

Journeying with Jesus in Holy Week

EASTER DAY ~ 12th April 2020

Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:14-24 Colossians 3:1-4 Matthew 28:1-10

The Easter Announcement (3 times)

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

We have a risen Saviour Christ the Lord is risen indeed!

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

I as Chaplain welcome you to the Easter Service of St George's Barcelona and Andorra Virtual Church. We are ending Holy Week, as we began, together in spirit as the community of Christ

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 (3 times)

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

How great to celebrate Easter:

☩ Today is the day of salvation for the world. . . Christ is risen from the dead: arise with him. Christ returns to himself: you also must return to him. Christ has come forth from the tomb: free yourselves from the fetters of evil. The gates of hell are open and the power of death is destroyed. In Christ a new creation is coming to birth: renew yourselves. Gregory Nazianzen (328-389)

🎵 **CALL TO WORSHIP** 🎵 *As we come to an end of Holy week we end with the reminder that it was all because of love, and we sing: **Here is love, vast as the ocean Loving kindness as the flood** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8YOPj5TnUM> Why not join us in singing along to YouTube? I will give a few moments for you to switch. Also, why not listen to these hymns at other times during this week?*

This Easter morning we greet each other in Christ's name

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.**

Instead of a song for the Sunday School in this service we are adding to our email of childrens' songs the favourite ones chosen by some of our Sunday School members. Why not celebrate with them more often than once?

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:

Like Mary at the empty tomb,
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Like the disciples behind locked doors,
we are afraid to be seen as your followers.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Like Thomas in the upper room,
we are slow to believe.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

ABSOLUTION *is pronounced and all respond:*

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
All **Amen**

🎵 **THE GLORIA** 🎵 *During Lent we had no hymn at this point ... part of our process of reflecting on the purpose of Christ's death. With Easter we proclaim the ancient words of The Gloria and sing together. So, we say together in thankfulness for our cleansing:*

**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.**

And we sing:

His love is higher than the highest mountain <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RkztnB3oA4I>

THE COLLECT Let us Pray:

✠ God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

THE WORD OF GOD

✘ THE PSALM FOR THE DAY is **Psalm 118:14-24**

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?

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my defence; he has become my salvation.

¹⁵ Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: 'The LORD's right hand has done mighty things!

¹⁶ The LORD's right hand is lifted high; the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!'

¹⁷ I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

¹⁸ The LORD has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death.

¹⁹ Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter.

²¹ I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

²² The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

²³ the LORD has done this, and it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴ The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.

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

✘ The Acts Reading Acts 10:34-43

During Eastertide the Old Testament Readings are replaced by readings from the book of Acts

³⁴ **Then Peter began to speak:** 'I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism

³⁵ but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. ³⁶ **You know** the message God sent to the people of Israel, **announcing the good news of peace through Jesus**

Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷ **You know** what has happened throughout the province of Judea,

beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached – ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. ³⁹ **We are witnesses** of everything he

did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, ⁴⁰ but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. ⁴¹ He was not seen by

all the people, but **by witnesses** whom God had already chosen – by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² **He commanded us** to preach to the people and to testify that

he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets **testify** about him that **everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'**

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

✘ A reading from the Epistle to the Colossians 3:1-4

3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2 Set your minds** on things above, not on earthly things. **3** For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is your life, appears, then

you also will appear with him in glory.

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

 **SONG**  *as we prepare to listen to the Gospel of our Lord, we sing:*

Be still for the presence of the Lord is shining all around

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZugvUQ4m90U>

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

28 **After the Sabbath, at dawn** on the first day of the week, **Mary Magdalene and the other Mary** went to look at the tomb. ² There was a violent earthquake, for **an angel of the Lord** came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. ⁵ **The angel said to the women**, ‘Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ **He is not here; he has risen, just as he said**. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ **Then go quickly and tell his disciples**: “He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.” Now I have told you.’ ⁸ **So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy**, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ **Suddenly Jesus met them**. ‘Greetings,’ he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him. ¹⁰ **Then Jesus said to them**, ‘Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’

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

SERMON

In this very strange and unanticipated time, I am greatly encouraged as I see the reality of your faith among you, our people of St George’s whether in Andorra, Barcelona, Sitges or elsewhere.

I was looking over past sermons and I noticed different emphases in different years. Sometimes I looked at the Evidence for the Resurrection – of this I have no doubt. Other times I have looked at the centrality of the resurrection to our faith. And there are more. Today I want us to think of the confidence the Easter story gives to us. As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15, if this is not true and we are living a lie, but if it is true

✠ **There is confidence in the story itself**

Our readings in Matthew tell the story and just expects it to be believed! There is no argument, there are statements of fact by people who were eye-witnesses.

