



**25<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

## **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

*We welcome you to St Matthew's Church this morning and pray you are blessed as we worship the risen Lord together.*

*If you are with us for the first time please fill in one of our Welcome Cards.*

*Thank you.*

*Please join in the words in **bold print**.*

*Don't forget to silence your mobile!*

*Our Celebrant is Revd Simon Foster.*

*Our Preacher is Mrs Alison Radford.*

### **¶ The Gathering**

#### **♪ Hymn ♪**

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain  
of triumphant gladness!  
God hath brought His Israel  
into joy from sadness;  
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke  
Jacob's sons and daughters,  
led them with unmoistened foot  
through the Red Sea waters.

'Tis the spring of souls today;  
Christ hath burst His prison,  
and from three days' sleep in death  
as a sun hath risen:  
all the winter of our sins,

long and dark, is flying  
from His light, to whom we give  
laud and praise undying.

Now the queen of seasons, bright  
with the day of splendour,  
with the royal feast of feasts,  
comes its joy to render;  
comes to glad Jerusalem,  
who with true affection  
welcomes in unwearied strains  
Jesu's resurrection.

Alleluia! now we cry  
to our King immortal,  
who, triumphant, burst the bars  
of the tomb's dark portal;  
Alleluia! with the Son,  
God the Father praising,  
Alleluia! yet again  
to the Spirit raising.

*St John of Damascus (c. 675 - 750) trans. John  
Mason Neale (1816-1866)*

*Please stand*

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**and also with you.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**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.**

*Please sit or kneel*

## **The Confession and Absolution**

### **Invitation to confession**

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God.

Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

*cf Romans 6.10*

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life.  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins.  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the living bread.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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.  
**Amen.**

### **Gloria in Excelsis**

**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.**

### **The Collect**

*A period of silent prayer*

Risen Christ,  
faithful shepherd of your Father's sheep:  
teach us to hear your voice  
and to follow your command,  
that all your people may be gathered  
into one flock,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
**Amen.**

## **¶ The Liturgy of the Word**

Let us prepare ourselves for the Word of God as it comes to us in the reading of Holy Scripture.

**Our hearts and minds are open.**

### **First Reading**

*Acts 4.5-12*

The Jewish rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, <sup>6</sup>with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. <sup>7</sup>When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' <sup>8</sup>Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to

them, 'Rulers of the people and elders,  
9if we are questioned today because of  
a good deed done to someone who  
was sick and are asked how this man  
has been healed, 10let it be known to all  
of you, and to all the people of Israel,  
that this man is standing before you in  
good health by the name of Jesus Christ  
of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom  
God raised from the dead.

11This Jesus is  
"the stone that was rejected by  
you, the builders;  
it has become the cornerstone."

12There is salvation in no one else, for  
there is no other name under heaven  
given among mortals by which we must  
be saved.'

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

*1 John 3.16-24*

We know love by this, that he laid down  
his life for us – and we ought to lay  
down our lives for one another. 17How  
does God's love abide in anyone who  
has the world's goods and sees a  
brother or sister in need and yet  
refuses help?

18Little children, let us love, not in word  
or speech, but in truth and action. 19And  
by this we will know that we are from  
the truth and will reassure our hearts  
before him 20whenever our hearts  
condemn us; for God is greater than  
our hearts, and he knows everything.  
21Beloved, if our hearts do not  
condemn us, we have boldness before  
God; 22and we receive from him  
whatever we ask, because we obey his  
commandments and do what pleases  
him.

23And this is his commandment, that we  
should believe in the name of his Son  
Jesus Christ and love one another, just  
as he has commanded us. 24All who  
obey his commandments abide in him,  
and he abides in them. And by this we  
know that he abides in us, by the Spirit  
that he has given us.

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## ♪ Hymn ♪

Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!  
Now is the triumph of our King!  
To all the world glad news we bring:  
*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

The Lord of Life is risen for ay:  
bring flowers of song to strew His way;  
let all the earth rejoice and say:  
*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Praise we in songs of victory  
that Love, that Life, which cannot die,  
and sing with hearts uplifted high:  
*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

Thy name we bless, O risen Lord,  
and sing today with one accord  
the life laid down, the life restored:  
*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

*Cyril Argentine Alington (1872-1955)*  
© Hymns Ancient and Modern Ltd

## The Gospel

Let us stand to greet the  
Gospel of Christ.

Alleluia, alleluia alleluia.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Jesus said, 'All who see the Son and  
believe in him will have eternal life;  
and I will raise them up on the last day.'

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

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

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John 10.11-18*

Jesus said to the Pharisees: <sup>11</sup>I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away – and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. <sup>17</sup>For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. <sup>18</sup>No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

## **The Sermon**

Let us stand to declare our faith in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

## **The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,**

**of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*Please sit or kneel*

## Prayers of Intercession

*To the words*

Hear us, risen Lord,

*We respond*

**our resurrection and our life.**

*After the final prayer we say:*

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers for the sake**

**of your Son, our Saviour,**

**Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

## ¶ The Liturgy of the Sacrament

*Please stand*

### 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.

*cf John 20.19*

The peace of the Lord be always

with you

**and also with you. Alleluia.**

Let us offer one another a

sign of God's peace.

