**Easter Communion | 2nd Sunday of Easter | 7 April 2024**

**Approach**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
By his great mercy he has given us a new birth
into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

**Greeting**

Christ is Risen! **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**Opening Hymn 255**

Christ is risen, alleluia!
risen our victorious head;
sing his praises, alleluia!
Christ is risen from the dead.
Gratefully our hearts adore him,
as his light once more appears,
bowing down in joy before him,
rising up from grief and tears.

*Christ is risen, alleluia!
risen our victorious head;
sing his praises, alleluia!
Christ is risen from the dead.*

2 Christ is risen! all the sadness
of his earthly life is o’er;
through the open gates of gladness
he returns to life once more;
death and hell before him bending,
he doth rise, the victor now,
angels on his steps attending,
glory round his wounded brow:

3 Christ is risen! henceforth never
death or hell shall us enthral,
we are Christ’s, in him for ever
we have triumphed over all;
all the doubting and dejection
of our trembling hearts have ceased.
’tis the day of resurrection;
let us rise and keep the feast.

**Collect for Purity**

**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.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

**Absolution**

**Glory to God in the Highest**

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God’s 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.**

**Collect of the Second Sunday of Easter**

**Epistle 1 John 1:1–2:2**

A Reading from 1 John Chapter 1 beginning to read at verse 1:
That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete. This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us. My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

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

**Acclamations.**

Alleluia, alleluia. I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one; I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore. **Alleluia.**

**Gospel John 4:31–44**

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to John Chapter 4 beginning at verse 31:
**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Meanwhile his disciples urged him, ‘Rabbi, eat something.’ But he said to them, ‘I have food to eat that you know nothing about.’ Then his disciples said to each other, ‘Could someone have brought him food?’ ‘My food,’ said Jesus, ‘is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Don’t you have a saying, “It’s still four months until harvest”? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying “One sows and another reaps” is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labour.’ Many of the Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, ‘He told me everything I’ve ever done.’ So when the Samaritans came to him, they urged him to stay with them, and he stayed two days. And because of his words many more became believers. They said to the woman, ‘We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Saviour of the world.’After the two days he left for Galilee. (Now Jesus himself had pointed out that a prophet has no honour in his own country.)

This is the Gospel of the Lord **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

**Hymn 306**

O Spirit of the living God,
in all the fullness of your grace,
wherever human feet have trod,
descend on our fallen race.

2 Give tongues of fire and hearts of love
to preach the reconciling word;
give power and wisdom from above
whenever gospel truth is heard.

3 Let darkness turn to radiant light,
confusion vanish from your path;
those who are weak inspire with might:
let mercy triumph over wrath.

4 O Spirit of our God, prepare
the whole wide world the Lord to meet;
breathe out new life, like morning air,
till hearts of stone begin to beat.

5 Baptise the nations; far and near
the triumphs of the cross record;
till Christ in glory shall appear
and every race declare him Lord.

**Sermon**

**Hymn 576**

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was,
so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down and drink, and live.”
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
“I am this dark world’s light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all thy day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my Star, my Sun;
and in that light of life I’ll walk
till travelling days are done.

**Nicene Creed page 205**

**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 by the Holy Spirit of 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 the People**

Jesus, Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

*And finally*

**Jesus, Lord of life, in your mercy, hear us,
accept our prayers, and be with us always. Amen.**

**Offertory Hymn 425**

1 Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts;
thou fount of life, our lives sustain;
from the best bliss that earth imparts
we turn unfilled to thee again.

2 Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood;
thou savest those that on thee call;
to them that seek thee, thou art good;
to them that find thee all in all.

3 We taste thee, O thou living bread,
and long to feast upon thee still;
we drink of thee, the fountain-head,
and thirst our souls from thee to fill.

4 Our restless spirits yearn for thee,
where’er our changeful lot is cast;
glad when thy gracious smile we see,
blessed when our faith can hold thee fast.

5 O Jesus, ever with us stay;
make all our moments calm and bright;
chase the dark night of sin away,
shed o’er the world thy holy light

**The Peace**

The Peace of the Lord be always with you
**and also with you**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us
**therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

The Lord is here **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Father, almighty and everliving God, at all times and in all places it is right to give you thanks and praise: Above all we praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, the true paschal lamb who was sacrificed for us; by dying he destroyed our death; by rising he restored our life: And so with all your people, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and 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!**

Blessed are you, Father, the creator and sustainer of all things; you made us in your own image, male and female you created us; even when we turned away from you, you never ceased to care for us, but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin, giving your only begotten Son to become man and suffer death on the cross to redeem us: he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world: he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death until he comes again.

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, 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 when he had given thanks to you, he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you, for 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, Father, with this bread and this cup we do as Christ your Son commanded:
**we remember his passion and death,
we celebrate his resurrection and ascension,
and we look for the coming of his kingdom.**

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; and as we eat and drink these holy gifts, grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit that we may be made one in your holy Church and partakers of the body and blood of your Son, that he may dwell in us and we in him: Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, **all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**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.**

**Breaking Bread**

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.
**We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

**Receiving Communion**

Please come forward to receive the Bread and Wine.

**Prayers after Communion**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us
with the spiritual food of 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.**

**Blessing**

**Closing Hymn 268**

Hail, thou once-despised Jesus!
Hail, thou Galilean King!
Thou didst suffer to release us,
thou didst free salvation bring.
Hail, thou universal Saviour,
bearer of our sin and shame;
by thy merits we find favour:
life is given through thy name!

Paschal Lamb, by God appointed,
all our sins on thee were laid;
by almighty love anointed,
thou hast full atonement made.
All thy people are forgiven
through the virtue of thy blood;
opened is the gate of heaven,
we are reconciled with God.

Jesus, hail! enthroned in glory,
there for ever to abide!
All the heavenly hosts adore thee,
seated at thy Father’s side.
There for sinners thou art pleading,
there thou dost our place prepare,
ever for us interceding
till in glory we appear.

Worship, honour, power, and blessing
thou art worthy to receive;
loudest praises, without ceasing,
meet it is for us to give.
Help, ye bright angelic spirits,
bring your sweetest, noblest lays;
help to sing our Saviour’s merits,
help us chant Emmanuel’s praise.

**Dismissal**

He is not here. He is risen.
Go in the peace of the Risen Christ! Alleluia, Alleluia!
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**