



**Christ is Risen**  
**Third Sunday in Easter**  
**14th April 2024**

The Greeting

We meet in the name of  
The Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Christ is Risen!  
He is Risen indeed! Alleluia

Faithful one, whose word is life:  
come with saving power  
to free our praise,  
inspire our prayer  
and shape our lives  
for the kingdom of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**HYMN**

Christ is the King! O friends rejoice;  
brothers and sisters, with one voice  
make all men know he is your choice.  
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The first Apostle round them drew  
thousands of faithful men and true.  
sharing a faith for ever new  
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Then magnify the Lord, and raise  
anthems of joy and holy praise  
for Christ's brave saints of ancient days.  
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

O Christian women, Christian men,  
all the world over, seek again  
the Way disciples followed then.  
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Christ through all ages is the same:  
place the same hope in his great name,  
with the same faith his word proclaim.  
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Let love's unconquerable might  
your scattered companies unite  
in service to the Lord of light.  
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

So shall God's will on earth be done,  
new lamps be lit, new tasks begun,  
and the whole church at last be one.  
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Invitation to confession

In baptism we died with Christ,  
so that as Christ was raised from the dead,  
we might walk in newness of life.  
Let us receive new life in him  
as we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,  
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,  
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.  
We have lived by our own strength,  
and not by the power of your resurrection.  
Lord have mercy

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,  
as faithless and not believing.  
Christ have mercy

We have lived for this world alone,  
and doubted our home in heaven.  
Lord have mercy

Absolution

May the God of love and power  
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.

The Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

The Collect

Almighty Father,  
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples  
with the sight of the risen Lord:  
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,  
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life  
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen

(This reading picks up following the healing of the lame man who sat on the steps of the Temple begging. It has attracted a crowd)

<sup>12</sup> When Peter saw this, he said to them: “Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? <sup>13</sup> The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. <sup>14</sup> You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. <sup>15</sup> You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. <sup>16</sup> By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

<sup>17</sup> “Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. <sup>18</sup> But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. <sup>19</sup> Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

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

Psalm 4

<sup>1</sup> Answer me when I call to you,  
my righteous God.

Give me relief from my distress;  
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

<sup>2</sup> How long will you people turn my glory into shame?  
How long will you love delusions and seek false gods<sup>[b]</sup>?<sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Know that the LORD has set apart his faithful servant for himself;  
the LORD hears when I call to him.

<sup>4</sup> Tremble and do not sin;  
when you are on your beds,  
search your hearts and be silent.

<sup>5</sup> Offer the sacrifices of the righteous  
and trust in the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> Many, LORD, are asking, “Who will bring us  
prosperity?”  
Let the light of your face shine on us.

<sup>7</sup> Fill my heart with joy  
when their grain and new wine abound.

<sup>8</sup> In peace I will lie down and sleep,  
for you alone, LORD,  
make me dwell in safety.



**3** See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. **2** Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. **3** All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

**4** Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. **5** But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. **6** No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

**7** Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

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

#### HYMN

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,  
your sweetest notes employ,  
The paschal victory to hymn  
in strains of holy joy.

From hell's devouring jaws the prey alone  
our Leader bore;  
His ransomed hosts pursue their way  
Where he hath gone before.

For Judah's lion burst his chains,  
and crushed the serpent's head;  
and brought with him, from death's domains,  
the long-imprisoned dead.

Triumphant in his glory now  
his sceptre ruleth all;  
earth, heaven and hell before him bow  
and at his footstool fall.

While joyful thus his praise we sing,  
his mercy we implore,  
into his palace bright to bring,  
and keep us evermore.

All glory to the father be,  
all glory to the son,  
all glory, holy ghost, to thee,  
while endless ages run.  
Alleluia! Amen.

Gospel Reading  
Luke 24 36b-48

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
Glory to you O Lord.

**36** While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

**37** They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. **38** He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? **39** Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

40 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. 41 And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate it in their presence.

44 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46 He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

This is the Gospel of the Lord  
Praise to you O Christ

#### Reflection

The lectionary readings set for today from Acts and gospel seem to be out of context which can seem confusing. This event recorded in Acts happened after the Ascension of Jesus and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, which we are yet to commemorate in the church calendar. This is the emerging church at work, obeying Jesus' command given in the Gospel reading, to take the message of the Kingdom to the world.

Those of you familiar with the book of Acts will know that the preceding event was the healing of a crippled man who sat and begged at the Temple steps. We pick up with Peter's bold preaching to the crowd that gathered.

This caused a commotion which resulted in Peter and John, being rough handled, arrested and imprisoned overnight. The next day they are brought before what must have been a large gathering for it included the 'rulers, elders, and scribes with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family.' There must have been 'three-line whip' to bring together such an assembly and so quickly.

The 'Jesus effect' had not 'gone away' as they had no doubt hoped following his crucifixion. This was serious. The questions they ask seems of Peter and John almost inane. They have no interest in the healed man, or Peter's quite lengthy explanation given at the time, their only concern is that something odd and powerful is happening which must be controlled. "By what power or by what name did you do this?" they ask.

