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**EASTER**

THE GATHERING

The Greeting

Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:  
he has given us new life and hopeby raising Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.  
He has brought us out of darkness.He has made us light to the world.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
He is risen indeed. Alleluia. *First Hymn*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1 Christ triumphant, ever reigning,  Saviour, Master, King!  Lord of heaven, our lives sustaining,  hear us as we sing:    Yours the glory and the crown,  the high renown, the eternal name.  2 Word incarnate, truth revealing,  Son of Man on earth!  power and majesty concealing  by your humble birth:  Yours the glory... | 3 Suffering servant, scorned, ill - treated, victim crucified!  death is through the cross defeated,  sinners justified:  Yours the glory...  4 Priestly king, enthroned for ever  high in heaven above!  sin and death and hell shall never  stifle hymns of love:  Yours the glory...  5 So, our hearts and voices raising  through the ages long,  ceaselessly upon you gazing,  this shall be our song:  Yours the glory...  Michael Saward (born 1932)  © Michael Saward/Jubilate Hymns |

[1]

*Opening Prayer*

**Faithful one, whose word is life:  
come with saving power to free our praise,  
inspire our prayer  
and shape our lives  
for the kingdom of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Prayers of Penitence*

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.**

May the God of love and power  
forgive youand free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

[2]

*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. *(Glory to God…)***

**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. *(Glory to God…)***

**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. *(Glory to God…)***

**Amen**

*The Collect of the Day*

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.**

[3]

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*The First Reading*

14a) Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd:

22 “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. 23 This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. 24 But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. 25 David said about him:

“‘I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. 26 Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, 27 because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay. 28 You have made known to me the paths of life.

You will fill me with joy in your presence.’

29 “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. 30 But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. 31 Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. 32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

*Acts 2:14a,22-32 New International Version (NIV)*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.** Alleluia.

[4]

[5]

*Gospel Reading*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John

Alleluia. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Jesus Appears to His Disciples**

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. 21 Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” 26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” 27 Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

28 Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

29 Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

[6]

30 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. 31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

*John 20:19-31 New International Version (NIV)*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you O Christ.** Alleluia.

*The Sermon*

As we find the disciples in todays Gospel reading, hiding behind a locked door. We should be reminded that our God does not abandon us to fear or doubt. In his love for us he comes and meets us in our need, his grace is always greater than our weakness.

As we live through a time when we find our own Church doors locked and wish to meet together to share the good news of Easter, we need to pray for patience. It was right for the disciples to wait a while until on the day of Pentecost they were filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered to share the good news in the way that God had planned.

Our God can unlock any door and will do so in his own perfect timing. We must pray that we will be ready to respond when he calls us to do so, just as the disciples were.

[7]

*The Creed*

Let us declare our faith together  
in our Lord Jesus Christ.

**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.**

[8]

**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.**

*Prayers of Intercession*

Lord Jesus, you greeted your disciples with the words “peace be with you”.

Fill the Church with your Spirit and unlock the doors of our hearts so that fear and doubt will be replaced with faith and peace.

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

Lord we thank you for the work of all those who are trying to deal with our current health crisis.

We pray that everyone will have access to the resources they need, and that they will be used and shared carefully and wisely.

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

[9]

We thank you for signs of hope,

Give wisdom in those places where restrictions are being eased, and patience to people who are asked to wait for a little longer.

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

Father God, in this time of physical isolation we continue to pray for all those who are lonely, unwell, mourning, and thank you for those who are working to help the vulnerable in our parish.

Merciful Father;

**accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

**The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

*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.

The peace of the Lord be always with you:

[10]

*Third Hymn*

1. Alleluia! sing to Jesus!

His the sceptre, his the throne;

Alleluia! his the triumph,

His the victory alone;

Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion

Thunder like a mighty flood;

Jesus out of ev’ry nation

Has redeemed us by his blood.

2. Alleluia! not as orphans

Are we left in sorrow now;

Alleluia! he is near us,

Faith believes, nor questions how;

Though the cloud from sight received him,

When the forty days were o’er,

Shall our hearts forget his promise?

“I am with you evermore!”

3. Alleluia! Bread of heaven,

Thou on earth our food, our stay!

Alleluia! here the sinful

Flee to Thee from day to day:

Intercessor, friend of sinners,

Earth’s redeemer, plead for me,

Where the songs of all the sinless

Sweep across the crystal sea.

4. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Glory be to God on high;

To the Father, and the Saviour

Who has gained the victory;

Glory to the Holy Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity;

Alleluia! Alleluia!

To the triune majesty.

[11]

*The Eucharistic Prayer*

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.**

Almighty God, good Father to us all, your face is turned towards your world. In love you gave us Jesus your Son to rescue us from sin and death.

Your Word goes out to call us home to the city where angels sing your praise. We join with them in heaven’s song:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna, (Hosanna, Hosanna)**

**in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes**

**in the name of the Lord**

**Hosanna, (Hosanna, Hosanna)**

**in the highest.**

Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven. To the darkness Jesus came as your light. With signs of faith and words of hope he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.

This is his story.

**This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

[12]

The crowds came out to see your Son, yet at the end they turned on him.

On the night he was betrayed he came to table with his friends to celebrate the freedom of your people.

This is his story.

**This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food; he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: This is my body, given for you all.

Jesus then gave thanks for the wine; he took the cup, gave it and said: This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

This is his story.

**This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free. Defying death he rose again and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.

This is his story.

**This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.**

Send your Spirit on us now that by these gifts we may feed on Christ with opened eyes and hearts on fire. May we and all who share this food offer ourselves to live for you and be welcomed at your feast in heaven where all creation worships you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power**

**be yours for ever and ever. Amen**

[13]

*The Lord’s Prayer*

Rejoicing in God’s new creation, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father,**

**who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom come;**

**thy will be done;**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation;**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**the power, and the glory**

**for ever and ever. Amen**

*Breaking of the Bread*

Jesus says, I am the bread of life,

whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

**Lord, our hearts hunger for you;**

**give us this bread always.**

*Giving of Communion*

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

**Therefore let us keep the feast.**

[14]

*Post Communion Collect*

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.

*Prayer after Communion*

**Eternal God,**

**whose Son Jesus Christ is the way,**

**the truth and the life:**

**grant us to walk in his way,**

**to rejoice in his truth,**

**and to share his risen life:**

**who is alive and reigns,**

**now and for ever. Amen**

[15]

*Final Hymn*

I danced in the morning when the world was begun

I danced in the moon, and the stars and the sun

I came down from Heaven and I danced on the Earth

At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain:

Dance, then, wherever you may be

I am the Lord of the Dance, said He

And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be

And I'll lead you all in the dance, said He.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee

But they would not dance; and they wouldn’t follow me

I danced for the fisherman, for James and John

They came with me and the dance went on.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame

The holy people said it was a shame

They whipped, and they stripped, and they hung me high

They left me there on a cross to die.

I danced on a Friday, when the sky turned black

It's hard to dance with the Devil on your back

They buried my body, and they thought I'd gone,

But I am the dance and I still go on.

They cut me down, and I lept up high

I am the light that will never, never die

I'll live in you if you'll live in me

I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.

[16]

*THE SENDING OUT*

*The Blessing*

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

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 among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

He is not here. He is risen.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

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