



**1<sup>st</sup> May 2022**

## **Third 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 and Preacher is  
Revd Linda Fox.*

### **¶ 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**

In baptism we died with Christ,  
so that as Christ was raised from the  
dead, we might walk in newness of life.  
Let us receive new life in him as we  
confess our sins in penitence and faith.

*cf Romans 6.4*

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.**

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**

**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,  
you filled your disciples with boldness  
and fresh hope:  
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life  
and fill us with your peace,  
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.**

*Please be seated*

## **First Reading**

*Revelation 5. 11-14*

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of  
many angels surrounding the throne and  
the living creatures and the elders; they  
numbered myriads of myriads and  
thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup>singing with  
full voice,

‘Worthy is the Lamb that was  
slaughtered to receive power and  
wealth and wisdom and might and  
honour and glory and blessing!’

<sup>13</sup>Then I heard every creature in heaven  
and on earth and under the earth and  
in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

‘To the one seated on the throne  
and to the Lamb be blessing and  
honour and glory and might for ever  
and ever!’

<sup>14</sup>And the four living creatures said,  
‘Amen!’ And the elders fell down and  
worshipped.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated*

## **Second Reading**

*Acts 9.1-20*

Saul, still breathing threats and murder  
against the disciples of the Lord, went  
to the high priest <sup>2</sup>and asked him for

letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup>He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' <sup>5</sup>He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup>But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' <sup>7</sup>The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. <sup>8</sup>Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup>For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup>Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, 'Ananias.' He answered, 'Here I am, Lord.' <sup>11</sup>The Lord said to him, 'Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, <sup>12</sup>and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.' <sup>13</sup>But Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; <sup>14</sup>and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.' <sup>15</sup>But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; <sup>16</sup>I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake

of my name.' <sup>17</sup>So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>18</sup>And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup>and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, <sup>20</sup>and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Let us stand to greet the Gospel of Christ.

## **The Gospel**

Alleluia, alleluia alleluia.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Jesus said, 'All who see the Son and believe in him may 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 21.1-19*

Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup>Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup>Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.'

They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup>Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' <sup>6</sup>He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. <sup>7</sup>That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. <sup>8</sup>But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

<sup>9</sup>When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' <sup>11</sup>So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup>Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup>Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup>This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

<sup>15</sup>When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' <sup>16</sup>A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love

me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' <sup>17</sup>He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup>Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' <sup>19</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God. After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

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**

In joy and hope let us pray to the Father.

May our risen Saviour fill us with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

May isolated and persecuted churches find fresh strength in the good news of Easter...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

May God grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

May you strengthen your people to provide for those who lack food, work or shelter...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

May you guide those in positions of power so that war and famine may cease through all the world...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

May you reveal the light of your presence to the sick, the weak and the dying, to heal, comfort and strengthen them...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

According to your promises, may all who have died in the faith of the death and resurrection of Christ be raised to life on the last day...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

May you send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon your 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.**

## **¶ 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 (B)**

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works. For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men, women and children the image of your glory. He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

**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 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**

**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.**

**Most merciful Lord,  
your love compels us to come  
in.**

**Our hands were unclean,  
our hearts were unprepared;  
we were not fit  
even to eat the crumbs from  
under your table.**

**But you, Lord, are the God  
of our salvation,  
and share your bread with  
sinners.**

**So cleanse and feed us  
with the precious body and  
blood of your Son,  
that he may live in us and  
we in him;  
and that we, with the whole  
company of Christ,  
may sit and eat in your  
kingdom.**

**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.*

Living God,  
your Son made himself known to his  
disciples in the breaking of bread:  
open the eyes of our faith,  
that we may see him in all his  
redeeming work; who is alive and reigns,  
now and for ever.

**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

God the Father,  
by whose love Christ was raised from  
the dead, open to you who believe the  
gates of everlasting life.

**Amen.**

God the Son,  
who in bursting from the grave has won  
a glorious victory, give you joy as you  
share the Easter faith.

**Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit,  
who filled the disciples with the life of  
the risen Lord, empower you and fill  
you with Christ's peace.

## Amen.

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.**

He is not here. He is risen.  
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.  
Alleluia, alleluia.**



'To the one seated on the throne and  
to the Lamb be blessing and honour  
and glory and might for ever and ever!'

<sup>14</sup>And the four living creatures said,  
'Amen!' And the elders fell down and  
worshipped.

*Revelation 5.13b, 14*

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