

The Great Days

Maundy Thursday

Good Friday

Easter Vigil

Easter Day

Introduction

We will celebrate the Great Days of Holy Week and Easter at home, with services online and the audio available to dial in on 01902 504 590 (normal charges for a call to a Wolverhampton number will apply).

On Easter Day, there will be a simple service of Communion in church at 10.15am. We will still have to observe all the social distancing and other restrictions we have become used to, and it is important that we only come together if we have no reason to believe that we've been exposed to the Covid-19 virus in the previous 10 days.

Please do take part in our worship as much as you are able, using these services to help your own prayers if you're not able to join in person or online.

May God bless us all in these great days.

Contents and service times

Day	Church open for prayer	Services	Page
Maundy Thursday	5-6pm	7.30pm – Livestreamed	3
Good Friday	8-9am	12-3pm- livestreamed meditations	11
		7.30pm – Evening worship	12
Holy Saturday	10am-12	8.30pm – Easter Vigil	20
Easter Day	-	10.15am Holy Communion	27

Details of other online worship – p.35

Maundy Thursday evening service

*This service will be livestreamed from the Rectory; if you would like to take a full part, have ready some bread and wine or another appropriate drink. We will **not** be consecrating these as Holy Communion, but will use them to help us to remember the Last Supper as Jesus commanded us.*

We will also use a bowl of water as a reminder of our baptism and of Jesus' command to serve one another. You might like to have this ready, along with a small towel!

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you

and also with you.

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 for a new beginning

Our Lord Jesus Christ says:

'If you love me, keep my commandments.'

'Unless I wash you, you have no part in me.'

Let us confess to almighty God our sins against his love,
and ask him to cleanse us.

Silence is kept.

Have mercy on us, O God,
in your great goodness;
according to the abundance of your compassion
blot out our offences.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Against you only have we sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Purge us from our sin and we shall be clean;
wash us and we shall be whiter than snow.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy upon us.**

The president says

May the Father forgive you
by the death of his Son
and strengthen us
to live in the power of the Spirit
all our days.

Amen.

The Collect

Let us pray that we may love one another as Christ has loved us.

Silence is kept.

God our Father,
your Son Jesus Christ was obedient to the end
and drank the cup prepared for him:
may we who share his table
watch with him through the night of suffering
and be faithful.

Amen.

Reading – I Corinthians 11:23-26

Beloved: ²³I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' ²⁵In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

We remember Jesus, sharing bread and wine

Hymn – Living Lord

Lord Jesus Christ, You have come to us,
You are one with us, Mary's son.
Cleansing our souls from all their sin,
Pouring Your love and goodness in;
Jesus, our love for You we sing,
Living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, Now and every day,
Teach us how to pray, Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
This in remembrance, Lord, of You:
Into our lives Your power breaks through,
Living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, You have come to us,
Born as one of us, Mary's son.
Led out to die on Calvary,
Risen from death to set us free,
Living Lord Jesus, help us see
You are Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, We would come to You,
Live our lives for You, Son of God.
All Your commands we know are true,
Your many gifts will make us new,
Into our lives Your power breaks through,
Living Lord.

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Gospel Reading – John 13:1-17, 31b-25

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.
I give you a new commandment, says the Lord:
Love one another as I have loved you.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ²The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. ⁶He came to

Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' ⁷Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' ⁸Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' ⁹Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' ¹⁰Jesus said to him, 'One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.' ¹¹For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

¹²After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you?' ¹³You call me Teacher and Lord - and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. ¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. ³¹Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. ³²If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. ³³Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." ³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

We renew our resolve to serve others in love

Prayers of Intercession

In the power of the Spirit let us pray to the Father through Christ the saviour of the world.

Father,
on this, the night he was betrayed,
your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples' feet.
We commit ourselves to follow his example of love and service.
Lord, hear us
and humble us.

On this night, he prayed for his disciples to be one.
We pray for the unity of your Church.
Lord, hear us
and unite us.

On this night, he prayed for those who were to believe through
his disciples' message.
We pray for the mission of your Church.
Lord, hear us
and renew our zeal.

On this night, he commanded his disciples to love,
but suffered rejection himself.
We pray for the rejected and unloved.
Lord, hear us
and fill us with your love.

