

Easter Day



Opening prayer

Blessed are you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have blessed us with every spiritual blessing; enable us by your power to be true to our calling and live holy and blameless lives before you all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen**

Confession Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and repent. Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

cf Psalm 51

Absolution May the Father of all mercies cleanse *us* from *our* sins, and restore *us* in his image to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Bible Readings

Isaiah 65: 17 – end

John 20: 1 – 18

Reflection from Ruth

In our Easter Sunday reading, it is Mary Magdalene who shows up at the tomb after her male companions have returned home, weeping for what is gone. She obviously expects nothing to happen; she has come to mourn the loss of life, of a body to touch, and to bid good-bye. In her grief she can hardly think clearly. She sees two angels and does not recognize their otherworldly origins. She sees Jesus and mistakes him for the gardener. Then he speaks her name, and she suddenly knows exactly who this mysterious stranger is. She responds to the call of her name; “Teacher,” she replies. Then Jesus commissions her to go and tell what she has seen, just as he commissioned the woman at the well way back at the beginning of his ministry.

Scholars often remind us that the resurrection narratives are really commission stories, sending believers out into the world to tell everyone that death is not the last word. Otherwise, no one would ever know what happened, and Easter would be just a reunion story with tears and hugs all around. However, Mary obeys the risen Jesus, fighting her impulse to cling to a familiar body, and leaves the garden to tell what she knows to be true. An expected ending is now a beginning—of telling the truth about life to those who want to deal only in death, of offering living water and the bread of life to those who want only to buy and sell commodities that perish. Mary speaks, and in her speaking we find our own voice.

Affirmation of faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world? **We believe and trust in him. This is the faith of the Church.**

This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Prayers of intercession led by Philip

As we gather together here this Easter Sunday, we do so knowing that around the world, millions of others are also celebrating their faith in a risen Lord.

We thank you Father for your church around the world. We thank you for the generations who have worshipped you and lived lives faithful to you.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We thank you for those who have worshipped here in Burton over the centuries. Who built and maintained this building, who have been active in this village and who have strived to maintain a Christian presence in this community. We ask Father that you will instil in us that same desire to maintain a Christian presence in this community that we might play a full and active part among all in this community, alongside them through all the smiles, laughter, tears and sorrow that we all encounter at different times in our lives.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father we pray for all those around the world experiencing war and injustice. We pray for the people of Ukraine, that you will help them endure their suffering. We pray for the people of Russia, that they might learn of the real nature of the so called 'special operation' in Ukraine. We pray that the voices of the thousands of mothers who have lost sons in the fighting might be heard.

We pray for all those affected by wars that are less reported, many of which have been going on for years. We pray for the oppressed, who feel the world isn't listening to them.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord we pray for any in our community who are unwell. Help them and those who care for them.

We pray for any who are lonely, or who are suffering anxiety, or fear. We pray for those who are dealing with issues of mental health, either of those they love and care for, or that they suffer themselves. Be with them Lord.

Let us pause to remember anyone we know who is in need of our prayers at this time.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord we pray for our Queen, Elizabeth. We thank you for her life of service and her witness to you. We ask you to give her health, strength and stamina, despite her years, as we approach her Jubilee. Help us Lord as many here are planning to celebrate her Jubilee in the village.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

The Lord's Prayer As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

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 today our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen

Closing prayer

God give you grace to become the people He has called you to be,
that you may live and work to his praise and glory,
and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be with us and remain with us always. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen**