

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

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

*All* **Amen.**

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*All* **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:

The first commandment is this:

‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.’

The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

*All* **Amen. Lord, have mercy.**

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.

Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil  
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart

**All 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.**

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**All Amen.**

### **Gloria in Excelsis**

**All 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,  
you have given your only Son to die for our sins  
and to rise again for our justification:  
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness  
that we may always serve you  
in pureness of living and truth;  
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### **Readings**

Acts 4v32-35

<sup>32</sup> Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup> They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

This is the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Reading**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life.  
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,  
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

*John 6.35*

**Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 20v19-end

<sup>19</sup> 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.'<sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'<sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'<sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin<sup>[c]</sup>), one of the twelve, was not with them 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 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.'

<sup>26</sup> 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.'

<sup>27</sup> Then 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.'<sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

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

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

What is the most unusual and surprising thing you've ever seen. What maybe made you the most scared or surprised. Maybe something more exciting and unexpected than biting into a kit kat and finding that it was chocolate all the way through. Or like someone who ordered something hurriedly off ebay, and when their new dining table arrived realised it's for a dolls house. I don't particularly go for horror movies, but that moment after building suspense when something pops out and the whole cinema jumps as one. We live in a world which is a mix of happy and unexpected surprises, where things happen which we aren't always prepared for. But for the disciples. This was something which maybe they should have expected with all that Jesus had told them, and with the testimony of Mary Magdalen, but Jesus appearance was still a surprise to them. Joining them in a locked room. For some it may not have been an entirely pleasant surprise too, they knew in their own ways how they had let him down, but he's still there with them.

Jesus says peace be with you, it was the normal greeting like saying hello, but never was it more appropriate than this time. The disciples are scared and alone, we are still on Easter Sunday. They have heard a report from Mary Magdalene that she has seen Jesus risen from the dead, and there may have been an element of unbelief about what she said. Here the

disciples are, they are in a locked room, desperate and alone. When suddenly Jesus appears before them and says peace be with you. At this time it was what they needed to hear, and it was what only Jesus could bring. They needed that gift of peace. For us looking back at the actions of the disciples we know the ending so we can miss what it felt like to feel trapped in the middle, and yet here the disciples are. Jesus was their hope, and he is gone, they are locked in a room hiding from those who persecuted and killed him. Their hope is gone and they are bereft and here Jesus stands among them and says peace. Then he shows them his hands and his feet, and his next words again are peace.

Then what does Jesus do to these men locked away in a little room, hopeless and scared. He says I am sending you out. This rag tag bunch, who had denied, and deserted him, who hadn't been able to stay awake while he was in agony, to them he says I am sending you. I am equipping you with the Holy Spirit as you go out, as you preach and teach, heal and go in my name. I am sending you out. He is also sending them out with the commission to forgive sins, that those who they forgive are forgiven, that those whose sins they hold onto are not forgiven.

The sending of the son to the world was a constant theme of the gospels and John's in particular. Jesus knew what he was there for, and he knew what purpose he had on earth. And here in that transition period between the resurrection, the ascension and Pentecost. We see Jesus preparing the way for the church after he has left. The church is the hope for the world. And yet here it is concentrated behind locked doors hidden away, but Christ sends them out in his first words to this group, as the Father sent me, so I send you. The sent for Christ was completed his mission had been accomplished, the sending out for the rest of us is continuous, and continuing. We are the ones who are sent, in succession to the apostles.

What do you look to that brings you hope. It could be after a long car journey home when you see a familiar landmark, for me when coming back from Northumberland and I see the Angel there and knowing that I'm nearly home. I was once there with my family and a little boy was most put out that other people were going up to his angel. Saying to them all it's my angel. But what else do you hold onto that brings you hope. It could be a memento of getting through a tough time, a photo of a loved one, even a bible verse or passage that you read at a dark time. What do you hold onto. For the world that symbol should be the church, we mess up at times. But we are still the ones God has entrusted as the source of hope for the world. The tall spires a physical reminder of the church being a beacon in the world.

It feels a bit like the we've all been locked in our rooms this past year, like the church at times has been hidden away. Our reading today is one which should bring hope, with the beleaguered few locked away, but Jesus sent them out to share his love with the world. They weren't doing it because they were strong or clever, they were doing it because they believed it and because God was on their side, if we are to share God's love with the world,

we'll need to remember that, that we don't do it alone, that God is on our side, when we are on his, when we go out and share his love with the world.

Amen

### **The Creed**

**All We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

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

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.**

**Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

In joy and hope let us pray to the Father.

That our risen Saviour may fill us [and ...] with the joy of his

glorious and life-giving resurrection ...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That isolated and persecuted churches

may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter ...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That God may grant us humility

to be subject to one another in Christian love ...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That he may provide for those who lack food, work or shelter ...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That by his power war and famine may cease through all the world ...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick,

the weak and the dying,

to comfort and strengthen them ...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That, according to his promises,

all who have died in the faith of the resurrection

may be raised on the last day ...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people,

so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection,

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father,

you have delivered us from the power of darkness

and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:

grant that, as his death has recalled us to life,

so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy;

through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Merciful Father,

**All accept these prayers**

**for the sake of your Son,**

**our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom come;**

**thy will be done;**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And 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.**

May Christ,  
who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,  
fill you with his new life;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
*All Amen.*

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.  
*All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Material in this service is taken from Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England (2000) (including the Psalter as published with Common Worship)

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