

Church at Home

The Second Sunday of Easter



Before the Service

A very warm welcome from the Diocese of Oxford to this service on the Second Sunday of Easter, which is sometimes referred to as Low Sunday.

This morning Bishop Alan, Bishop of Buckingham, welcomes you from his home and asks you to join him in celebrating the Eucharist. Bishop Olivia Graham, Bishop of Reading, will also lead us through reflections preaching a sermon on St John's Gospel from her home also.

Our hope is that this act of worship will be a chance to draw us all together from across the whole Dioceses to give praise and thanks for our Christian faith.

This service also gives us a chance to unit in our prayers for all those who are affected by the coronavirus. We remember in our prayers, all those who are suffering and all those who have died from the pandemic.

May our Saviour Christ, whose resurrection offers light to those in darkness, and healing to all who cry out in pain and isolation, bless us in our worship and in our love and care for one another.

As we join together, as brother and sisters in Christ, may share in the assurance in the love of God and let us celebrate that the spirit of the Risen Christ, which is with us now always. Christ is risen. Alleluia!

The Gathering

Greeting

Bishop Alan lights a candle and says

President May the Light of Christ,
Rising in glory banish all darkness from our hearts and minds
Peace be with you

Lucy and also with you

President Alleluia. Christ is Risen.

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

Bishop Alan welcomes the congregation from around the Diocese.

Hymn

We are invited to join a small choir of the University Church of St Mary the Virgin to sing *Thine be the Glory*, recorded just before the lockdown.

All sing

**Thine be the glory, risen, conquering 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.**

Refrain:

***Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.***

**Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing;
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.**

Refrain:

***Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.***

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.**

Refrain:

***Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.***

Prayer of Preparation

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.

Prayers of Penitence

President We reflect on our sins and shortcomings,
In the light of Jesus' undying love
And seek his forgiveness and healing:

Lord, we believe, help us in our unbelief...

Lord Jesus you raise us to new life: Lord have mercy

All **Lord have Mercy**

President Lord Jesus you forgive us our sins: Christ have mercy

All **Christ have Mercy**

President Lord Jesus you feed us with the living bread: Lord have mercy

All **Lord have Mercy**

President May Almighty God Have mercy on you

Forgive you your sins

And keep you in life eternal:

Through Jesus Chris our risen Lord

All **Amen.**

The Collect

President Let us pray.

Silence is kept.

President 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.

All **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Read by Sammy Jarvis.

The reading is taken from Acts 2 14a & 22-32

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know- this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.' "Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.' This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

Reader This is the word of the Lord.
All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 16

*Sung by Megan and William Bunce,
members of Brasenose College Chapel Choir.*

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight. Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips. The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage. I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit. You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Gospel Acclamation

The Revd Julia Baldwin, Chaplain of Brasenose College.

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia
Alleluia, 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.
cf Revelation 1.17,18

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-31

Read by The Revd Julia Baldwin

Chaplain The Lord be with you
All **And also with you**

Chaplain Hear the gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
All **Glory to you O Lord**

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." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 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." 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." 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." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 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." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Chaplain This is the Gospel of the Lord
All **Praise to you O Christ**
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

Reflection

The Bishop of Reading

After the sermon we keep silence together for a few moments before affirming our faith together in the words of the Creed.

The Creed

President Let us declare our faith
In the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ

All **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.**
cf 1 Corinthians 15 3-7

Prayers of Intercession

Our prayers today are led by the Revd Julia Baldwin, Chaplain of Brasenose College.

All: Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

and at the end:

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

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

President The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples
and said Peace be with you.
Their hearts were glad when they saw the Lord.
The Peace of the Lord always be with you.

Lucy **And also with you.**

Bishop Alan signs the peace to us in British Sign Language (BSL).

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

*As Bishop Alan prepares the altar-table and takes the bread and wine, we
sing Christ is Risen while earth slumbers.*

Hymn

*Sung by Julia Hollander member of the
choir of the University Church of St Mary the Virgin.*

Christ has risen while earth slumbers,
Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised,
as we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing;
let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumour.
Christ is risen, God is here!

Christ has risen for the people
whom he loved and died to save;
Christ has risen for the women
bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen for disciples
huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation
is not silenced by the tomb.

