

Welcome to
your Parish Church
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH

Holy Communion

Easter II, Sunday 24th April 2022

We gather

At home, have ready in an honoured place a portion of food and something to drink. It may be bread and wine or something else. Set your Bible alongside. You might light a candle.

We imagine everyone in their homes around the parish, united in preparing for prayer.

Music as we gather:

1. Haven't you heard that Jesus is risen?
Mary was there at crack of the dawn;
weeping, she found him down in the garden:
laughter is living and grieving is gone.

*Our hearts are glowing,
our eyes are showing that Jesus lives.*

2. Haven't you heard that Jesus is risen?
Cleopas told us. Evening drew on;
walking and talking, travelling with them,
Jesus was present: now grieving is gone.

3. Haven't you heard that Jesus is risen?
Peter was fishing. Out of the dawn
Jesus called: "Shoot your net to the starboard" –
fishing is thriving and grieving is gone.

4. Haven't you heard that Jesus is risen?
Haven't you heard that Jesus goes on?
Haven't you heard that Jesus is with us?
Laughter is living and grieving is gone. *(words & music: Alison M Robertson)*

When the song finishes we stand in silence. We sing:

[This is the day](#)

1. This is the day, this is the day
 that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;
 we will rejoice, we will rejoice
 and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
 This is the day that the Lord has made;
 we will rejoice and be glad in it.
 This is the day, this is the day
 that the Lord has made.

2. This is the day, this is the day
 when he rose again, when he rose again;
 we will rejoice, we will rejoice
 and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
 This is the day when he rose again;
 we will rejoice and be glad in it.
 This is the day, this is the day
 when he rose again.

3. This is the day, this is the day
 when the Spirit came, when the Spirit came;
 we will rejoice, we will rejoice
 and be glad in it, and be glad in it.
 This is the day when the Spirit came;
 we will rejoice and be glad in it.
 This is the day, this is the day
 when the Spirit came.

(words & music: Les Garrett)

We acclaim:

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
 be with us all. **Amen.**

WELCOME and NOTICES

We pray:

**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 the Holy Spirit, that we may
 perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name;
 through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

We seek forgiveness

CONFESSION

Deacon: We acknowledge the times people have been silenced for speaking the truth or told to be quiet for being too joyful. (Acts 5)

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

We admit to you the subtle ways we try to lock you out of our life.

Christ, have mercy. (John 20)

Christ, have mercy.

We admit to you the disasters that ensue when humanity forgets your dominion. (Revelation 1)

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Silence

Lord our God, in our sin we have avoided your call. Our love for you is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes away early. Have mercy on us; deliver us from judgement; bind up our wounds and revive us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(cf Hosea 6)

FORGIVENESS *is declared:*

[May] The God of all healing and forgiveness draw *us* to himself, and cleanse *us* from all *our* sins that *we* may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GLORIA

1. Glory be to God in heaven,
songs of praise and joy we bring;
thankful hearts and voices raising,
to creation's Lord we sing.

Lord we thank you:

Lord we bless you:

glory be to God our King;

glory be to God our King.

2. Lamb of God who on your shoulders
bore the load of this world's sin:
only Son of God the Father
you have brought us peace within.

Lord have mercy,

Christ have mercy,

now your glorious reign begin;

now your glorious reign begin.

3. You O Son of God are holy,
you we praise with one accord:
none in heaven or earth is like you,
only you are Christ the Lord:
with the Father
and the Spirit
ever worshipped and adored;
ever worshipped and adored.

THE COLLECT for the Second Sunday of Easter

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

READING [Acts 5:27-32](#)

READING [Revelation 1:4-8](#)

HYMN [Love's redeeming work is done](#)

1. Love's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won:
lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er,
lo, he sets in blood no more.

2. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened paradise.

3. Lives again our glorious King;
where, O death, is now thy sting?
Dying once, he all doth save;
where thy victory, O grave?

4. Soar we now where Christ has led,
follow'ing our exalted Head;
made like him, like him we rise;
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

5. Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!
praise to thee by both be giv'n;
thee we greet triumphant now;
hail, the Resurrection thou!

(words: Charles Wesley; music: John Wesley's 'Foundery Collection' [1742])

We remain standing for the GOSPEL READING John 20:19-end

LINK: <https://bible.oremus.org/?q|=517727697>

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
All: Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end This is the Gospel of the Lord
All: Praise to you, O Christ.

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

SERMON from Nigel Pietroni

Back in the days when I used to regularly deliver school assemblies, one of the schools Christmas favourites was always an assembly involving Sprouts and custard. The idea was that the sprouts represented ordinary life, the day today run of the mill and ordinary lives we all lead. Custard, which I always think of as a very special treat, and one of my favourite foods, represented Christmas. I would pour the custard on the sprouts and then eat them...of course they tasted disgusting! The point was that no matter how delicious the topping nothing could change the taste of cold sprouts....no matter how amazing the sparkle and glitter of Christmas, unless we actually take to heart the reality of the incarnation, Jesus with us in the day to day, it makes very little difference to our day to day lives.

