

Welcome to
your Parish Church
in the Diocese of Birmingham



ALL SAINTS
KINGS HEATH

Silence Speaks Volumes

Easter Day 2024

Holy Communion with Renewal of Baptism Vows

We gather

*If you are **worshipping 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. Have a candle ready and the means to light it to hand. Also have a dish of water beside you. If you have some fragrant ointment or soap, anoint your hands before worship.*

***In Church**, we gather quietly. As we do so, we remember the purposeful love of Jesus' female disciples that first Easter day as we receive fragrant ointment on our hands.*

When the music stops playing, we stand in silence.

As on the first Easter morning, a woman breaks the silence:

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?'

(Mark 16:1-3)

If you worship at home, light your candle as you listen to the Introit.

INTROIT: [This joyful Eastertide](#)

1. This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow.
My love, the Crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow.
*Had Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain: but now hath Christ arisen.*

2. My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a season slumber;
till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number.

3. Death's flood has lost its chill, since Jesus crossed the river:
lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver.

(words: George Ratcliffe Woodward; music: Traditional Dutch melody, arr Charles Wood)

Priest: Christ yesterday, and today,

All: the beginning and the end,

Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages;

**To Christ be glory and power through every age and for
ever. Amen.**

HYMN, during which the singers enter, the paschal candle is brought in and placed on its stand. Light is taken from it and, just as the news spread that first Easter day, we watch it grow brighter as we light one another's candles.

1. [Jesus Christ is risen today](#) *Alleluia!*
our triumphant holy day, *Alleluia!*
who did once, upon the cross, *Alleluia!*
suffer to redeem our loss. *Alleluia!*

2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, *Alleluia!*
unto Christ, our heavenly King, *Alleluia!*
who endured the cross and grave, *Alleluia!*
sinners to redeem and save. *Alleluia!*

3. But the pains that he endured, *Alleluia!*
our salvation have procured; *Alleluia!*
now above the sky he's King, *Alleluia!*
where the angels ever sing. *Alleluia!*

*(words: 'Lyra Davidica' [1708] & others;
music: Melody from 'Lyra Davidica' [1708], harm William Henry Monk; descant: Heathcote Statham)*

Priest: It is truly right that with full hearts, clear minds and strong voices we should praise the unseen God from whom we all draw life, and Jesus the anointed one, the human face of God's own goodness. In Christ the gap between us and God's deep mystery has been bridged. This is the day God swallows death, that door we once feared to approach; God absorbs its sting in God's own life, strips death of all power and renews our fainting hearts. Morning truly blessed, when heaven and earth are divided no more, women and men are reconciled with God and death gives way to life.

Deacon: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Deacon: In the beginning was the Word

All: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was in the world

and the world came into being through him.

He came to what was his own

and his own people did not accept him.

In him was life and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness

and the darkness did not overcome it.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us

and we have seen his glory.

(John 1)

THE GLORIA

Leaders: [Glory! Glory! Glory to God!](#)

Glory! Glory! Glory to God!

All: Glory! Glory! Glory to God!

Glory! Glory! Glory to God!

Glory to God in the heights of the heavens.

Peace to God's people, all people on earth. **Glory...**

Son of the Father, all glory and worship;

Praise and thanksgiving to you, Lamb of God. **Glory...**

You take away_ the sin of the world_

Have mercy on us, receive_ our prayer. **Glory...**

Seated in pow'r at the right of the Father,

Jesus alone is the Lord, the most high. **Glory...**

And with the Spirit of love everlasting,

Reigning in glory for ever. Amen. **Glory...**

George Salazar, tr Paul Inwood

EASTER COLLECT

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant the we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity. **Amen.**

We gain confidence in the Easter news

We remain standing as the GOSPEL READING continues:

When they looked up, the women saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. (Mark 16:4-8)

Deacon: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

HYMN [Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord
alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.](#)

1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of creation.
2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth.
Jesus has died and is risen.
3. We have been crucified with Christ.
Now we shall live for ever.
4. God has proclaimed the just reward:
"Life for us all, alleluia!"
5. Come, let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Saviour.

(words & music: Donald Fishel alt, arr Andrew Moore)

We sit for the NEW TESTAMENT READING Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of

all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

SERMON *in Church is from Tariro. (we extinguish our candles as we sit)*

For those at home, here is a reflection on Mark 16:1-8 which David shared at the Dawn service last year.

"They said nothing to anyone. For they were afraid."

For a book that began with the words "the beginning of the Good news... of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" this is, to say the least, a self-effacing ending. Other endings have been added on in subsequent centuries, perhaps legitimate affirmations of faith, but this is where it ended in the earliest Gospel read out in vulnerable but vibrant Christian communities around the Mediterranean. How did it work on their hearts, and how might it work on ours?

