

THE SERVICE WITHOUT COMMUNION: Easter 2, Sunday 19 April, 2020. Year A

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

SONG - See what a morning (Resurrection hymn)

1. **See what a morning, gloriously bright
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
Folded the grave-clothes
Tomb filled with light,
As the angels announce Christ is risen!
See God's salvation plan, wrought in love,
Borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,
Fulfilled in Christ, the Man, for He lives,
Christ is risen from the dead!**

2. **See Mary weeping: 'Where is He laid?
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name:
It's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!
The voice that spans the years,
Speaking life, stirring hope,
Bringing peace to us,
Will sound till He appears,
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!**

3. **One with the Father, Ancient of Days,
Through the Spirit
Who clothes faith with certainty,
Honour and blessing, glory and praise
To the King crowned
With power and authority!
And we are raised with Him,
Death is dead, love has won
Christ has conquered;**

**And we shall reign with Him,
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!**

Stuart Townend & Keith Getty Copyright © 2003 Thankyou Music

CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF GRACE

Friends in Christ: Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins, and ask him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

He made heaven and earth.

I said, I will confess my sins to the Lord.

Then he forgave the guilt of my sin.

Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we confess to you that by nature we are sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against you by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to your infinite mercy and plead for your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Most merciful God,

you have given your only Son to die for us.

Have mercy on us,

and for his sake

grant us forgiveness of all our sins.

By your Holy Spirit

increase our knowledge of you and your will,

and make us obedient to your word,

so that by your grace

we may come to eternal life;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us, and has given his only Son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in his name he has given the right to become children of God, and has given them his Holy Spirit. Whoever believes and is baptised will be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all.

Amen.

PSALM 16

- ¹ Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.
- ² I say to the LORD, 'You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you.'
- ³ As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble,
in whom is all my delight.
- ⁴ Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;
their drink-offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.
- ⁵ The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.
- ⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.
- ⁷ I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
- ⁸ I keep the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
- ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.
- ¹⁰ For you do not give me up to Sheol,
or let your faithful one see the Pit.
- ¹¹ You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

**Glory to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever, Amen.**

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Cantor: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Cantor: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Cantor: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

SONG OF PRAISE – AT 252 He is exalted

He is exalted, the King is exalted on high,
 I will praise him.
 He is exalted, forever exalted,
 And I will praise his name.
 He is the Lord, forever his truth shall reign,
 Heaven and earth, rejoice in his holy name,
 He is exalted, the King is exalted on high.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY (COLLECT)

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray for faith in our risen Lord. [silence]

Merciful God,
 your Son Jesus Christ
 is the resurrection and the life,
 who gives hope and joy
 to those who doubt.
 Give to us who do not see you
 faith and life and blessing,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns
 with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and forever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Hear the word of the Lord as it is written in the book of Acts, chapter 2, beginning at verse 14.

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them:

²² ‘You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— ²³this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and

foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. ²⁴But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. ²⁵For David says concerning him,

“I saw the Lord always before me,

for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;

²⁶ therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.

²⁷ For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.

²⁸ You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.”

²⁹ ‘Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. ³⁰Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. ³¹Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

“He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption.”

³²This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Hear the word of the Lord as it is written in the first letter of Peter, chapter 1, beginning at verse 3.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, ⁷so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable

and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

After the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

The holy gospel is written in chapter 20 of the Gospel according to St John, beginning at verse 19.

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' ²⁸Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S ADDRESS

SONG - AT 343 Jesus come and stand among us

**1. When disciples were frightened,
so confused that he was dead,
Jesus came and stood among them:
"Peace be with you!" he said.**

*He is risen, risen!
He was dead but now he lives.
We were lost but he has found us
with the life he gives.*

**2. Can we see you, can we touch you
like disciples long ago?
Would it make any difference?
Do we doubt what we know?**

*He is risen, risen!
He was dead but now he lives.
We were lost but he has found us
with the life he gives.*

**3. Jesus, come and stand among us,
show yourself to us again.
We will speak what you tell us,
we will go where you send.**

*He is risen, risen!
He was dead but now he lives.
We were lost but he has found us
with the life he gives.*

Robin Mann, used with Permission

SERMON

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.
 And 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, dead, and buried.
 He descended into hell.
 The third day he rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
 from thence 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

*or: Christian; *'catholic' here means 'universal'*

SONG - AT 148 Born for resurrection

1. Did you hear a song this morning
 Bursting through the silent dawn?
 Did you feel an ancient rhythm
 From the day this world was born?
 Sing aloud with God on high
 As God spans this Earth with sky:
 Join the Lord and all creation
 In a song of celebration!

2. Did you hear a sound this morning
 Breaking through a silent tomb?
 Did you feel an awesome tremor
 Like the stirring of a womb?
 Rise and greet the risen Lord

**With God's new triumphant word:
Celebrate your bold election!
You are born for resurrection!**

**3. Does the pain that tears your darkness
Mock you like the plight of Job?
Does it reach where death is laughing
And no human hand can probe?
Hear the song that sets us free
From the dread of agony:
Our Redeemer, Christ, has risen
To release our lives from prison!**

**4. Has the subtle doubt of Thomas
Bound your mind with chain and bar?
Have you lost the deep assurance
That affirms the self you are?
Hail the man whose flesh was torn:
Face in him yourself new-born;
You are formed to bear God's image!
Bear it new in Christ, your courage!**

**5. Did you hear the news this morning
Breaking through our petty strife?
Do you feel our parents wonder
If we know the Lord of life?
Set us free to live this word
From the free triumphant Lord:
Celebrate your bold election!
You are born for resurrection!**

Copyright Norman Habel 1970, used with permission

OFFERTORY SONG – AT 269 Create in us

**Create in us a clean heart O God,
Renew within us a right spirit.
Cast us not away from your presence, O Lord,
And take not your Holy Spirit from us.**

Restore to us fullness of joy,
 The joy that springs from your salvation.
 Lighten our minds, shelter our lives
 With your Spirit free.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

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 forever. Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you
 and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favour,† and give
 you peace.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

SONG – AT 164 In you is gladness

1. In you is gladness
 in all our sadness,
 Jesus, joy of every heart;
 by you are given
 blessings from heaven,
 true Redeemer, our delight.
 Our sins you've taken,
 our bonds you've broken;

trusting you surely,
 we build securely,
 we stand for ever. Hallelujah!
 Our hearts are turning
 to you with yearning,
 on you relying,
 living or dying,
 we're yours for ever. Hallelujah!

2 In you is calmness;
 nothing can harm us:
 world, or death, or Satan's plans.
 In our distresses
 you see and bless us;
 you have all things in your hands.
 Our heart rejoices,
 we lift our voices,
 singing your glory,
 telling your story
 now and for ever. Hallelujah!
 With adoration,
 in celebration,
 we love and praise you,
 eagerly raise you
 glad hymns for ever. Hallelujah!

In dir ist Freude

Johann Lindemann 1549-1631

Tr H F W Proeve (1973) and D A Schubert (1991)