

St Matthew's Church, Chichester Road, Croydon

**24<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**Second Sunday of Easter**



*Christ  
is  
Risen!*



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 Alison Radford.

## ¶ **The Gathering**

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!**

*We remain standing to pray together*

**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 be seated*

## **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.**

*Please stand*

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

**All glory be to God on high!  
And peace to His people on the  
earth.  
Lord God, almighty God and**

**Father,  
we give you thanks for your  
glory.**

**Lamb of God, only Son of the  
Father,  
you sit at the right hand of God,  
you take away the sins of the  
world,  
have mercy on us, receive our  
prayer.**

**For you alone are the holy one,  
for you only are the Lord 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,  
for whom no door is locked, no  
entrance barred:  
open the doors of our hearts,  
that we may seek the good of others  
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and  
peace, to the praise 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.**

*Please be seated*

## **First Reading**

*Acts 5.27-32*

When the temple police had brought the apostles, they made them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, <sup>28</sup>'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.' <sup>29</sup>But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. <sup>30</sup>The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup>God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup>And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Second Reading**

*Revelation 1.4-8*

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup>and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup>Look! He is coming with the clouds;  
every eye will see him,  
even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

<sup>8</sup>'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

## **The Gospel**

Alleluia, alleluia alleluia.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

**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 20.19-31*

When it was evening on 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.' <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

<sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>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.'

<sup>26</sup>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.' <sup>27</sup>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.' <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' <sup>29</sup>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.'

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>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 Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

## **The Sermon**

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

## **The Creed**

**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.**

*Please be seated*

### **Prayers of Intercession**

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.

Jesus, light of the world,  
bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations...

Jesus, Lord of life,  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, bread of life,  
give food to the hungry...  
and nourish us all with your word.

Jesus, Lord of life,  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,  
be with us and all who follow you in the way...

Deepen our appreciation of your truth  
and fill us with your life.

Jesus, Lord of life,  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep, recover the straggler,  
bind up the injured,  
strengthen the sick  
and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures...

Jesus, Lord of life,  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,  
we give you thanks for all who have lived

and believed in you...

Raise us with them to eternal life.

Jesus, Lord of life,  
**in your mercy, hear us,  
accept our prayers,  
and be with us always.  
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.**

Let us offer one another a sign of God's peace.

**Yours, Lord, is the greatness,  
the power, the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;  
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.  
All things come from you,  
and of your own do we give you.**

#### **The Eucharistic Prayer (A)**

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.**

It is indeed right,  
it is our duty and our joy,  
at all times and in all places  
to give you thanks and praise,  
holy Father, heavenly King,  
almighty and eternal God,  
through Jesus Christ your Son our  
Lord.

For he is your living Word;  
through him you have created all things  
from the beginning,  
and formed us in your own image.

**To you be glory and praise for  
ever.**

Through him you have freed us from the  
slavery of sin,  
giving him to be born of a woman and to  
die upon the cross;  
you raised him from the dead  
and exalted him to your  
right hand on high.

**To you be glory and praise for  
ever.**

Through him you have sent upon us  
your holy and life-giving Spirit,  
and made us a people for your own  
possession.

**To you be glory and praise for  
ever.**

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.

**To you be glory and praise for  
ever.**

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.**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus  
Christ, and as we follow his example and  
obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy  
Spirit these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;

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.

**To you be glory and praise for  
ever.**

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.

**To you be glory and praise for  
ever.**

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and  
glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,

and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Jesus Christ is Lord:

**Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.**

**You are the Saviour of the world.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**To you be glory and praise for ever.**

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours 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**

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, Redeemer of the world: give 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. If you wish to receive a blessing please bow your head.*

### **Prayer after Communion**

*Silence is kept.*

Lord God our Father,  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ  
you have assured your children of  
eternal life and in baptism have made us  
one with him:  
deliver us from the death of sin  
and raise us to new life in your love,  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
**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**

### **¶ 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.

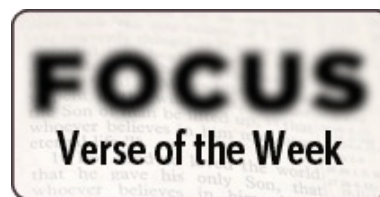
**Amen.**

With the power that raised Jesus from  
the dead at work within you, go in the  
peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

*Please take this service sheet with you.*



Thomas answered Jesus, 'My Lord and  
my God!' <sup>29</sup>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.'

*John 20.28-29.*



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