

**St George's Barcelona Virtual Church**  
**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTION**

I as Chaplain welcome you to the sixth St George's Barcelona and Andorra Virtual Church Service. Easter continues ... there are 40 days to Ascension Day ... days of incredible heart searching and joy as Christ accompanies his disciples for these days. During this service, after each hymn being announced I allow time for you to change the YouTube link if you choose. Alternatively you can have a session afterwards of listening to the hymns ... and keep doing so during the week.

So, let us pray:

*Our Father, as individuals and as a community may we come to know and love you more and more, may we feel your love and care through each other, may we be witnesses to Christ wherever we are, and by the power of your Holy Spirit, may we be attentive to you, to our neighbour and to your world.*

**The Easter Announcement**

**Alleluia! Christ is risen**

**He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

♪ **CALL TO WORSHIP** ♪ **He is Lord** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTbhnTeF4yE>  
(Why not join us in singing along to YouTube)

*He is Lord, he is risen from the dead and he is Lord*

We come together in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.**

♪ **SONG FOR THE SUNDAY SCHOOL** ♪

**Father Abraham** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbrrB0tdySM>

*The actions for this are on the YouTube – the challenge to parents is to join the children. It would also provide a good fitness video for our situation.*

**SAYING SORRY**

✠ In baptism we died with Christ, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, we might walk in newness of life. Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

*a time of silence is kept and then:*

**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.**

**ABSOLUTION** is pronounced and all respond:

✠ The Lord enrich *you* with his grace, and nourish *you* with his blessing; the Lord defend *you* in trouble and keep *you* from all evil; the Lord accept *your* prayers, and absolve *you* from *your* offences, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. **Amen.**

*In response we join in the words Gloria:*

## 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.**

♪ **A SONG OF PRAISE** ♪ **My soul finds rest in God alone**, taken from Psalm 62  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSp-3kvKQZs> *My soul finds rest in God alone,  
My Rock and my salvation; A fortress strong against my foes, And I will not be shaken.*

## THE COLLECT

*A period of silent prayer is introduced with the words "Let us pray". The collect is said, and all respond:*

✠ 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.

## THE WORD OF GOD

✠ **THE PSALM FOR THE DAY is PSALM 16:**

*if you are following this service why not read this antiphonally as we do in church? That means taking turns  
... young and old, or male and female, or one and the rest?*

*A miktam of David.*

<sup>1</sup> Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge.

<sup>2</sup> I say to the LORD, 'You are my Lord; **apart from you I have no good thing.'**

<sup>3</sup> I say of the holy people who are in the land, 'They are the noble ones in whom is all my delight.'

<sup>4</sup> Those who run after other gods will suffer more and more. I will not pour out libations of blood to such gods or take up their names on my lips.

<sup>5</sup> LORD, **you alone** are my portion and my cup; you make my lot secure.

<sup>6</sup> **The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.**

<sup>7</sup> **I will praise the LORD, who counsels me; even at night my heart instructs me.**

<sup>8</sup> **I keep my eyes always on the LORD. With him at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

<sup>9</sup> **Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure,**

<sup>10</sup> **because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful<sup>[b]</sup> one see decay.**

<sup>11</sup> You make known to me **the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.**

***Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen***

✘ **ACTS READING Acts 2.22-32** during Eastertide a reading from Acts replaces the Old Testament

<sup>22</sup> **Fellow Israelites**, listen to this: **Jesus of Nazareth** was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. <sup>23</sup> This man was handed over to you by God's deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. <sup>24</sup> But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him. <sup>25</sup> **David said about him:** "'I saw the Lord always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. <sup>26</sup> Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest in hope, <sup>27</sup> because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, you will not let your holy one see decay. <sup>28</sup> You have made known to me the paths of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence.'" <sup>29</sup> **Fellow Israelites**, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. <sup>30</sup> But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup> Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of **the Messiah**, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay. <sup>32</sup> God has raised this **Jesus** to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

**This is the Word of the Lord, Thanks be to God**

✘ **NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 Peter 1.3-9**

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of **our Lord Jesus Christ!** In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a **living hope** through the resurrection of **Jesus Christ** from the dead, <sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup> In all this you greatly **rejoice**, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. <sup>7</sup> These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may result in praise, glory and honour when **Jesus Christ** is revealed. <sup>8</sup> Though you have not seen him, **you love him**; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and **glorious joy**, <sup>9</sup> for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**This is the Word of the Lord, Thanks be to God**

