



Heacham Parish Church



## **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter – 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

### **Greeting**

Welcome to our morning service in the precious name of our Lord Jesus, who was, and is, and is to come.

### **Hymn: At the name of Jesus (MP 41)**

At the name of Jesus  
every knee shall bow,  
every tongue confess Him  
King of glory now.  
'tis the Father's pleasure  
we should call Him Lord,  
who from the beginning  
was the mighty Word.

Mighty and mysterious  
in the highest height,  
God from everlasting,  
very Light of light.  
In the Father's bosom,  
with the spirits blest,  
love, in love, eternal,  
rest, in perfect rest.

Humbled for a season,  
to receive a name  
from the lips of sinners  
unto whom He came;  
faithfully He bore it  
spotless to the last,  
brought it back victorious,  
when from death He passed.

Bore it up triumphant  
with its human light,  
through all ranks of creatures,  
to the central height;  
to the throne of Godhead,  
to the Father's breast,  
filled it with the glory  
of that perfect rest.

In your hearts enthrone Him;  
there let Him subdue  
all that is not holy,  
all that is not true;  
crown him as your captain  
in temptation's hour,  
let His will enfold you  
in its light and power.

Brothers, this Lord Jesus  
shall return again,  
with His Father's glory,  
with His angel-train;  
for all wreaths of empire  
meet upon His brow,  
and our hearts confess Him  
King of glory now.

O Lord open our lips.

**All: And our mouths will proclaim your praise.**

O God make speed to save us.

**All: O Lord make haste to help us.**

**Glory to the father and to the son and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever  
more. Amen.**

Praise the Lord.

**All: The Lord's name be praised.**

### **Confession**

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.

For turning away from you, and ignoring your will for our lives;  
Father forgive us:

**All: Save us and help us.**

For behaving just as we wish, without thinking of you; Father  
forgive us and help us.

**All: Save us and help us.**

For failing you by what we do, and think and say; Father  
forgive us and help us.

**All: Save us and help us.**

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you by temptations in  
the world about us; Father forgive us and help us.

**All: Save us and help us.**

For living as if we were ashamed to belong to your son; Father  
forgive us and help us.

**All: Save us and help us.**

May the God of love bring us back to himself, forgive us our sins, and assure us of His eternal love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: **Jesus stand among us (MP 381)**

Jesus stand among us  
at the meeting of our lives,  
be our sweet agreement  
at the meeting of our eyes.  
O Jesus, we love You, so we gather here,  
join our hearts in unity and take away our fear.

So to You we're gathering  
out of each and every land,  
Christ the love between us  
at the joining of our hands;  
O Jesus, we love You, so we gather here,  
join our hearts in unity and take away our fear.

*(Optional verse for Communion:)*

Jesus, stand among us  
at the breaking of the bread;  
join us as one body  
as we worship You, our Head.  
O Jesus, we love You, so we gather here;  
join our hearts in unity and take away our fear.

**Banns of marriage.**

**Bible reading** – Acts 5: 27-32 read by John B

## **A reflection** – by John

Well Easter is done according to the lectionary, and I hope you all enjoyed your easter eggs. It is a bit like the secular Christmas holiday cum January the 1st the high street is gearing up for Easter. Why do we not spend time celebrating the easter season which is the most important time of the year? But this is according to the lectionary reading.

We have moved on in time to some weeks past Pentecost. We are taken to the court of the Sanhedrin where the Sadducees and the high priest were questioning the disciples.

But let us first consider the plight of the high priest. He was in a very difficult position, after all he was the high priest, he was the central religious figure, he was in control, he was the keeper of God, not these upstart followers of Jesus. The high priest was there to keep his congregation in order and also to keep the Romans happy.

Jesus had already caused quite a stir in Jerusalem in coming into the city on Palm Sunday, his actions was bordering on anarchy, and this had to be stopped. By burying Jesus after his execution and public humiliation it seemed to the high priest that he had calmed the civil unrest and the excited crowd. Well, done the high priest, it was time for him to go back to being the high priest, this act of rebellion, this act of the radical Jesus was finally done with.

Unfortunately, good plans have a way of coming back to bite you. What was this, three days later he heard that Jesus was raised from the dead? Had his plan to quell this upstart been to no avail?

How was the high priest going to handle this? These disciples of this Jesus were uneducated and ordinary men. They had not

been trained in the Temple, they had not been educated in the orthodox teaching, they had no degrees and most of all they were not approved teachers.

How was he going to deal with this situation? If you read earlier in the chapter, you will see that he issued a stern warning to the disciples not to continue their teaching, his thoughts were that a reprimand from the highest religious authority in Jerusalem should finally shut them up. Finding no reason to keep them in prison, he let them go. But no! They were outside in the market square or in the temple court yards proclaiming the works of Jesus and his promise of repentance and forgiveness of sin.

What was going to stop this following of Jesus and his teaching? They had tried to stop the following of Jesus by crucifying him and with public humiliation and he was raised from the dead. He ascended to heaven and still the disciples continued to speak the good news of the gospel. You see that the disciples had seen the risen Jesus and that was a testament to their teaching.

The high priest and the rest of the Sadducees were beside themselves with anger and had the disciples rounded up and put into prison. That would control this rebellion. Unfortunately, God had other ideas, he sent the Holy Spirit to unlock the gate of the prison setting the captives free, not to escape but to return to the temple courts and there they started to preach.

Which is where we are today? For Peter, John, and the other disciples this was round two with the Sanhedrin. They had already faced charges brought by the council and when the high priest orders them to stop witnessing he might as well have been forbidding Peter to stop breathing!

