

A Liturgy of the Word Second Sunday of Easter

Date: 16 April 2023

The video of the service or the sermon can be viewed on the website, YouTube or Facebook

Hymn

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 God hath brought us over
with hymns of victory.

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

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 of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord is risen,
our joy that hath no end.

Author: St John of Damascus

Call to Worship

Christ is risen! He greets us with a word of peace.

We welcome the risen Christ! We worship and adore him!

Christ is risen! Locked doors and doubting hearts cannot keep him away.

We welcome the risen Christ! We worship and adore him!

Christ is risen! He comes to bless us with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We welcome the risen Christ! We worship and adore him!

Gathering Prayer:

God of the risen Jesus, we praise you for the great love
that you have shown to redeem us by sending your Son Jesus.
Help us today to embrace the New Life that the resurrected
Christ is giving us. A Life beyond our doubts, faith over fear,
courage over confusion, belief over disbelief,
and trust to follow your guidance. As we worship today,
help us to feel the presence of the resurrected Jesus in our midst,
reminding us of your love and our purpose. **Amen.**



Collect for Purity

**Almighty God
to whom all hearts are open
all desires known.
and from whom no secrets are hid:
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**

The Penitence

Christ is risen. Yet we often act as if he is still in the tomb.
Let us confess all that turns us toward death,
so we can know the grace of new life through Christ.

We confess together:

**Saviour of the world,
forgive our doubts and disbelief.
You show up in our lives,
yet we fail to notice you and demand more proof.
We expect more when you have already given us enough.
Forgive our lack of faith.
Forgive our lack of gratitude.
Redeem us. Restore us.
Resurrect us for life in Christ. Amen.**

Absolution

“Jesus came and stood among the disciples and said,
‘Peace be with you’. Know that you are forgiven
and receive Christ’s peace. Alleluia. **Amen.**

The Collect

**God of mission,
you raised Jesus Christ as the first born of
the dead:
by your Holy Spirit, empower us to
witness to him
so that those who have not yet seen
may come to believe in him who was and
is and is to come,
and who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Word of God

Acts 2 : 14a,22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel Reading

Gospel: John 20:19-31



The Sermon

Revd. Matthew Wright

Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God in the words of the Apostle's Creed:

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit
And born of the Virgin Mary.
He 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
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
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 of the body
and the life everlasting. **Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

As we continue to celebrate the Resurrection, we are confident that Christ intercedes for us at the right hand of the Father. With faith in his love, we make our prayers in his name:

Be with your church throughout the world so that its preaching and works of love may continue to testify to our Lord's resurrection. Let it never lose its vision of establishing your kingdom here on earth, that it may use every opportunity to speak boldly of the truth that is of a risen Lord and Saviour of all. Bless the work of the Anglican Communion and our diocesan bishop Steve and all who hold office in leadership roles. Bless the work of the many groups who meet here week by week that those who pass through our doors may discover a friendship and fellowship that only comes from the love of Christ.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Lord Jesus on the first Easter Sunday you met your disciples with the beautiful greeting of "peace". Turn the hearts of national leaders to acts of justice that will lead to peace in the world.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer

Lord of the empty tomb, you move through locked doors, and into our places of fear. On this second Sunday of Easter, we call to mind your suffering people. Hear our prayers on behalf of:

Those who are exhausted by their lives and carrying heavy loads. Those whose fear and anxiety traps them in small places.

Those who are overwhelmed or depressed and cannot find their joy.

Those homes that are disrupted by anger and bitterness.

Those relationships that are distorted and dulled,

Those who need resurrection but are still stuck in the tomb.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Visit and comfort the sick and suffering dear Lord. Those in hospital and those who are housebound, those of our own families wherever they may be. Look down on them with mercy and compassion, and may they experience the healing power of Your love.

Lord in your mercy:

Hear our prayer

We pray for all who mourn. Those who mourn lives that have been lost; long lives lived well which have come to an end and lives which had still much promise and feel to us to have ended far too soon.

We trust each life to You, saving God, and we trust that each soul finds its home in Your eternal love. We thank you Lord for the opportunities in the life of our church to offer support and comfort to the bereaved.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

God of hope, you resurrect us from our places of despair, turning us toward your promises of peace. Help us rejoice in the beauty that surrounds us. Help us attend to the gifts you abundantly provide. Holy God, hear our prayers of gratitude for: The grace and support of loved ones who get us through difficult days. The joy of laughter, play and good fun and for opportunities to follow Christ in meaningful service and lives of purpose.

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we present these prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is risen from the dead, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Prayer for Offering

Risen and redeeming God, you have given us more than we could ever give you in return. You are gracious and generous in your love. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless our work on Christ's behalf. May we love as Christ loved. May we serve as Christ served. Call us forth into your world, guided by Christ's spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your Name
your kingdom come
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen**

Final Hymn

**We have a gospel to proclaim
Good news for men in all the earth;
The gospel of a Saviour's name:
We sing His glory, tell His worth.**

**Tell of His birth at Bethlehem,
Not in a royal house or hall
But in a stable dark and dim:
The Word made flesh, a light for all.**

**Tell of His death at Calvary,
Hated by those He came to save;
In lonely suffering on the cross
For all He loved His life He gave.**

**Tell of that glorious Easter morn:
Empty the tomb, for He was free.
He broke the power of death and hell**

That we might share His victory.
Tell of His reign at God's right hand,
By all creation glorified;
He sends His Spirit on His Church
To live for Him, the Lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name Him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel message we proclaim:
We sing His glory, tell His worth.

Author: Edward J. Burns (1968)

Final Blessing

Let us step out into the world knowing that we are not alone when doubts and fears surround us. The Risen Christ is with us empowering and encouraging us to transform our wounds into sources of liberation. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you this Easter and always.
Amen.

Dismissal

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



Giving

Thank you for your continued financial contribution to the church at this time so as to enable St Michael's to meet its obligations in mission and ministry.

E.F.T

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