♪ **SONG** ♪ to prepare to listen to the Gospel, the story of our Lord  
Turn your eyes upon Jesus <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iMYZICnV2Ys>

✘ **THE GOSPEL John 20.19-31**

**Hear the Gospel of the Lord according to St John, Alleluia, Alleluia ,  
Glory to you O Lord**

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when **the disciples** were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, **Jesus** came and stood among them and **said**, '**Peace be with you!**' <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. **The disciples** were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> **Again Jesus said**, '**Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.**' <sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them **and said**, '**Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.**'

<sup>24</sup> **Now Thomas** (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So **the other disciples** told him, 'We have seen the Lord!'

**But he said to them**, 'Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.'

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were in the house again, **and Thomas** was with them. Though the doors were locked, **Jesus** came and stood among them and **said**, '**Peace** be with you!' <sup>27</sup> Then **he said to Thomas**, 'Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.'

<sup>28</sup> **Thomas said to him**, 'My Lord and my God!'

<sup>29</sup> **Then Jesus told him**, 'Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.'

<sup>30</sup> **Jesus** performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written that **you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.**

## This is the Gospel of our Lord, *Praise you O Christ*

### SERMON Easter Celebration Continues

Our Gospel reading today is about fear being turned to joy, about being locked up because of this fear and about Jesus sending them out. Parallels are fascinating to the experience we are going through. Our being locked away is not about fear of persecution – even though that may not be wrong, as I well know from parts of the world I have worked in. They are not condemned for being locked away. It is just that Jesus, as we saw last week, is about transformation. We are locked down, or cloistered as I prefer to think of it – I have great fun imagining I am a monk! – although I must confess I will be very thankful indeed when Deborah my wife is able to return from Australia – to go back, our lockdown is more of wisdom, love for our neighbour as well as protection for ourselves and our loved ones. There may well be a legitimate element of fear – and that is not condemned.

Rather Jesus comes into their situation – and, I believe into ours – and says '*Peace be with you!*' This peace or Shalom word is found three times in verses 19, 21 and 26. *Shalom* is how Jews both greet and say farewell to each other. In Arabic culture there is a similar in *salaam*.

The Hebrew concept of peace is not so much to do with the absence of war or trouble ... but is a positive word which means safe and whole as well as the absence of the things that trouble us. The good news of peace is a message of wholeness – in Bible thinking long before popular psychology discovered it.

There are 249 uses of the word 'peace' in the New International Version of the Bible. Here are some verses to encourage us:

*Love and faithfulness meet together; righteousness and **peace** kiss each other.* Psalm 85.10  
*You will keep in perfect **peace** those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.* Isaiah 26.3

Paul says, *And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.* Philippians 4.7

In Isaiah 9.6 there is the prophecy of the Messiah as *the Prince of Peace*.

One difference in Christian peace, compared to other types of peace, is that our peace is firmly rooted in, comes by, and is a result of a relationship with Jesus. Jesus himself says in John 14:27 *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.* This peace flows directly from Jesus himself. He is *the Prince of Peace.*

Then he says two key things:

**1. As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.** This is our mission: sent to be incarnate ... to live where we are .. for Jesus ... a Latin word for sending is *missio* from which we get the word *mission* and it is from this that the word *mass* comes as at the end of communion we are sent out to serve. Jesus work is not finished! His salvation work is complete ... *once for all* – but his mission continues in and through his apostles and in and through us ... even as we are cloistered away. Being sent into the world as Christ sent ... incarnation! Living with his peace. This is our challenge ... to be as Christ wherever he puts us.

The challenge of this makes me thankful for the second key thing ... and a passage that lies behind our confession each week and the absolution that I give in Christ's name..

**2. Receive the Holy Spirit ... he breathed on them ... another glorious mystery** – this was like a precursor, a trailer – the full experience was going to come at Pentecost a few weeks later. But by the Holy Spirit the apostles were given authority to forgive sins. Christ's work was to continue.