Peter then takes up his role as a voice of the disciples and says, "We must obey God rather than men." What a statement, Peter had recalled the people of the past who had chosen God rather than their human rulers.

Then in verse 30-32 Peter gives a brief summary of the gospel very succinctly, "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you killed, hanging him on a tree. God exalted him with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance to Israel, and remission of sins. We are His witnesses of these things; and so also is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

Peter strongly asserts that it was God who raised Jesus. It was the same God of their ancestors.

The story of Jesus is a part of the ongoing salvation story of our God.

If you read on into this chapter you will see that the members of the council wanted to have the disciples killed, but a Pharisee name Gamaliel said, "You men of Israel, be careful concerning these men, what you are about to do.... Now I tell you, withdraw from these men, and leave them alone. For if this counselor this work is of men, it will be overthrown. But if it is of God, you will not be able to overthrow it, and you would be found even to be fighting against God!" (5:36-39).

He recognised that this criminal was not a common market thief, and that in time one of two things would happen. This insurrection would eventually burn itself out, or the passion of the disciples and their beliefs together with the Holy Spirit would spread and never be put down.

The high priest had lost it was beyond the power of the high priest to determine the outcome. In the end, he could only

order that the accused be flogged, scolded, and released again. They were ordered not to speak in the name of Jesus again!

But the disciples were barely out the door when they were heard to be rejoicing that they had had the honour of suffering in the name of Jesus.

The chapter ends with this line, "Every day, in the temple and at home, they never stopped teaching and preaching Jesus, the Christ."

We have a choice to make we can either stand up for Jesus with all the hardship and pleasures of knowing him or we reject him? The choice is yours and mine.

### **Musical offering**

#### **Creed**

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

#### **Hymn: Jesus is king (MP 366)**

Jesus is King and I will extol Him,  
give Him the glory, and honour His name;  
He reigns on high, enthroned in the heavens -  
Word of the Father, exalted for us.



We have a hope that is steadfast and certain,  
gone through the curtain and touching the throne;  
we have a priest who is there interceding,  
pouring His grace on our lives day by day.

We come to Him, our Priest and Apostle,  
clothed in His glory and bearing His name,  
laying our lives with gladness before Him -  
filled with His spirit we worship the King.

'O Holy One, our hearts do adore You;  
thrilled with Your goodness we give You our praise!'  
Angels in light with worship surround Him,  
Jesus, our Saviour, for ever the same.

**Prayers of Intercession** - Led by Gordon

Heavenly Father thank you that you know our prayers before  
we even speak them out loud, and that you answer all of them  
in ways that bring glory to your name. We give thanks for  
those prayers that you have answered in the past. Help us  
Father to be more open to your leading in our lives and give us  
open ears to hear you through your Word.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Comforter God we ask you to be close to those suffering in the  
world. We continue to pray for the situation in Ukraine. We  
pray for peace and an end to the war. We pray for those whose  
lives have been impacted by the crisis, for those living in the  
country, and for the millions displaced, and for refugees as they  
seek a new home. We pray also for those striving for peace,  
seeking a long-term solution to the crisis.

We pray for refugees across the world, those who are suffering from hunger or violence. We ask you to provide peace in places where there would not be peace, for food where little is available, and for all those agencies working to provide aid to those most in need. Particularly we think of the ongoing situations in Yemen and Afghanistan, where significant parts of their country's populations are struggling to find sufficient food to survive.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Healing God we pray for those we know personally who are suffering from all kinds of illness in body, mind, or spirit. Pour your healing balm on those who are struggling at this time. We pray too for those who care for the sick at home, in care homes, hospitals and hospices. Lord give them strength and resilience at this time.

We continue to pray for our doctors and nurses and for all those who work within our NHS, and particularly for those who work at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Hospitals across the country are both understaffed and underfunded and are struggling to cope with the current pressures they face, including a significant number of patients with Covid. We pray that our government would be aware of the issues that exist and take steps to help support and strengthen our health service.

We continue to pray for the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Kings Lynn. With no decision forthcoming on funding for a new hospital, we pray for those who work there, and those who are being treated and cared for. That you would help all the staff do their very best for the patients, at times in very difficult circumstances.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father we pray for those who are bereaved both recently and those who still miss loved ones. Bring them your peace and comfort at this time. We pause for a few moments and bring to mind those who we know.

Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

**Finally, we pray the LYCiG prayer for growth:**

**God of Mission, Who alone brings growth to your Church, Send your Holy Spirit to give, Vision to our planning, Wisdom to our actions, Joy to our worship, And power to our witness. Help our church to grow in numbers, In spiritual commitment to you, And in service to our local community, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

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

*The Lord's Prayer*

***The Collect***

Hymn: **Jesus is the name we honour (MP 870)**

Jesus is the name we honour;  
Jesus is the name we praise.  
Majestic name above all other names,  
the highest heaven and earth proclaim  
That Jesus is our God.

*We will glorify,  
we will lift Him high,  
we will give Him honour and praise.  
We will glorify ...*

Jesus is the name we worship;  
Jesus is the name we trust.  
He is the King above all other kings,  
let all creation stand and sing  
that Jesus is our God.  
*We will glorify ...*

Jesus is the Father's splendour;  
Jesus is the Father's joy.  
He will return to reign in majesty,  
and every eye at last shall see  
that Jesus is our God.  
*We will glorify ...*

**Blessing**

The God of all grace, who called us to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, establish, strengthen, and settle us in the faith, and the blessings of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit be with us and remain with us always. Amen.

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