



1st 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

♪ 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*

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

**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,
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, ¹²singing 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!’

¹³Then 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!’

¹⁴And 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 stand

♪ **Song** ♪

All heaven declares
the glory of the risen Lord.
Who can compare
with the beauty of the Lord?
Forever He will be
the Lamb upon the throne;
I gladly bow the knee
and worship Him alone.

I will proclaim
the glory of the risen Lord,
who once was slain
to reconcile the world to God.
Forever You will be
the Lamb upon the throne;
I gladly bow the knee
and worship You alone.

*Noël Richards (b. 1955) and Tricia Richards (b. 1960)
© 1987 Kingswaysongs*

Please be seated

The children leave for Young Church.

Second Reading

Acts 9.1-20

Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went

to the high priest ²and 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. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’ ⁵He asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ The reply came, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.’ ⁷The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul 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. ⁹For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, ‘Ananias.’ He answered, ‘Here I am, Lord.’ ¹¹The 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, ¹²and 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.’ ¹³But Ananias answered, ‘Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.’ ¹⁵But 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; ¹⁶I myself will show him

how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.' ¹⁷So 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.' ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰and 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. ²Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³Simon 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.

⁴Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' ⁶He 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. ⁷That 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. ⁸But 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.

⁹When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' ¹¹So 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. ¹²Jesus 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. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵When 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.' ¹⁶A 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.' ¹⁷He 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. ¹⁸Very 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.' ¹⁹He 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.

♪ **Hymn** ♪

Light's glittering morn bedecks the sky;
heaven thunders forth its victor cry:
Alleluia, alleluia.

the glad earth shouts her triumph high,
and groaning hell makes wild reply.

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia.*

That Eastertide with joy was bright,
the sun shone out with fairer light,
when, to their longing eyes restored,
the glad apostles saw their Lord:

He bade them see His hands, His side,
where yet the glorious wounds abide;
the tokens true which made it plain
their Lord indeed was risen again:

Jesu, the King of gentleness,
do Thou Thyself our hearts possess,
that we may give Thee all our days
the tribute of our grateful praise:

All praise be Thine, O risen Lord,
from death to endless life restored;
all praise to God the Father be
and Holy Ghost eternally:

John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

based on Aurora lucis rutilat, (Latin, 4th century)

**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.**

*As the children return from Young Church
we sing*

♪ Chant ♪

Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Traditional

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.*

♪ Anthem ♪

♪ Hymn ♪

This joyful Eastertide,
away with sin and sorrow.
My Love, the Crucified,
hath sprung to life this morrow:

*Had Christ, that once was slain,
ne'er burst His three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain:
but now hath Christ arisen,
arisen, arisen, arisen.*

My flesh in hope shall rest,
and for a season slumber:
till trump from east to west
shall wake the dead in number:

Death's flood hath lost its chill,
since Jesus crossed the river:
Lover of souls, from ill
my passing soul deliver:

George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934)

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

♪ 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.
Alleluia! Amen.

*St Fulbert of Chartres (d.1028)
trans. Robert Campbell (1814-1868)*

¶ 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.

Please take this service sheet with you.



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!’

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

Revelation 5.13, 14

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