **I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

All **I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

All **I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

All **I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

All **I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

All **I come to Christ.**

May God, who has given you the desire to follow Christ, give you the strength to continue in the Way.
Amen

After renewing their baptismal vows, the people are sprinkled with Holy Water.

THE CREED

**Father, we adore You,
lay our lives before You,
how we love You.**

**Jesus we adore You,
lay our lives before You,
how we love You.**

**Spirit, we adore You,
lay our lives before You,
how we love You.**

PRAYERS LED BY JANE COOPER

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. **Hear our prayer.**

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter ... we pray to the Father. **Hear our prayer.**

That God would bring peace to all affected by war and conflict... we pray to the Father. **Hear our prayer.**

That God may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love ... we pray to the Father. **Hear our prayer.**

That he may provide for those who lack food, work or shelterwe pray to the Father. **Hear our prayer.**

That by his power war and famine may cease through all the world ... we pray to the Father. **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 remember: Robbie Robinson, Eleanor Ash, David Winstone, Jan Edwards, Jill Fitzpatrick, John Tanner, Hilary Deller, Brian Elliott....we pray to the Father. **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. We pray

for those recently departed: Ray Wicks, Claire Newland.

We pray for those whose Years' Mind occur this month: Norma Fogarty, Spencer Charles Edwards, Francis Ann Vaughan, Douglas Brown, Kathryn Louise Bembridge, Brian Louis Piper, William Bennett, Joseph William Ringer, Mandy Jones, Kitty Weguelin, William David Potter, Freda Mary Griffin, Mihael William Raymond Corp, Peter Lewis, Winifred Richard, Brian Lawrence, Lily Collins, Gillian Appelbe, Barney Underwood.....We pray to the Father. **878**

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.

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

WE SHARE GOD'S PEACE

We stand to sing

**Shalom, Shalom,
May peace be with you,
Throughout your days;
In all that you do,
May peace be with you,
Shalom, Shalom.**

(Repeat)

HYMN (PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

A collection will be made during the singing of this hymn

**Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
Your sweetest notes employ,
The Paschal victory to hymn
In strains of holy joy.**

**How Judah's Lion burst his chains,
And crushed the serpent's head;
And brought with him, from death's domains,
The long-imprisoned dead.**

**From hell's devouring jaws the prey
Alone our Leader bore;
His ransomed hosts pursue their way
Where he hath gone before.**

**Triumphant in his glory now
His sceptre ruleth all,
Earth, heaven, and hell before him bow,
And at his footstool fall.**

**While joyful thus his praise we sing,
His mercy we implore,
Into his palace bright to bring
And keep us evermore.**

**All glory to the Father be,
All glory to the Son,
All glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,
While endless ages run. Alle-
luya! Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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 him thanks and praise

Why do we give thanks and praise at this table?
We give thanks for all that God has done for us.

God the Father created the heavens, the earth and everything in them; and created us in his own image.

Let us give thanks and praise

Christ our Lord became human like us, and died to save us.
Let us give thanks and praise

God sent the Holy Spirit to gather us together as the people of God
Let us give thanks and praise

So come let us join together to worship this God who loves
We sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.**

Please sit

We praise you Father that before Jesus our Saviour suffered and died, he gave us this holy meal to share and told us to continue it until he comes again.

Why do we eat bread together at this table?

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread. After giving 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."

Why do we drink from the cup together at this table?

In the same way after supper Jesus took the cup, saying. "This cup is God's new covenant sealed with my blood, poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me"

What do we remember at this table?

We remember the Father's gracious love for us, Christ's death and resurrection for us, and the Spirit's tender care for us.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

We sing:

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

Merciful Father, pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. In eating and drinking together may we be made one with Christ and with one another.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, blessed are those who are called to his supper

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

The Prayer of Humble Access

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.

A Prayer for those joining us on Zoom who are making their Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION HYMN

The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness,
the passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over,
with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil,
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light;
and listening to his accents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and, hearing,
may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful!

Let earth the song begin!
Let the round world keep triumph,
and all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen
their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord hath risen,
our joy that hath no end.

THE EASTER GARDEN IS BLESSED

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. To you be glory now and for ever. In your great mercy you have given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. By your blessing, may we who have prepared this garden in celebration of his victory be strengthened in faith, know the power of his presence, and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory. Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All **Blessed be God for ever.**

THE POST COMMUNION 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. Amen

THE BLESSING

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing ...**Amen**

NOTICES

HYMN (PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes, where thy body lay.
*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo, Jesus meets us risen from the tomb,
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord is living, death has lost its sting.

Thine be the glory

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is nought without thee, aid us in our strife;

make us more than conquerors,
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy
home above.

Thine be the glory

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Let us bless the Lord

Thanks be to God

May the divine assistance remain
with us always.

**And with all our brothers and sisters
in Christ.**

May the souls of the faithful departed
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace. **And rise in glory.
Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia. We
listen to the Organ Voluntary

The Vicar and members of the PCC
wish you a Blessed Easter. Please
stop to pray at the Easter Garden to
thank God for his undying love for
us.

Seven Stanzas at Easter

John Updike, 1960

Make no mistake: if He rose at all
it was as His body;
if the cells' dissolution did not reverse,
the molecules
reknit, the amino acids rekindle,
the Church will fall.

It was not as the flowers,
each soft Spring recurrent;
it was not as His Spirit in the
mouths and fuddled
eyes of the eleven apostles;
it was as His flesh: ours.

The same hinged thumbs and toes,
the same valved heart
that—pierced—died, withered,
paused, and then
regathered out of enduring might
new strength to enclose.

Let us not mock God with metaphor,
analogy, sidestepping, transcendence;
making of the event a parable, a
sign painted in the
faded credulity of earlier ages:
let us walk through the door.

The stone is rolled back, not papier-mâché,
not a stone in a story,
but the vast rock of materiality that
in the slow
grinding of time will eclipse for each
of us
the wide light of day.

And if we will have an angel at the
tomb,
make it a real angel,
weighty with Max Planck's quanta,
vivid with hair,
opaque in the dawn light, robed in
real linen
spun on a definite loom.

Let us not seek to make it less
monstrous,

for our own convenience, our own
sense of beauty,
lest, awakened in one unthinkable
hour, we are
embarrassed by the miracle,
and crushed by remonstrance.