



**8<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

## **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 and Preacher is Revd Simon Foster*

### **¶ 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 our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed for us.

Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

*cf 1 Corinthians 5.7,8*

Praise the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits:  
Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Who forgives all your sin  
and heals all your infirmities:  
Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Who saves your life from destruction,  
and crowns you with mercy and  
loving-kindness:  
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**

**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.**

*Please be seated*

## **First Reading**

*Acts 9.36-43*

In Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity.<sup>37</sup>At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs.<sup>38</sup>Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.'<sup>39</sup>So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them.<sup>40</sup>Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up.<sup>41</sup>He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive.<sup>42</sup>This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.<sup>43</sup>Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

*Revelation 7.9-17*

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup>They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

‘Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!’

<sup>11</sup>And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, <sup>12</sup>singing,

‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom  
and thanksgiving and honour  
and power and might  
be to our God for ever and ever!  
Amen.’

<sup>13</sup>Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, ‘Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?’ <sup>14</sup>I said to him, ‘Sir, you are the one that knows.’ Then he said to me, ‘These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup>For this reason they are before the throne of God,  
and worship him day and night  
within his temple,  
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

<sup>16</sup>They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;  
the sun will not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat;

<sup>17</sup>for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.’

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, ‘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.

**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

*John 10.22-30*

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup>and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup>So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, ‘How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.’ <sup>25</sup>Jesus answered, ‘I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; <sup>26</sup>but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup>My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup>I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup>What my

Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup>The Father and I are one.'

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**

*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.**

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 (F)**

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.**

*Please be seated*

You are worthy of our thanks and praise, Lord God of truth, for by the breath of your mouth

you have spoken your word,  
and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image  
and placed us in the garden of  
your delight.

Though we chose the path of rebellion  
you would not abandon your own.

Again and again you drew us into your  
covenant of grace.

You gave your people the law and  
taught us by your prophets  
to look for your reign of justice, mercy  
and peace.

And now we give you thanks because  
Christ our paschal sacrifice  
has made us children of the light, rising  
to new and everlasting life. He has  
opened the gates of heaven to receive  
his faithful people.

His death is our ransom from death,  
his resurrection is our rising to life.  
The joy of the resurrection renews the  
whole world, while the choirs of heaven  
sing for ever to 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 God, you are the most holy one,  
enthroned in splendour and light,  
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus  
Christ you reveal the power of your  
love made perfect in our human  
weakness.

**Amen. Lord, we believe.**

Embracing our humanity,  
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;  
loving us to the end,

he gave himself to death for us;  
dying for his own,  
he set us free from the bonds of sin,  
that we might rise and reign with him  
in glory.

**Amen. Lord, we believe.**

On the night he gave up himself for us  
all he 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.

**Amen. Lord, we believe.**

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.

**Amen. Lord, we believe.**

Therefore we proclaim the death that  
he suffered on the cross,  
we celebrate his resurrection,  
his bursting from the tomb,  
we rejoice that he reigns at your  
right hand on high  
and we long for his coming in glory.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of  
our redemption,  
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts  
of your creation  
be to us the body and blood of our  
Lord Jesus Christ;  
form us into the likeness of Christ  
and make us a perfect offering in  
your sight.

## **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Look with favour on your people  
and in your mercy hear the cry  
of our hearts.

Bless the earth,  
heal the sick,  
let the oppressed go free  
and fill your Church with power  
from on high.

## **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Gather your people from the ends of  
the earth to feast with St Matthew and  
all your saints at the table in your  
kingdom, where the new creation is  
brought to perfection  
in 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**

Raised again with Christ in the power  
of the Spirit, we say:

**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**

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are  
one body, because we all share  
in one bread.**

## **Agnus Dei**

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

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

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the  
world,  
grant us 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.*

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.**

**Father of all,  
we give you thanks and praise,  
that when we were still far off  
you met us in your Son and  
brought us home.  
Dying and living,  
he declared your love,  
gave us grace, and opened the  
gate of glory.  
May we who share Christ's  
body live his risen life;  
we who drink his cup bring  
life to others;  
we whom the Spirit lights give  
light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you  
have set before us,**

**so we and all your children  
shall be free,  
and the whole earth live to  
praise your name;  
through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.**

### **Notices**

#### **¶ Dismissal**

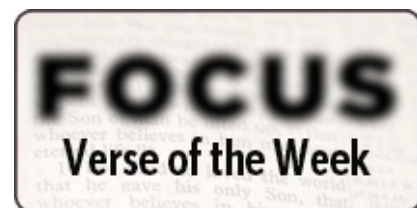
#### **The Blessing**

God, who through the resurrection of  
our Lord Jesus Christ has given us  
the victory,  
give you joy and peace in your faith;  
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.  
Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia,  
alleluia.**

*Please take this service sheet with you.*



The Lamb at the centre of the throne  
will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs  
of the water of life,  
and God will wipe away every  
tear from their eyes.'

*Revelation 7.17*

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*Invitation to Confession (Easter Day until Eve of Ascension)*

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