*Please be seated*

### ♪ Hymn ♪

I will sing the wondrous story

of the Christ who died for me;

how He left the realms of glory

for the cross on Calvary:

Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story

of the Christ who died for me —

sing it with His saints in glory,

gathered by the crystal sea.

I was lost but Jesus found me,  
found the sheep that went astray,  
raised me up and gently led me,  
back into the narrow way.

Days of darkness still may meet me,  
sorrow's path I oft may tread;  
but His presence still is with me,  
by his guiding hand I'm led.

He will keep me till the river  
rolls its waters at my feet:  
then He'll bear me safely over,  
made by grace for glory meet.  
Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story  
of the Christ who died for me —  
sing it with His saints in glory,  
gathered by the crystal sea.

*Francis Harold Rowley (1854-1952)*

*Please stand*

### The Eucharistic Prayer (B)

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

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.**

Father, we give you thanks and praise  
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ,  
your living Word, through whom you  
have created all things;  
who was sent by you in your great  
goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit  
he took flesh; as your Son, born of the  
blessed Virgin, he lived on earth and  
went about among us;  
he opened wide his arms for us on  
the cross; he put an end to death by  
dying for us; and revealed the  
resurrection by rising to new life;

so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks because through him you have given us eternal life and delivered us from the bondage of sin and the fear of death into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

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

**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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;

grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying:  
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.

Christ is the bread of life:

**When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,

his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of St Matthew and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

**by whom, and with whom,  
and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory  
be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour taught us, so we 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.  
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**

Every time we eat this bread  
and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death  
until he comes.**

## **Agnus Dei**

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

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

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

## **Invitation to Communion**

Alleluia. Christ our passover  
is sacrificed for us.  
**Therefore let us keep the feast.  
Alleluia.**

**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.**

*Communicant members of any Christian  
Church are invited to receive Holy  
Communion. Please remain where you are  
and the bread will be brought to you.  
If you wish to receive a blessing please bow  
your head.*

♪ **Anthem** ♪

♪ **Hymn** ♪

Faithful Shepherd, feed me  
in the pastures green;  
faithful Shepherd, lead me  
where Thy steps are seen.

Hold me fast, and guide me  
in the narrow way;  
so, with Thee beside me,  
I shall never stray.

Daily bring me nearer  
to the heavenly shore;  
may my faith grow clearer,  
may I love Thee more.

Hallow every pleasure,  
every gift and pain;  
be Thyself my treasure,  
though none else I gain.

Day by day prepare me  
as Thou seest best,  
then let angels bear me  
to Thy promised rest.

*Thomas Benson Pollock (1836-1896)*

## Prayer after Communion

*Silence is kept.*

Merciful Father,  
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be  
the good shepherd,  
and in his love for us to lay down his life  
and rise again:  
keep us always under his protection,  
and give us grace to follow in his steps;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**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.**

## Notices

### ♪ Hymn ♪

Christ the Lord is risen again!  
Christ hath broken every chain!  
Hark! angelic voices cry,  
singing evermore on high,  
*Alleluia!*

He who gave for us His life,  
who for us endured the strife,  
is our Paschal Lamb today;  
we too sing for joy, and say:  
*Alleluia!*

He who bore all pain and loss  
comfortless upon the cross,  
lives in glory now on high,  
pleads for us, and hears our cry:  
*Alleluia!*

He whose path no records tell,  
who descended into hell,  
who the strong man armed hath bound,  
now in highest heaven is crowned.  
*Alleluia!*

He who slumbered in the grave  
is exalted now to save;  
now through Christendom it rings  
that the Lamb is King of kings:  
*Alleluia!*

Now He bids us tell abroad  
how the lost may be restored,  
how the penitent forgiven,  
how we too may enter heaven.  
*Alleluia!*

Thou, our Paschal Lamb indeed,  
Christ, Thy ransomed people feed;  
take our sins and guilt away:  
let us sing by night and day  
*Alleluia!*

*Michael Weisse (c.1480-1534)*

*trans. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)*

## ¶ Dismissal

### 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 of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you and  
all those whom you love and all those

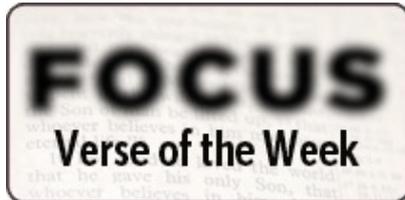
for whom you pray this day and for evermore. **Amen.**

We are raised to new life with Christ.  
Alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

*Please take this service sheet with you.*



Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

*1 John 3.18*

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