



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND



# Eucharist Easter Day

10am  
12<sup>th</sup> April 2020

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

*We will begin our service at 10 am by singing Jesus Christ is Risen Today and Thine Be the Glory. We join with people across Great Britain who are also singing these very hymns, as a very special sing-along. We ask you to go outside, if you are able, and join with people throughout our country as we joyfully proclaim the good news: He Is Risen!*

**Jesus Christ is Risen Today  
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 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*

*Music: 'Easter Hymn' – Adapted from a melody in Lyra Davidica*

## **The Gathering**

*Please stand*

*President:* Christ yesterday and today,  
*People:* **the beginning and the end,**

*President:* Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him and all ages;  
*People:* **to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever.  
Amen.**

## **The Collect**

*President:* 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.  
*People:* **Amen.**

**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 that he endured, Alleluia!  
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!  
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## **THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*Please sit for the First Reading:*

Jeremiah 31 1-6

At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. Thus says the LORD: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall take your tambourines, and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers. Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit. For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: "Come, let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God."

**Reader:** This is the word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**A reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

Then Peter began to speak to them: “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.”

## The Gospel

*President:* This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* **Praise to you O Christ.**

*President:* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*People:* **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

*President:* I am the first and the last, say the Lord, and the living one;  
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

*People:* **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

*President:* Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.

*People:* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Early 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. So 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.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look<sup>[a]</sup> into the tomb; and 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. They 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." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" 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." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus 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.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

## **The Sermon** *The Reverend Yejide Peters*

Christ is risen Alleluia! Christ is Risen from the dead trampling down death by death and upon those in the tomb bestowing life!

On this most glorious day we rejoice that God has saved us, even from death. Entering into our lives he has grasped our hands and pulled us through to a reality we would never have imagined.

Declaring Easter in the midst of a world-wide pandemic feels surreal. Each night we hear the totals of dead and it feels as though our news has become one endless necrology. And yet, we proclaim Easter. We say, as Christians have during plagues, enslavement, sufferings of every kind that Jesus is with us and that we are with him. We have a promise not only of new life now, but of abundant and everlasting life beyond this world.

The promise of Christ is not that suffering is a figment of our imagination. The promise of Chris is not that we are spared death or that our loved ones will not leave us to mourn. The promise is that death is not the end. And that seems a fitting message for these days of suffering and death. We need the promise of Resurrection, the truth of resurrection more than ever.

Because Jesus suffered, and it was real. Because he died, and it was real. And because he is risen. And it is real. As real as our newscasts, as real as the ambulance silences. More real. Because Jesus is the ground of all truth. The first of all things. There is no real without him.

We cannot let our fear destroy our ability to hope in what is true. Hope is not fantasy, it is a decision to move forward with trust, with or without certitude. We must hold fast to the faith we have received. It is not faith because it is untrue, it is faith because it requires us to say yes and to move forward in that yes.

This Easter we say yes to life. We say yes to hope, to love, to life. We say yes to God in the midst of a world that feels rudderless, because what seems to be is not what

is. God is here and present and loving and has never left. And even if we can't say yes, we say "Jesus"—in our uncertainty, in our disbelief, we call on him. He will answer us and he will never let us go. We say yes because Jesus has already said the Eternal Yes for us.

Our living savior lives and lives and lives. And so shall we. Not in spite of, but because of our broken world and our fragile lives, we needed him. And he has met us in our need and given us the sweetest of gifts. Himself. Life. Everything.

Even as we cry, and we worry, and we fret, we hear a voice, we look up, and recognise him calling us each by name. Calling us back to Himself.

Our hearts may be broken. And yet, we rejoice. There will be life after these troubled times, and perhaps it will be sweeter because we know what we have missed. But it will be nothing compared to the life we will share in the Eternal City, with the one who loves us endlessly. And so we rejoice with those who are living and those who are dead and those who are to come. For He is the God of all time and in Him all things, though hidden, are complete. He has overcome the world.

Together with Saints and angels we sing "Christ is Risen from the Dead, trampling down death by death and upon those in the tomb bestowing life!"

## THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS

*President:* Now that we have completed our observance of Lent, we renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil.  
Therefore I ask these questions:

*President:* Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

*People:* **I reject them.**

*President:* Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

*People:* **I renounce them.**

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

*People:* **I repent of them.**

*President:* Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

*People:* **I turn to Christ.**

*President:* Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

*People:* **I submit to Christ.**

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

*People:* **I come to Christ.**

*President:* Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together the faith of the Church. Do you believe and trust in God the Father who made the world?

*People:* **I believe and trust in him.**

*President:* Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ who redeemed mankind?

*People:* **I believe and trust in him.**

*President:* Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God?

*People:* **I believe and trust in him.**

*People:* **Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all those who have been baptised in your name. Forgive us all our past offences, keep us faithful to our baptism, and make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen.**

*President:* May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, bring you his forgiveness and grace that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

*People:* **Amen.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*Please sit or kneel*

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Justin Archbishop of Canterbury, John Archbishop of York; Michael our Diocesan Bishop and Sara, our Area Bishop; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; we pray for our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, our Prime Minister Boris Johnson, all Ministers of Parliament, and all who govern and hold authority in this and every land.

Pray for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble. We pray for those who working on the front lines, especially those working with the NHS and other key workers. We pray especially for those who have asked the prayers of this benefice: for Chris Cheshire,

Cathryn, Emma, Sarah Doyle, Malcolm Booth, Jessica, Laverne, Maureen, Rachel, Jubilee, Lara, McKell.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for those who have died. We pray for the departed Joanna Nichols, Beryl Babel, Pamela Joy Owens, Mary Barker. We also pray for those who have died from COVID-19. Pray for all who have died and for those they leave to mourn.

*Silence*

We also pray for those who are remembered especially this week for Robert Plimmer, George Marston, Robert Allen, Dorothy Latham, Selwyn Jones, Michael Parker

*Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honoured. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*President:*

Merciful Father

*People:*

**Accept these prayers For the sake of your Son, Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## **THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT**

*President:*

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.  
Alleluia.

*People:*

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you  
**and also with you. Alleluia!**

*President:*

The Lord be with you

*People:*

**And also with you.**

*President:*

Lift up your hearts.

*People:*

**We lift them to the Lord.**

*President:*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



*People:* **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

*President:* It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks almighty and eternal Father, on this Easter Day to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works. For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory.

He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal. And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

### **Sanctus (Holy)**

*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.*

*President:* Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; 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. Great is the mystery of faith.

*People:* **Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.**

*President:* And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption. As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. Send the

Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

*People:* **Amen.**

*Please kneel*

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

*People:* **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.**

*President:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People:* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

## **Spiritual Communion**

**Give thanks for the saving death and resurrection of Jesus and ask him to be with you now.**

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

**O God, help me to trust you, help me to know that you are with me, help me to believe that nothing can separate me from your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*President:* God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have delivered us from the power of our enemy: grant us to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Please stand*

## **THE DISMISSAL**

*President:* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People:* **He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

*President:* 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.

*People:* **Amen.**

*President:* With the risen life of Christ within you, go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*People:* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

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