Now Thomas missed out on all this. But when he saw the reality ,, he cried out ... **My Lord and my God.** Deborah and I had the privilege of visiting the holy sites of St Thomas in Kochi in Kerala where tradition says he arrived in India and in Chennai in Tamil Nadu where by tradition he was martyred. His cry of *My Lord and my God* was the beginning of a journey from doubt to death, from questioning to martyrdom. Seeing Jesus led to a total transformation. It was real

**Finally, the last verses of our reading give us the purpose of John's gospel:**

<sup>30</sup> Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>31</sup> **But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.**

**Asi es, això és, c'est tout, das ist es .... This is it, It is enough ... there is no more to say!**

**But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.**

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen**

*In response to God's Word we join together in the* **THE APOSTLES' CREED –**

*This is what we believe.*

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

**I believe 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, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.**

## **A TIME OF PRAYER**

♪ ***O Lord, hear my prayer*** ♪ *may be sung*

*These responses may be used:*

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer** or Lord, hear us **Lord, graciously hear us.**

### **Take time to pray for:**

- The world,
- Our neighbourhoods,
- The wider church
- St George's Andorra and Barcelona

**Let us bring to the Father our prayers of intercession  
through Christ who gave himself for the life of the world.**

God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world,

Lord we give you thanks, **we praise your holy name** or Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer**

### **We take time to pray for:**

- The world • Our neighbourhoods • The wider church • St George's Andorra and Barcelona

**As Easter continues we will use the same prayers as last week:**

Jesus, our Lord, we praise you that nothing could keep you dead in the grave.  
You are stronger than death and the devil.  
Help us to remember that there is nothing to be afraid of,  
because you are alive and by our side.

You come to Mary in the garden, and turn her tears into joy,  
For your love and mercy we give you thanks: **we praise your holy name**

You come to the disciples in the upper room,  
and turn their fear into courage.  
For your love and mercy we give you thanks: **we praise your holy name**

You come to the disciples by the lakeside,  
and turn their failure into faith.  
For your love and mercy we give you thanks: **we praise your holy name**

You come to your people now,  
and turn our weakness into triumph.  
For your love and mercy we give you thanks **we praise your holy name.**

Look in your mercy upon the world you love so much  
We pray for those who are in need; for the sick, sorrowful and bereaved,  
for those in darkness, in doubt and in despair, in loneliness and in fear,  
We pray for all who bring comfort, care and healing.  
We give thanks for human love and friendship  
and for all that enriches our daily lives.

***In the quietness bring before God those who are in your heart***

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our Prayer**

**A Prayer from the Church of England Website**

*Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Short Silence) **Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer***

*Merciful God, we commend into your hands those who have departed this life. You gave them breath and loved them through their journey of life. Receive them now at the end of that journey into your eternal presence and may they rest in everlasting peace. (Short Silence) **Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer***

*Everlasting God, in so many ways you have taught us that you alone can be trusted, even when it might seem that you are far away from us. Help us to remember this fact and feel your loving presence as we go from this time of worship and return to our everyday lives walking obediently in the light of your truth in all that we do this and every day.*

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

**Minister** Almighty and everlasting God,  
the comfort of the sad, the strength of those who suffer:  
hear the prayers of your children who cry out of any trouble,  
and to every distressed soul grant mercy, relief and refreshment,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Holy Communion – The Lord feeds us***

**THE PEACE**

✠ Peace to you from God who is our Father.  
Peace from Jesus Christ who is our peace.  
Peace from the Holy Spirit who gives us life.  
The peace of the triune God be always with you ... **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.  
*All may exchange a sign of peace*



On the night before he died he had supper with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:

**Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.**

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.

Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:

**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.**

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

*An acclamations is used*

Great is the mystery of faith:

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

Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with [*N and*] all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

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

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

## THE COMMUNION

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

## GIVING OF COMMUNION

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world,  
blessed are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

**The body of Christ**

**The blood of Christ**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** *Together we say:*

**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.**

***The Dismissal – The Lord sends us out***

♪ **FINAL HYMN** ♪ Our final hymn sends us out to serve Christ with a note of triumph and victory:  
**Jesus Christ My living hope** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9f2FXxDVO6w>

*The work is finished, the end is written  
Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free  
You have broken every chain*

*Beautiful Saviour, I'm Yours forever  
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me  
There's salvation in Your name* **Jesus Christ, my living hope**

## BLESSING

Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
Alleluia. Christ is risen!  
Alleluia. Christ is risen!

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

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from your hearts and minds.

May the risen Christ grant you the joy of eternal life.

May Christ the risen one be yours, and be your reality, and your experience.

May you know in your lives the presence of the risen Lord,  
the peace of Christ which is eternal, and the power of the resurrection.

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

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord Alleluia! Alleluia!

**In the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!**