As I returned from holiday surrounded by the news of the ongoing appalling tragedy of Ukraine, the terrible war crimes committed, the worrying reality of climate change, the appalling corruption and lies of our prime minister and government, the despicable and inhuman relocation of those seeking asylum to Rwanda and the awful reality of the cost of living crisis on the poorest and most vulnerable in our country, I found myself asking the question, what difference does Easter make?

Are our lives and world different because of Easter and, if so, how and in what ways? When I look at my life today it looks a whole lot like it did last Sunday, the week before, and the week before that. And when I look at the world today it looks pretty much the same as before.

Before Easter there was a pandemic. There was war in Ukraine. There was a cost of living crisis, and Boris Johnson was lying to cover his back. After Easter there's still a pandemic. There's still war in Ukraine and Boris Johnson is still pathetically trying to cover his own back. Before Easter there was illness and death. After Easter there's still illness and death. Before Easter there was pain and brokenness in the world. After Easter there's still pain and brokenness in the world.

Of course Easter is when we celebrate Jesus conquering death, overcoming his greatest battle. Sins are forgiven. Love wins. All things are being made new. Alleluia. Christ is risen.

On most days I believe it too. I'm just not sure what all that means or looks like on a day to day basis. And I don't think I'm the only one who will occasionally struggle with that. I think we all do, and I think that's why every year we come to this day – the Second Sunday of Easter – and hear the same gospel story. Today's gospel is the same one we heard last year on this day, the year before, and the year before that. It's the disciples' story of uncertainty, fear, and struggle with what to do with Jesus' resurrection. And it's our story with those things too. We can relate to it, we can relate to Thomas and his doubts, we can relate to the disciples fear, because we have all shared in them in some way.

On that first Easter morning, "while it was still dark," Mary Magdalene discovered the empty tomb. She saw and spoke with Jesus. He called her by name. She left the garden of resurrection, went to the disciples, and told them, "I have seen the Lord."

And what did the disciples say and do in response to that good news? Not a lot. They didn't do anything. They didn't jump up and down and shout for joy. They didn't say, "Alleluia! Christ is risen!" They didn't give thanks and praise to God. They weren't filled with courage and hope. They didn't make radical changes in the way they lived. They didn't claim for themselves a new life or a new future. Instead, they locked the doors. And Thomas doubted the whole thing happened in the first place, and perhaps he was just voicing what others felt but dare not say.

Apparently, they didn't do or say anything on Easter day. And if they did, John didn't consider it worth including in his account of the gospel. The next thing we hear after Mary's good news is that it was the evening of Easter. The disciples were afraid. And they locked the doors of their house.

Jesus steps into the midst of their fear. Locked doors cannot keep him out, but they do keep the disciples in. "Peace be with you," he says. He breathes on them. He shares his life with them. He sends them even as the Father sent him. And a week later? Nothing has changed. The disciples are in the same house behind the same locked doors. And it's hard to see or say what difference Jesus' resurrection has made for any of them.

Jesus is free, but the disciples have imprisoned themselves. The tomb is empty, but the house is full. The stone has been rolled back from Jesus' tomb, but the doors of the disciples' lives are closed and locked. And they're afraid of what's on the other side of those doors.

I wonder what doors of your house you've closed and locked. What are you afraid of? And what will it take to unlock the doors of your house?

I'm not asking about the house in which you spend most of your life. I am asking about the house of your heart, the house of your imagination, the house of your creativity. I want to know about your house of love, your house of compassion and empathy, your house of hope and courage. In what ways have you used or allowed guilt, regret, disappointment, anger, resentment, sorrows and losses, wounds and hurts to lock the doors of your life? What houses your deepest longings and desires? What houses your dreams, delights, and the things that enliven you and make your heart beat faster? What doors need to be unlocked and opened in order for you to live more whole heartedly?

As long as we remain behind the locked doors of our houses nothing will change. We cannot sadly on our own change the events of the world around us. The world today will look the same as it did before Easter. Our lives today will look the same as they did before Easter.

Every time we unlock and open a door in our house we step into our own resurrection. Easter makes a difference. And the Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Easter is Jesus inviting, asking, calling, insisting, and wooing us into life and more life. It means the unattainable is within reach. The impossible is possible. The never before imagined doesn't sound so crazy. Easter is Jesus' promise that there is a future on the other side of our locked doors. But it's up to you and me to unlock and open those doors.

