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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 The strife is o'er, the battle done;  
the victory of life is won;  
the song of triumph has begun.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

2 The powers of death have done their worst,  
but Christ their legions has dispersed.  
Let shouts of holy joy outburst.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

3 The three sad days are quickly sped;  
he rises glorious from the dead.  
All glory to our risen Head.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

4 He broke the bonds of death and hell;

the bars from heaven's high portals fell.

Let hymns of praise his triumph tell.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

5 Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee,

from death's dread sting Thy servants free,

that we may live and sing to thee.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! [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.**

**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 of the Day*

Risen Christ,

Your wounds declare your love for the world

And the wonder of your risen life:

Give us compassion and courage

To risk ourselves for those we serve.

To the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

[3]

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*The First Reading*

55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

57 At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, 58 dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

*Acts 7:55-end New International Version (NIV)*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.** Alleluia.

[4]

*Second Hymn*

[5]

*Gospel Reading*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John

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

**Jesus Comforts His Disciples**

14 “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. 4 You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Jesus the Way to the Father

5 Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

8 Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

9 Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

[6]

11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. 12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. 13 And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

*John 14:1-14 New International Version (NIV)*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

[7]

*The Sermon*

Last week I spoke about how the Church needs to be focused on the Teachings of Jesus, prayer, fellowship, and generosity. You could say that these are the things that we need to do, but, knowing what we should do naturally leads us to ask the question “how”.

The foundation of how is, by allowing Jesus into your life. He is the way, the truth, and the life, and the way to the Father. By allowing Jesus into your life you know the way to the Father, and as the Father works through Jesus, he also works through you.

Simple! Or gobbledy gook? The apostles did not lack faith, but they were struggling to understand, and we often struggle too. We need to understand and be able to explain that by studying Jesus’s teachings and through prayer we invite our living God to shape the way we think and feel. When the living Jesus is in our heart and mind in this way, he can unite our fellowship in love, and help us to have the kind of generous spirit that will show the world what his grace and mercy look like.

Only by having Jesus in our hearts and at the heart of everything we do can we be a Church that lives out the good news of Jesus in the world.

[8]

*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.**

[9]

**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, we thank you that you are our good shepherd. Guide us that we will be faithful to your teachings, meet us in our prayers, and inspire us to always keep generosity at the heart of our fellowship.

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

Give us patience when we think of those we love and yearn to see again. Help our leaders to make wise decisions as they look to allow our society to begin interacting more, that in everything we do the needs of the vulnerable will not be forgotten.

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

[10]

We pray for the world economy and all those who influence how our resources are used. That those who live in the poorer parts of our world will not be denied access to the medicines and food that they need and we have.

Lord, even as wealthy nations struggle, we pray for the kind of generosity that is needed.

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 we thank you for all 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:

[11]

*Third Hymn*

You are the Vine, we are the branches

Keep us abiding in You,

You are the Vine, we are the branches

Keep us abiding in You.

Then we'll grow in your love

then we'll go in your Name

that the world will surely know

that you have power to heal and to save.

You are the Vine, we are the branches

Keep us abiding in You.

[12]

*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.**

[13]

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**

[14]

*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*

Alleluia, Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

[15]

*Whether you are able to receive the bread and wine from the priest or not, you are invited to say this prayer.*

Jesus, Lord and Saviour,

I thank you for the gift of faith

that you have placed within my heart.

By your Holy Spirit,

grant that my faith and spirit will be fed by your grace,

that I may be able to follow in your ways,

now and always. **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**

[16]

*Final Hymn*

1

Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided,  
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,  
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:  
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.  
  
2

Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,  
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,  
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:  
Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.  
  
3

Lord, for our land in this our generation,  
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:  
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,  
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.

4

Lord, for our world when we disown and doubt You,  
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,  
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without You:  
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.  
  
5

Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -  
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,  
past put behind us, for the future take us:  
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.

[17]

*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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