

Easter Day Celebration Service – with Spiritual Communion

You might like to light a candle and as you do so, remember those you won't be able to see today – remember your other communities and remember your fellow church family members if you are part of a church family.

We remember members of our St Peter's Church Family who cannot gather with us in this way, but who will be with us in spirit. We remember every one of them wherever they may be.

Gathering and Preparation

Peace to our homes and all who live in them, and peace to all our communities.

We say together:

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

Prayers of Penitence

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

All: Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life,
to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Collect - the gathering prayer of the Church

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 that 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.

Hymn – Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord (9)

*Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.*

Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
He is the King of creation. *Refrain.*

Spread the good news o'er all the earth.
Jesus has died and has risen. *Refrain.*

We have been crucified with Christ.
Now we shall live forever. *Refrain.*

God has proclaimed the just reward:
Life for all men, alleluia! *Refrain.*

Come, let us praise the living God,
Joyfully sing to our Saviour. *Refrain.*

William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898) © this version 1999 Kevin Mayhew Ltd.

Reading - Colossians 3.1-4

Since you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

This is the word of the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.
I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.
All Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (John 20:1-18)
All Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes. ¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' ¹⁶Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and

said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' which means Teacher. ¹⁷Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

REFLECTION

Prayers of Intercessions:

Intercessions conclude with:

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

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. Alleluia.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you....

Hymn – All heaven declares (16)

All heaven declares the glory of the risen Lord
Who can compare with the beauty of the Lord?
Forever He will be the Lamb upon the throne
I gladly bow my knee and worship Him alone

I will proclaim the glory of the risen Lord
Who once was slain to reconcile man to God
Forever You will be the Lamb upon the throne
I gladly bow my knee and worship You alone

Repeat verse 1

Tricia Richards © 1987 Thankyou Music Jesus

The Preparation of the table

The table is prepared.....

Lord of life, with unbounded joy we offer you our sacrifice of praise.

As we are fed with the bread of heaven may we know your resurrection power;
through Christ our risen Lord.

All Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
All: And also with you.

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

It is right to give you thanks and praise, in sickness and health, in suffering and joy, in times of fear and celebration, through Christ our risen Saviour and Redeemer, who stands by us and pours out for our healing the oil of consolation and the wine of renewed hope, turning the darkness of our pain into the dawning light of his kingdom.

In your wisdom and love you anoint your holy people to be a royal priesthood, to share in Christ's suffering and to reveal his glory to the world.

Therefore earth unites with heaven to sing a new song of praise; we too join with angels and archangels as they proclaim your glory without end:

All Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, and as we follow his example and obey his command, grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these gifts of bread and wine may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, 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.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we remember his offering of himself made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

All Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life: Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you,
Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:

All Blessing and honour and glory and power be yours for ever and ever. Amen

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All 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.

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 this bread of life.

Jesus Christ offered his body and shed his blood for you and me – on behalf of us all I receive these sacraments in honour and remembrance that Jesus died for us all...

I invite you to hold out your hands and open your heart to receive our Lord Jesus Christ spiritually, feeding on him in your heart by faith with thanksgiving.

We say together:

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given us,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for us.
Since we cannot now receive you sacramentally,
we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts.
O most merciful redeemer,
friend and brother,
may we know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day. Amen

Prayer after Communion:

All Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

Hymn

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

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!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Lyricist: Unknown, V1 anon translation of Surrexit hodie 14th Century. V2 – 3 J. Arnolds Complete Psalmodist. Public Domain.

Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. Amen

Be at peace wherever you might be, loving and serving the Lord. Amen