Did you notice that in today's gospel? Jesus did not unlock the doors for the disciples. They would have to do that for themselves, and so do you and I. No one else, not even Jesus, can open the doors you've locked. No one else, not even Jesus, can open the doors I've locked. That's for you and me to do. That's our Easter life, and you and I already hold in our hands the key. It won't change the world and the bad news stories, but that Easter hope enables us to live in that world and to be the people he wants us to be.

We affirm our faith

We stand and at home, if able, we turn to look in the direction of Church, to affirm our faith in God, revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

APOSTLES' CREED

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS

In prayer at home, spend time with each reading and pray for places where joy is needed and dominant bitterness and resentment need to be displaced.

Pray for anyone who seems imprisoned by outside circumstances or their own regret or mistakes.

Pray for any confined underground in Ukraine.

Pray for any who have to keep their faith secret.

Pray for a change of heart for the nations, forgetful of God's dominion; and all we encounter whose purpose is self-aggrandising.

We remember those who have died, including William (Bill) Gardner, for Easter reassurance for all who mourn.

THE PEACE

We pause to remember each other: those worshipping at home, and those worshipping in Church and those we care for who are far away.

Deacon: The risen Lord came and stood among his disciples and said "peace be with you," and they were glad when they saw the Lord.

We say to one another:

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

HYMN

1. Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
he whose word cannot be broke
formed thee for his own abode.
On the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

2. See, the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters,
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace which, like the Lord, the giver,
never fails from age to age.

3. Round each habitation hov'ring,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a cov'ring,
showing that the Lord is near.
Thus they march, the pillar leading,
light by night and shade by day;
daily on the manna feeding
which he gives them when they pray.

4. Saviour, if of Zion's city
I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy name.
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
boasted pomp and empty show;
solid joys and lasting treasure
none but Zion's children know.

(words: John Newton, based on Isaiah 33:20-21 alt; music: Croatian folk melody, adapt Franz Joseph Haydn)

The Table is prepared in Church. At home, now is the time to say the Lord's Prayer (below) and consume the food and drink you have prepared, first praying:

God, we long for Communion. With this symbolic meal stir my hope for the fellowship meal we cannot yet see, and help me wait for it with patience. **Amen.**

(cf Romans 8:2)

We tell the story of salvation

Taking the bread and wine, the Priest says:

Be present, be present Lord Jesus Christ, our risen high priest; make yourself know in the breaking of bread. **Amen.**

Priest: The Lord is here.

All: God's 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.

Father, you made the world and love your creation. You gave your Son Jesus Christ to be our saviour. His dying and rising have set us free from sin and death, and so we gladly thank you, with saints and angels praising you and saying:

We repeat after the cantor:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord!

God of power and God of might.

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

**Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord most high.**

Hosanna.

Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

We praise you, we bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit, that broken bread and wine outpoured may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son. On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you. He broke the bread, gave it to them and said: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
do this in remembrance of me.

A bell is rung

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine. Again he praised you, gave it to them and said: 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.

A bell is rung

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did. In him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross. Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Deacon: Great is the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died,
Christ is risen
Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth. Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with all the saints to feast at your table in heaven. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Deacon: 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.**

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

**All: Though we are many, we are one body.
For we all share in one bread.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you. Eat in remembrance that he died and now lives for you, and feed on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

We sing: **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. (x2)**

We pause to remember all who pray at home, then share the bread, now for us the body of Christ.

We now have two points for distribution of bread. We make one line, but receive from alternate sides.

ANTHEM *during Communion* [In Christ alone](#)

1. In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here the love of Christ I stand.

2. In Christ alone! – who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on that cross as Jesus died,
the will of God was satisfied –
for every sin on him was laid;
here in the death of Christ I live.

3. There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain:
then bursting forth in glorious day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine –
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

(words & music: Stuart Townend & Keith Getty)

We are sent out

Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with your Word *[and with the body of Christ]*. Strengthen us in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

THE BLESSING

God who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory, give *us* joy and peace in *our* faith; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with *us* this Eastertide and always. **Amen.**

HYMN [O praise ye the Lord!](#)

1. O praise ye the Lord! praise him in the height;
rejoice in his word, ye angels of light;
ye heavens, adore him, by whom ye were made,
and worship before him, in brightness arrayed.
2. O praise ye the Lord! praise him upon earth,
in tuneful accord, all you of new birth;
praise him who hath brought you his grace from above,
praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.
3. O praise ye the Lord! all things that give sound;
each jubilant chord re-echo around;
loud organs his glory forth tell in deep tone,
and, sweet harp, the story of what he hath done.
4. O praise ye the Lord! thanksgiving and song
to him be outpoured all ages along:
for love in creation, for heaven restored,
for grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord! Amen, Amen.

(words: Henry Williams Baker, based on Psalms 148 & 150 alt; music: Charles Hubert Hastings Parry)

We acclaim:

Deacon: Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ, Amen.



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