In response Peter delivers another blistering speech. He does not address their question about permission and regulation but rather that what has been done is in the name of Jesus, the man whose death they instigated and who has been raised from death by God. This Jesus is the 'stone', the cornerstone of all else, prophesied in their scriptures, as is their rejection of it. Physical healing is only the beginning, for Peter's claim is that nothing less than salvation is at stake.

There is an interesting ending to this conversation. In their eyes Peter and John are 'unlearned and ignorant men' but they also 'marvelled and took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus.' A telling phrase. Further, the evidence that 'this Jesus' has not gone away is the man standing (literally) in front of them, and they could say nothing. Peter and John were commanded not to teach in this name, which of course they ignored, and the rest, is, as they say, history.

The name of Jesus resonates through the New Testament as the source and energy and directive for all that the Christian Community does: its worship, its care for its members and those beyond, and its challenge to corrupt structures of power, so evident in our time in Latin American Liberation theology.

The Greek word 'parrhesia' is used 31 times in the New Testament it means boldness, confidence, courage, and fearlessness. It is used in today's reading: 'Now when they saw the BOLDNESS of Peter and John ...' Their boldness was not consistent with 'uneducated' men in the face of authorities. Peter and John would not be intimidated. This is what happens to companions of Jesus.

Believing and receiving Jesus into our lives is a deliberate act on our part in which we receive forgiveness and more. We find ourselves in a relationship with God the Father. This is why Jesus can teach us to pray 'Our Father' for we are indeed, as John says in the Epistle, children of the kingdom.

One of the introductions to the Lord's prayer in the service is: 'As our Saviour has commanded and taught us, we are bold to say: Our Father; Indeed, we are 'bold to say', because our confidence and boldness to call God our Father, comes from what has been done for us by Jesus the Good Shepherd who has brought us into the safe keeping of his fold.

No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine!  
Alive in Him, my living Head,  
And clothed in righteousness Divine,  
Bold I approach the eternal throne,  
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Charles Wesley

The Creed

Let us declare our faith  
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Christ died for our sins  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he was buried;  
he was raised to life on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
afterwards he appeared to his followers,  
and to all the apostles:  
this we have received,  
and this we believe.  
Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray for the church and for the world and thank God for his goodness.

We pray for the witness of the Church remembering particularly our brothers and sisters in the faith who suffer discrimination and persecution. Embolden us that we may share the gift of salvation and wholeness found in our Lord Jesus.

Lord hear us

Lord graciously hear us

We pray for King and the royal family, the Government and for leaders of nations whose decisions and actions affect us all. Enlighten them with your wisdom and truth that they may act with integrity seeking the common good.

Lord hear us  
Lord graciously hear us

We pray for our world which struggles to live justly and in peace. For those who suffer through lack of food and clean water, those whose lives are blighted by conflict and instability preventing a settled life; for refugees and the displaced and those held captive or in prison. Encompass them with your compassion and aid.

Lord hear us  
Lord graciously hear us

We pray for those whom we love, for our friends, the close ones and those we sometimes forget. We thank you for them and what they mean to us. Enable us to be a good friend, open our eyes and hearts that we may live generously.

Lord hear us  
Lord graciously hear us

We commit to your peace all whom we have loved and have passed from us into death. In common sympathy, we pray for all who mourn. Encourage us to stand in the hope set before us that as Christ was raised from death so shall all who place their faith in him.

Lord hear us  
Lord graciously hear us

These, and all the silent prayers of our hearts we offer to God.

Risen Christ,  
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:  
open the doors of our hearts,  
that we may seek the good of others  
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,  
to the praise of God the Father.  
Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praise into one, we are bold to say,

Our Father which art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,  
thy 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 thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen.

Lord God our Father,  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ  
you have assured your children of eternal life  
and in baptism have made us one with him:  
deliver us from the death of sin  
and raise us to new life in your love,

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

#### HYMN

Now is eternal life,  
if risen with Christ we stand,  
in him to life reborn,  
and held within his hand;  
no more we fear death's ancient dread,  
in Christ arisen from the dead.

And God, the living God,  
stooped down to man's estate;  
by death destroying death,  
Christ opened wide life's gate.  
He lives, who died; he reigns on high;  
who lives in him shall never die.

Man long in bondage lay,  
brooding o'er life's brief span;  
was it, O God, for naught,  
for naught, thou madest man?  
Thou art our hope, our vital breath;  
shall hope undying end in death?

Unfathomed love divine,  
reign thou within my heart;  
from thee nor depth nor height,  
nor life nor death can part;  
my life is hid in God with thee,  
now and through all eternity.

Common Worship: material from which is included here, is copyright © [The Archbishops' Council](#) 2006 and published by [Church House Publishing](#). Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by [Biblica, Inc.](#)® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.