



Heacham Parish Church



## **Easter Season Holy Communion - 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022**

### **The Greeting**

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

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. **He has given us new life and hope. He has raised Jesus from the dead.**

God has claimed us as his own.

**He has brought us out of darkness.**

**He has made us light to the world.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

### **Hymn: Now the green blade riseth (HON 475)**

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,  
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:  
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,  
thinking that never he would wake again,  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:  
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain,  
He that for three days in the grave had lain;  
quick from the dead, my risen Lord is seen:  
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
thy touch can call us back to life again;  
fields of our hearts, that dead and bare have been:  
Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.

### Confession

Jesus Christ risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you  
in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weaknesses and  
unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of  
your resurrection.

in your mercy, forgive us **Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not  
believing.

in your mercy, forgive us **Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived for this world alone and doubted our home in  
heaven.

in your mercy, forgive us **Lord, hear us and help us.**

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 Lord. **Amen**

### Gloria

**Glory, glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the  
high-est; peace to his people on earth, 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. Glory, glory to God, glory to  
God in the highest. Peace to his people on earth, peace  
to his people on earth.**

**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, receive our prayer, receive our prayer.**

**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, the glory, the glory of God the Father. Amen, Amen, Amen**

**The Collect for 3<sup>d</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**Bible reading – Acts 9: 1-6 read by Pam**

**Hymn: James and Andrew, Peter and John (to the tune Scarborough Fair (HON 338))**

'James and Andrew, Peter and John,  
men of temper, talent and tide,  
your nets are empty, empty and bare.  
cast them now on the opposite side.'

'Jesus, you're only a carpenter's son:  
joints and joists are part of your trade,  
but ours the skill to harvest the deep.  
Why presume to come to our aid?'

'Friends of mine and brothers thro' love,  
I mean more than fishing for food.  
I call your skill to service my will,  
call your lives to harvest the good.'

'Cast your nets where you think is right;  
spend your lives where you think is need;  
but if you long for that which is best,  
let it be on my word you feed.'

'Stir then the waters, Lord, stir up the wind;  
stir the hope that needs to be stretched;  
stir up the love that needs to be ground;  
stir the faith that needs to be fetched.'

James and Andrew, Peter and John,  
and the women close by his side,  
hear how the Lord calls each by their name,  
asking all to turn like the tide.

**Gospel Reading** – John 21: 1-19 read by Alison

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **All Praise to you, O Christ**

**A reflection** – by Penny

Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there. (Attributed to Clarence W Hull)

This is the third Sunday of the season of Easter. We have moved on from looking at the events themselves to looking at the implications those events have for the life of the Church and for our own lives. All through this season the lectionary directs that 'the reading from Acts must be used'. In other words, we are to be reminded how the Church came into being. This is a period of 'limbo' for the remaining eleven

disciples. Jesus has been crucified and risen again. He has appeared twice to groups of them, each time arriving through locked doors. Each time Jesus disappears again you can just hear them saying to one another 'what do we do now?' At the end of chapter 20 we read 'Jesus told him (Thomas) "Because you have seen me you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed"'.

Our Gospel passage focuses on Peter. A leader still, in this time of uncertainty he turns to what he knows, his comfort zone, and organises a fishing trip. He's the one who leaps out of the boat to go to Jesus and he's the one who clammers back in to drag the net ashore. Meanwhile on the beach, the compassionate, caring, risen Son of God has a breakfast barbecue ready for his overjoyed but overwhelmed disciples. It is here that Peter faces challenge and commissioning. Just as he denied knowing Jesus three times it is three times that Jesus asks, "Do you love me?" and tells him 'If you love me, you will do my work and follow me'. – a vague commission by any standards. Here John's gospel ends, leaving Peter and the other disciples in 'limbo'. Mark stops even earlier while Matthew records the eleven being commissioned in Galilee. Luke records the directive to wait in Jerusalem until Pentecost and the Ascension. Beyond this, the account continues in the book of The Acts of the Apostles, which is why we are directed to read this all through the season of Easter. Did Almighty God really rely upon eleven uneducated Jewish men to evangelise the whole world? No, that was just the start. Our reading from Acts tells of another line of communication.

In addition, and in total contrast, the book of Acts, probably written by Luke, tells of the recruitment (or should that be conscription by conversion) of Saul of Tarsus, known in his Christian life as Paul. **So** important is this event to the life of the Church that Luke gives an account here and twice more later in the book by Paul relating his own experience. This man

was a deeply devout Jew, a learned, academic Pharisee who was travelling to Damascus to, as he saw it, act for the glory of God and round up these crazy followers of Jesus who were claiming him to be Messiah. Despite Roman crucifixion they were now claiming that he had risen from the dead! Saul's zeal for God was running high. That is when he was stopped in his tracks. The vision of Jesus was Sauls and Sauls alone. His companions heard the voice but did not see anybody. All they could do was lead him to Damascus for three days recovery before he was let loose on a perplexed world. There, this intelligent, educated, biblically literate young man pondered what had happened. It confirmed all he knew but also turned so much of it upside down! The Law and the Prophets had come true but not in the way that he expected. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had fulfilled his promise to rescue his people but in an unthinkable way. He had come personally as the man, Jesus, who had met with Saul on the road to Damascus. Everything that Paul did for the rest of his life was the result of that meeting with Jesus.

Despite coming from such disparate walks of life Paul and the disciples shared much in the way of common experience.

1. All had a personal encounter with the risen Jesus.
2. Peter and Paul were humbled.
3. Each was restored and forgiven.
4. All were called to lifelong service.
5. All were brought into fellowship with believers.

Saul was stopped in his tracks, re-orientated and sent out to preach the gospel. He was already well equipped so that was fairly instant. The disciples took a little longer to 'get going' but this leaderless group soon gained purpose and direction as we read all through Acts. These accounts may be the extreme examples of recruitment and conversion to the Christian Church, but they illustrate how God comes to each of us where

we are, either geographically, mentally or spiritually. We too must be ready to receive Him and respond to Him.

John Ch 20 v 31 'These things are written that **you** may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.'

### **Profession of Faith**

*The president addresses the congregation*

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**A// 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.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**A// 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.**

Banns of Marriage for Helen Daniels and Timothy Ward

**Prayers of Intercession** - Led by Richard G

Heavenly Father, Jesus spoke to many people from all over Judaea. He taught them about blessings. May we recognise and be thankful for his teaching and the many blessings which we experience in God's world.

Lord in Your mercy.... Hear our prayer.

We pray for the Church and for the world in the name of Jesus Christ. Renew the life and faith of the Church at this time. We are encouraged by fellowship with fellow Christians, and we thank you that we are able to meet and worship together again. We thank you for the blessing of new faces here. We look forward to the return of those who have been anxious about joining us.

We pray for our leaders, Archbishops Justin and Stephen and Bishops Graham and Jane. May they continue to guide us in ways of truth and faith. We pray for our own Veronica, and the group of readers at St Mary's. May we faithfully follow their leadership and teaching. We thank you that we are a growing faith community.

Lord in Your mercy.... Hear our prayer.

We pray for good government. We need to turn to you and to embrace Jesus' message to love one another and work for the common good. This church family is a loving one and gives us all such valuable support. Our government sometimes makes good policy and sometimes policies which do not recognise Christian values. Help them to understand better the wishes of the people and act in the ways You would wish. Guide us as we re-build a more just vision. Good overcomes evil when we walk in Jesus' footsteps. There are many signs of good within our people, many of whom have offered sanctuary to refugees.



The voices and actions of climate conscious people are with us. May their actions be moderate and have the effect on the nation which will result in progress towards reducing the hazards. We all need to contribute. Government cannot be successful without our active support. Sustainability is a worthwhile aim, and we need to understand how we as individuals should change our behaviour to approach it.

We pray for the people of Ukraine. May the war end soon.  
Lord in Your mercy.... Hear our prayer.

Continue to guide this church family at Heacham. Help us to decide our personal priorities and where the wellbeing of this community and the church should be.