Christ has risen to companion
former friends who fear the night,
sensing loss and limitation
where their faith had once burned bright.
They bemoan what is no longer,
they expect no hopeful sign
till Christ ends their conversation,
breaking bread and sharing wine.

Christ has risen and forever lives
to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled,
all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen. Christ is present
making us what he has been –
evidence of transformation
in which God is known and seen.

Be present in our hearts and in our homes,
Lord Jesus,

Risen High Priest.
Make yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread.

The Eucharistic Prayer

President The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

President Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

President Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

President It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.
When we turned away
you did not reject us,
but came to meet us in your Son.
All **You embraced us as your children
and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.**

President In Christ you shared our life
that we might live in him and he in us.
All **He opened his arms of love upon the cross
and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.**

President On the night he was betrayed,
at supper with his friends
he took bread, and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

All **Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his body is the bread of life.**

President At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine,
he gave you thanks, and said:
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins;
do this in remembrance of me.

All **Father, we do this in remembrance of him:
his blood is shed for all.**

President As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory,
send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine
may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

All **As we offer these holy gifts
make us one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

President With your whole Church throughout the world
we offer you this sacrifice of praise
and lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

All **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.**

The Lord's Prayer

President Rejoicing in the Lord's undying love, we pray

All **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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread

All **Lamb of God
you take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy upon us,**

All **Lamb of God
you take away the sin of the world,
Have mercy upon us,**

All **Lamb of God
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us Peace.**

Giving of Communion

President Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us,
All **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

We are invited to make a spiritual communion with God who comes to meet us wherever we are. There are no special words or prayers for this. All the Church has ever thought necessary is a true desire to receive Christ, a lively faith in Christ, and a genuine love for Christ and his people.

As we make our spiritual communion, we sing together Come down, O Love Divine. Recording used with the kind permission of Priory Records.

Hymn

Come down, O love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, Thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn, til earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
For none can guess its grace, till they become the place
where-in the Holy Spirit finds a dwelling.

Prayer after Communion

President 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,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All **Amen**

The Dismissal

I am the Bread of Life, sung by Julia Hollander.

All

**I am the bread of life
You who come to Me shall not hunger
And who believe in Me shall not thirst
No one can come to Me
Unless the Father beckons**

chorus:

**And I will raise you up
And I will raise you up
And I will raise you up on the last day**

**The bread that I will give
Is My flesh for the life of the world
And if you eat of this bread
You shall live forever
You shall live forever**

chorus:

**And I will raise you up
And I will raise you up
And I will raise you up on the last day**

**I am the resurrection
I am the life
If you believe in Me
Even though you die
You shall live forever**

chorus:

**And I will raise you up
And I will raise you up
And I will raise you up on the last day**

**Yes Lord I believe
That You are the Christ
The Son of God
Who has come
Into the world**

chorus:

**And I will raise you up
And I will raise you up
And I will raise you up on the last day**

President May the love that raised Jesus from the dead
Live In you and me,
And the blessing of God Almighty
The father, Son and Holy Spirit
Be among you and remain with you always

All **Amen**

We end with some words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu:

*Goodness is stronger than evil.
Love is stronger than hate.
Light is stronger than darkness.
Life is stronger than death.
Victory is ours through Him who loved us.*

President Go in the peace of Jesus, Alleluia, Alleluia.

All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Many thanks to all those who contributed to this service in a variety of ways: From University Church of St Mary the Virgin: Julia Hollander; From Brasenose College: the Revd Julia Baldwin, Megan and William Bunce. Our thanks to Priory Records for their permission to use the recording "Come Down, O Love Divine" recorded by Norwich Cathedral Choir.

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Join us on an Easter Journey through the Lord's Prayer



This will be an Easter season like no other as the world endures the coronavirus pandemic. Each day we will pray the familiar words: Our Father, give us this day our daily bread, forgive us, deliver us from evil. We will pray them with a new and ever deeper understanding.

Easter Pilgrim, written by Bishop Steven, has been updated for the current crisis. It includes short reflections relating each line of the Lord's Prayer to the COVID-19 pandemic and the dramatic changes it has brought about, a daily family challenge to help you share the Easter Pilgrim journey with children at home, and a 'sharing together' outline to help you use the material with small groups over the phone or internet.

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