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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*

AS WE ARE GATHERED, JESUS IS HERE
One with each other, Jesus is here
Joined by the Spirit,
washed in the blood
Part of the body, the Church of God
As we are gathered, Jesus is here
One with each other, Jesus is here

[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*

Almighty God,

Whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life;

Raise us who trust in him,

from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,

That we may seek those things which are above,

Where he reigns with you

In the unity of the Holy Spirit,

One God, Now and for ever. **Amen.**

[3]

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*The First Reading*

The Fellowship of the Believers

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

*Acts 2:42-end New International Version (NIV)*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.** Alleluia.

[4]

*Second Hymn*

1

The Lord’s my Shepherd, I’ll not want;

 He makes me down to lie

In pastures green; He leadeth me

 The quiet waters by.

2

My soul He doth restore again,

 And me to walk doth make

Within the paths of righteousness,

 E’en for His own name’s sake.

3

Yea, though I walk through

 death’s dark vale,

 Yet will I fear no ill;

For Thou art with me, and Thy rod

 And staff me comfort still.

4

My table Thou hast furnished

 In presence of my foes;

My head Thou dost with oil anoint,

 And my cup overflows.

5

Goodness and mercy all my life

 Shall surely follow me,

And in God’s house forevermore

 My dwelling-place shall be.

[5]

*Gospel Reading*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to John

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

**The Good Shepherd and His Sheep**

10 “Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. 2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. 3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. 4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. 5 But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” 6 Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

7 Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. 8 All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. 9 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.[a] They will come in and go out, and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

*John 10:1-10 New International Version (NIV)*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

[6]

*The Sermon*

Pentecost and the birth of the Church was undoubtedly an extremely exciting time for the disciples. However, it was surely a very disturbing time as well.

Things changed, and many of the changes were not ones that they may have chosen. There had always been three pillars to the way they lived out their faith; the law, sacrifices and the temple. As they read their scriptures (our Old Testament) they had to see how the law worked through the prism of the grace and mercy of Christ. On the cross Jesus had become, the one perfect sacrifice, meaning that sacrificial worship was no longer necessary in the old way of thinking. And through persecution many of them would soon lose access to temple worship altogether. The whole way that they lived out their faith changed almost overnight.

At the end of acts 2 we see how they began to deal with these changes. They knew what they had to keep, what had to be their priorities, The Apostles teachings, prayer, fellowship, and generosity.

As we live through uncertain times today, surely, we should ensure that whatever shape our Church community takes, it should be based around these same four pillars.

[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, 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.

[9]

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:

[10]

*Third Hymn*

1

Teach me Thy way, O Lord,

 Teach me Thy way;

Thy gracious aid afford,

 Teach me Thy way.

Help me to walk aright;

More by faith, less by sight;

Lead me with heav’nly light,

 Teach me Thy way.

2

When doubts and fears arise,

 Teach me Thy way;

When storms o’erspread the skies,

 Teach me Thy way.

Shine through the cloud and rain,

Through sorrow, toil, and pain;

Make Thou my pathway plain,

 Teach me Thy way.

3

Long as my life shall last,

 Teach me Thy way;

Where’er my lot be cast,

 Teach me Thy way.

Until the race is run,

Until the journey’s done,

Until the crown is won,

 Teach me Thy way.

[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*

Alleluia, Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

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

[14]

*Post Communion Collect*

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.

*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 serve a risen Saviour,
He's in the world today
I know that He is living,
whatever men may say
I see His hand of mercy,
I hear His voice of cheer
And just the time I need Him
He's always near.

*He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives),
Christ Jesus lives today
He walks with me and talks with me
Along life's narrow way
He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives),
Salvation to impart
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart!*

In all the world around me
I see His loving care
And though my heart grows weary
I never will despair
I know that He is leading,
through all the stormy blast
The day of His appearing
will come at last. *He lives………*

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian
Lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs
to Jesus Christ, the King
The hope of all who seek Him,
the help of all who find
None other is so loving,
so good and kind. *He lives………*

[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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[17]