Christians have been taught that the greatest calling is to love. May we show compassion towards those in need, wherever they come from. The United Kingdom visa system is broken. More than 200,000 people have offered sanctuary to Ukrainian families. We thank you for this response. Very few have been allowed to see their offer taken up.

We continue to see desperate people who are exploited by gangs crossing the channel in dangerous circumstances. We cannot accommodate all-comers. There are wonderful examples of how desperate people can join communities and contribute in valuable ways. After all, most of us descend from people who came from somewhere else.

Lord in Your mercy.... Hear our prayer.

We thank you for the service of our queen and her family. May they continue to serve the nation and You faithfully. Our queen is rightly admired for her wisdom and her sense of duty. Help her in her difficult family situations. Bless her in this year of Jubilee. She deserves to enjoy her year. Thank you for guiding her in all she does and is.

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

We raise before you now in a few moments of silence those known to us who specially need prayer. In illness, bereavement, worry, people who are hurting. May we pray and to talk to you through this prayer.

(Short Silence)

Lord, in your Mercy: Hear our Prayer

Remember, the souls of your servants no longer here on earth with us and for those who are saddened by their passing. Be with the bereaved in their loneliness and give them the faith to look beyond their present troubles to your Son Jesus Christ who died and rose again and who lives for evermore. We shall all be reunited in heaven.

(Short Silence)

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

### **The Peace**

Alleluia. Christ has been raised from the dead.

The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you**  
Let us offer one another a sign of peace

Hymn: **Here is bread, here is wine (HON 277)**

Here is bread, here is wine  
Christ is with us, he is with us.  
Break the bread, taste the wine,  
Christ is with us here.

*In this bread there is healing,  
in this cup is life for ever.  
In this moment, by the Spirit  
Christ is with us here.*

Here is grace, here is peace.  
Christ is with us, he is with us;  
know his grace, find his peace,  
feast on Jesus here

Here we are, joined in one,  
Christ is with us, he is with us;  
we'll proclaim, till he comes,  
Jesus crucified.

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

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 thanks and praise.**



It is right to praise you, Father, for all your goodness and your love.

When we turned away you did not reject us.

**You came to meet us in your Son, welcomed us as your children and prepared a table where we might sit and eat with you.**

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

**He opened wide his arms upon the cross and, with a love stronger than death he made for all a perfect sacrifice for sin.**

On the night before he died he came to table with his friends and taking bread, he 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.

**Lord Jesus, we bless you: you are the bread of life.**

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.

**Lord Jesus, we bless you: you are the true vine.**

Praise to you, Lord Jesus

**Dying you destroyed our death, Rising you restored our life; Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Father, send your Holy Spirit on us now; may this bread and this wine,  
be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us, who know our need of grace, one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

With your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of praise and lift our voice to join the song of heaven for ever praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,  
Holy is the Lord God Almighty.  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord,  
Holy is the Lord God Almighty:  
who was, and is, and is to come;  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is  
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 president breaks the consecrated bread, saying:*

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

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

### **Invitation to Communion**

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of  
God the Father.**

### **The distribution of Communion**

#### **Post Communion Prayer**

Living God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the  
breaking of bread:

open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in all his  
redeeming work;

who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen**

#### **Hymn: All I once held dear (HON 18)**

All I once held dear, built my life upon,  
all this world reveres, and wars to own,  
all I once thought gain I have counted loss;  
spent and worthless now, compared to this.

*Knowing you, Jesus, Knowing you,  
there is no greater thing.  
You're my all, you're the best,  
you're my joy, my righteousness,  
and I love you, Lord.*

Now my heart's desire is to know you more,  
to be found in you and known as yours.  
To possess by faith what I could not earn,  
all-surpassing gift of righteousness

Oh, to know the pow'r of your risen life,  
and to know you in your sufferings.  
To become like you in your death, my Lord,  
so with you to live and never die.

### **Blessing**

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

**Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

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

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

**In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> MAY 10am Service of Thanksgiving  
for Heacham Parish Church, followed by APCM  
and a picnic lunch, an opportunity for us to  
worship, celebrate, and socialise together.**

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