✠ **There is confidence in the person of Jesus**

We are a Jesus centred faith – that is why we are called ‘Christians’. Our reading in Colossians 3 tells us that Christ is our life. The technical name for this is that we are Christocentric. Christ is at the centre. We love him, we serve him and we worship him – as did these disciples on seeing him alive that first Easter morning.

✠ **There is confidence in the victory.**

The marvellous message is that he has defeated death. The pain of death remains and in these days we weep with so many who weep. The fact remains, however, that it is the resurrection, the Easter story, that tells us that death is not the end. There is life to come! There are very few things I miss about the UK but one of them is the multitude of daffodils. That yellow flower that for me is a sign of new life and therefore of hope. This is daffodil time!

✠ **There is confidence that things will be different**

The first Easter Sunday was marked by blackness and darkness; it is all over ... all the first disciples knew was that Good Friday had happened; the situation seemed hopeless. Yes, Jesus said that he

would rise again ... but no one does that! It was in that state of mind that three women went to the Garden Tomb - but the story does not end there! It is also not the whole story

Acts 10: *Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ...; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not 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.*

✠ So it gives me confidence

So if this is true, it is worth our all. On this I stake my life. Christ is victor and he is supreme and he deserves all supremacy. **Psalm 118** ¹⁴ **The LORD is my strength and my might**; he has become my salvation. ¹⁵ **There are glad songs of victory.**

In the resurrection God has won through again. When all seems lost, God enters in...—we can have confidence as we say the words in the Eucharist: **Christ has died, Christ has risen and Christ will come again.** This can be trusted. It matters what we believe. As we leave here to go and serve God, do so with the expectation of this new life transforming all aspects of life ... not removing the difficult ones ... but transforming them! May these days of seclusion be times of transformation .. for us, our families, our church and our world.

Psalm 118:14-24 ²² **The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.** ²³ **This is the LORD's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.** ²⁴ **This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.** - Easter is a time of recognizing Christ's victory over death and tears ... there is a new kingdom coming, a kingdom where there is no death and tears A kingdom where we can gather at *a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine— the best of meats and the finest of wines* – what a picture! This is what Christ as Victor means – it is seeing that God is out for our best. We can have confidence in him.

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 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

HOLY COMMUNION

THE PEACE

Alleluia! Christ has been raised from the dead!
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Alleluia!
and also with you

OFFERTORY HYMN AS WE OFFER OURSELVES TO THE LORD AS WE COME TO HIS TABLE

- Normally the gifts of the people are gathered at this time. During this seclusion our giving can be via the Website or by Standing Order and information on this is also on the website. St George's needs your ongoing support as our costs continue even when we cannot have services here).

🎵 **OFFERTORY HYMN** 🎵 *A great hymn of the resurrection: Jesus Christ is risen today Alleluia*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6sj9ljVsfk>

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER *this is a more interactive form of the great Prayer of Thanksgiving.*
When I say **Alleluia** the response is **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The Lord is here
Lift up your hearts.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

His presence is with us
We lift them to the Lord.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

We give you thanks and praise
for the gospel we have received.
Christ died for our sins. **Alleluia.**

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Death comes to all through Adam,
and sin reigns for a time.
New life without end comes through Christ,
and he reigns for ever. **Alleluia.**

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Death, where is your victory?
Death, where is your sting?
Death is swallowed up in victory,
the victory you give us in Christ. **Alleluia.**

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

We have been crucified with Christ,
and live his risen life,
to praise you for ever with angels and archangels saying:

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.]

Lord God, you are the most holy one, enthroned in splendour and light,
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ you reveal the power of your love
made perfect in our human weakness.

Embracing our humanity, Jesus showed us the way of salvation;
loving us to the end, he gave himself to death for us; dying for his own,
he set us free from the bonds of sin, that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave up himself for us all he 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.**

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross, we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb, we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high and we long for his coming in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption, Father, **by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;** form us into the likeness of Christ and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Look with favour on your people and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts. Bless the earth, heal the sick, let the oppressed go free and fill your Church with power from on high.

Gather your people from the ends of the earth to feast with all your saints at the table in your kingdom, where the new creation is brought to perfection in Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, 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 given for you

The blood of Christ shed for you

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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 so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:
It is: **Thine be the Glory** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GaoV5w2Qfag>

Thine be the glory, Risen, conqu'ring Son;
Endless is the victory, Thou o'er death hast won;
Angels in bright raiment Rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes Where Thy body lay.!

BLESSING

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