First, this ending suggests that then news that Easter morning was good, very good, but not necessarily easy. For if that gentleness, that healing touch, that wise voice that was crushed and silenced on Good Friday has been vindicated in resurrection; if it has been shown to have greater power than hatred, greater integrity than politics, greater endurance than violence, then our delight and sense of satisfying justice may give way to a spine-tingling feeling that this generous power may take over our life; may re-order my priorities, may place demands on me, may draw me into trouble, may one day make me a victim of mockery. Remember that for Mark's hearers, martyrdom was a real and likely possibility. There was bound to be reticence. Even the women brave enough to make such a beautiful gesture as anoint the dead Rabbi were afraid, and thought before telling anyone what the mysterious messenger had told them.

Secondly, this ending hints that the Good News is true rather than triumphal. It's true to our emotional life and psychology. We know that too slick a presentation makes us suspicious of a sales-pitch. Too boastful a victor drains all the pleasure and admiration out of their success. Someone who gloats about success loses credibility and authority. No, this is the self-effacing style of a God who knows he has a great deal to give his people, even victory over death but, even as God, insists that humans he created in his image are

to be treated with respect as free, thinking people, people with critical minds and fragile confidence. It is, if you like, treating us as adults – more than we deserve, maybe – but this ending leaves us with a freedom and responsibility to respond in a way that a neat, happy ending might not.

That brings us to the most important meaning of the ending. Leaving us with a question more than an answer, this hanging-in-the-air ending begs us to respond to the news that Christ is risen. This ending means “to be continued...” It is a great big dot, dot, dot at the end of the text. The fact that we are hearing the news though the women at first “said nothing...for they were afraid” means that the news did get out eventually. We can piece it together with the other resurrection accounts. But Mark plops responsibility for the rest of the story in the hands of the hearer. What is your continuation of the gospel, embodied in your life?

The question is not, could those women have been better disciples. Even in the fear, they were good enough to send the message through history to be heard in this square two millennia later. No. The ending begs of us: are you people who look like believers in a risen Lord? Are you continuing the story? What is it about us and our church community that will make people look up quizzically from the odd ending of Mark, look over at us and say “there is the continuation of the story. There are the people who complete the book. They show me what the resurrection of Jesus means and their lives show me that it is true. Their generosity, their capacity to forgive, the way they find a place for fear to be expressed and so made safe, the place they make where different kinds of people seem to treat each other as gifts rather than threats, the way they discretely serve without blowing their own trumpet; the way violence doesn’t seem to be the answer for them...these are surely people of the resurrection.”

Would anyone recognise in us that the ending of Mark is in our hands, enacted in our homes, lives, work and church? It’s not for us to judge. We may feel inadequate to finish this gospel. But even if you feel afraid that Jesus has risen and may ask too much of you, or feel you’re not a convincing example of faith, take heart. Just remember how those tongue tied, frightened women simply did a bit, however haltingly, and how their friends, according to Luke, laughed at first. And look at us now, flawed as we are, two thousand years later, ready for a celebration breakfast thanks to them.

Priest: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

PRAYERS for the needs of the world, *using the response:*

Jesus, Lord of Life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Ending: Merciful Lord,

Accept our prayers and be with us always. Amen.

At home, pray for all who grieve and visit graves today that, like the women before meeting the Risen Jesus sought still to do something beautiful to remember him: anointing with fragrant spices. Ask God to help us find the beautiful things that will be healing and hopeful for each other in times of sorrow.

Spend some time thinking of the people you and we at All Saints have lost since last Easter. Give thanks for all they taught us.

The women clearly got through their fear soon enough to share what they had seen. Pray for anyone finding it hard to hope. Ask God to draw them forward step by step. The unutterable disaster of Friday's execution was irreversible. God made something unimaginably new and good happen out of it. Pray for the places in such rage and conflict that new life and reconciliation is unimaginable now. Pray for God to prepare them and us for his unexpected possibilities.

In Church, we now turn to face the font as a procession leads there as we sing:

Amen. Siakadumisa!

(Amen. Praise the name of the Lord. S Africa)

Water is taken from the Font.

We renew our **B**aptism Vows

Priest: Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

All: I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

We affirm our faith

Deacon: Brothers and sisters this joyful Easter Day I invite you to profess together the faith of the Church. Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ?

**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.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

***At home**, dip your fingers in the water and make the sign of the cross on your forehead and say this prayer, saying "me". If there is more than one of you, you could make the sign of the cross on each other and say the prayer for each other.*

In Church, David kneels before a member of the congregation who says:

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

and sprinkles him with water, reminding him of his baptism.

David then declares forgiveness for all and, following the cross back to the altar, sprinkles the congregation as we sing again:

Amen. Siakadumisa!

(Amen. Praise the name of the Lord. S

Africa)

THE PEACE

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. The peace of the Lord be always with you. We say to one another, to those worshipping at home, to Kings Heath, to the whole world:

All: the peace of the risen Lord be always with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

HYMN [The day of resurrection](#)

1. The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness, the passover of God!
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over with hymns of victory.

2 Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection-light;
and list'ning to his accents, may hear so calm and plain
his own "All hail" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.

3 Now let the heavens be joyful, and earth her song begin,
the round world keep high triumph, and all that is therein;
let all things, seen and unseen, their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord hath risen, our joy that hath no end.

*(words: St John of Damascus [c750], trans John Mason Neale;
music: 'Württemberg Gesangbuch' [1784])*

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.

Taking bread and wine, the Priest says:

Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ, our risen high priest,
All: Make yourself known in the breaking of bread.

We tell the story of God's faithfulness

Priest: The Lord is here.

All: God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Thanks and praise fill our hearts, almighty God, for you are the Lord of creation and new creation, of covenant and new covenant. You brought your people out of slavery to freedom in the promised Land, and you brought your Son from the depths of death to the glory of resurrection life. And so we gladly thank you, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise:

(repeat after cantor)

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord.

**God of power and God of might,
heaven 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 (x2)

Hosanna in the highest.

Joy and gladness are our song, redeeming God, for in your conquest of death we see the destiny of every hope in you. Come among us in the power of your Holy Spirit, that your children may be blessed with power and grace, and that this bread and cup may become for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread and gave it to them, saying "Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

A bell is rung

After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, 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."

A bell is rung

Deacon: Great is the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died,

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.

Hope and glory are our breath, merciful God, for you have rolled away the stone of despair, the stone of oppression, the stone of lament, the stone of grief, the stone of death, the stone of sin, the stone of fear. Come and stand among us and breathe on us your peace, breathe on us your power, breathe on us your eternal life, that all who labour, all who stumble, all who hunger and all who fall shall meet you in the breaking of bread and be lifted up by your touch. Shape your church to be your risen body; make our scars beautiful like your scars, make our lives life-giving like your life, and make our communion holy with your Mary, Mary Magdalene, Peter, John and all the saints, until you come again in glory and we eat with you in your kingdom, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, ever one God. **Amen.**

Deacon: Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**All: 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 and 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.**

We break and share the Bread

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

**All: Though we are many, we are one body,
because 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 hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

**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,
so 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.**

The AGNUS DEI is sung

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.

We make our way in turn to receive communion, Christians of every denomination are welcome to share the bread and wine. If you prefer not to receive, you are welcome to come forward for a prayer of blessing if you wish.

Music during Communion: [Now the green blade riseth](#)

1. Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

2. In the grave they laid him, Love by hatred slain,
thinking that never he would wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

3. Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
quick from the dead, my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

4. When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,
thy touch can call us back to life again;
fields of our hearts, that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

(words: John Macleod Campbell Crum alt; music: Traditional French melody, arr Christopher Tambling)

ANTHEM 1. Christ the Lord is ris'n again! Christ has broken ev'ry chain!
Hark, angelic voices cry, singing evermore on high,
alleluia, alleluia!
2. He who gave for us his life, who for us endured the strife
is our Paschal Lamb today! We too sing for joy and say
alleluia, alleluia!

3. He who bore all pain and loss comfortless upon the cross
lives in glory now on high, pleads for us, and hears our cry,
alleluia, alleluia!

4. He who slumbered in the grave is exalted now to save;
Now through Christendom it rings that the Lamb is King of kings.
Alleluia, alleluia!

5. Thou, our Paschal Lamb indeed, Christ, today your people feed;
take our sins and guilt away, let us sing by night and day,
alleluia, alleluia!

(words: Michael Weisse, trans Catherine Winkworth; music: Richard Shephard)

After Communion we pray:

Priest: Jesus Christ, we have done as you commanded and remembered
you in bread and wine so you have re-joined us with one another
and with you. As we have shared these goods in common, open
our hearts and hands to share all your gifts, especially the gift of
forgiveness, for which the world still hungers. **Amen.**

We are sent out

THE BLESSING

God, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life, and the
blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy
Spirit, be among you and remain with you this Eastertide and
always. **Amen.**

HYMN

1. [Thine be the glory](#), risen, conqu'ring Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where thy body lay:
*Thine be the glory, risen, conqu'ring Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

2. Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.
3. No more we doubt thee, glorious prince of life!
Life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conqu'rors through thy deathless love.
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

*(words: 'À toi la gloire' by Edmund Louis Budry, trans Richard Birch Hoyle;
music: George Frideric Handel)*

Deacon: With the power that raised Jesus from the dead at work within
you, go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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*Thank you to all who have prepared liturgy, printing, readings, music, prayers
and flowers for Easter.*

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