On this night, he reminded his disciples
that if the world hated them it hated him first.
We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith.
Lord, hear us
and give us your peace.

On this night, he accepted the cup of death
and looked forward to the new wine of the kingdom.
We remember those who have died in the peace of Christ.
Lord, hear us
and welcome all your children into paradise.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.

Hymn – Love each other

All the room was hushed and still,
And when the bowl was filled,
He stooped to wash their feet.
And when it was complete, He said:

'This is what I'm asking you to do,
This is why I'm kneeling here beside you.
This is what I want My church to be,
This is what I want the world to see,
Who it is you follow.'

*'Love each other,
One another,
Love each other
In the way that I have loved you.
Walk together,
And whatever comes,
Love each other
In the way that I have loved you.'*

Let the room be hushed and still,
Let us go to where He kneels
And join Him as He serves,
And learn His ways of love.

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The Dismissal

When the disciples had sung a hymn they went out to the Mount of Olives. Jesus prayed to the Father, 'If it is possible, take this cup of suffering from me'. He said to his disciples, 'How is it that you were not able to keep watch with me for one hour? The hour has come for the Son of Man to be handed over to the power of sinful men. Come, let us go.'

Christ was obedient unto death. Go in his peace.

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Good Friday - 12noon - 3pm

On the hour and half hour, a video of a hymn or worship song, a short reflection on the 'Words from the Cross' and prayers will be broadcast on YouTube and Facebook.

To make the most of this time, please set aside some time for reflection and prayer at home between each of these short sections, as we would in church. You can, of course, view them afterwards, but there is real value in following the sequence in 'real time' as much as you're able.

The audio of each section will also be available to dial in on 01902 504 590, but as we can only host one track at a time through this service, they won't be available afterwards.

- | | | |
|-------|---|-------------------------|
| 12.00 | <i>'Father, forgive them'
There is a green hill far away</i> | <i>Luke 23:33-37</i> |
| 12.30 | <i>'Today, you will be with me in Paradise'
Meekness and Majesty</i> | <i>Luke 23:39-43</i> |
| 1.00 | <i>'Woman, behold your son'
My song is love unknown</i> | <i>John 19:25-27</i> |
| 1.30 | <i>'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
How deep the Father's love for us</i> | <i>Matthew 27:39-43</i> |
| 2.00 | <i>'I am thirsty'
My Lord, what love is this?</i> | <i>John 19:28-29</i> |
| 2.30 | <i>'It is finished'
When I survey</i> | <i>John 19:29-30</i> |
| 3.00 | <i>'Into your hands I commend my spirit'
Crucified man</i> | <i>Luke 23:44-46</i> |

Good Friday Evening Worship - 7.30pm

We prepare to worship

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ became obedient unto death for us,
even death upon a cross.

He was pierced for our sins,
bruised for no fault but our own.

His punishment has brought us peace.
By his wounds we are healed.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain
to receive power and riches and wisdom,
strength and honour, glory and praise.
Amen.

Hymn – Meekness and Majesty

Meekness and majesty, manhood and Deity,
In perfect harmony, the Man who is God.
Lord of eternity dwells in humanity,
Kneels in humility and washes our feet.

*O what a mystery, meekness and majesty.
Bow down and worship for this is your God,
This is your God.*

Father's pure radiance, perfect in innocence,
Yet learns obedience to death on a cross.
Suffering to give us life, conquering through sacrifice,
And as they crucify prays: 'Father forgive.'

Wisdom unsearchable, God the invisible,
Love indestructible in frailty appears.
Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly,
Lifts our humanity to the heights of His throne.

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Prayers for a new beginning

God shows his love for us
in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Let us then show our love for him
by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess we have failed you as did your first disciples.
We ask for your mercy and your help.

Our selfishness betrays you:
Lord, forgive us.

Christ have mercy.

We fail to share the pain of your suffering:
Lord, forgive us.

Christ have mercy.

We run away from those who abuse you:
Lord, forgive us.

Christ have mercy.

We are afraid of being known to belong to you:
Lord, forgive us.

Christ have mercy.

May almighty God,
who sent his Son into the world to save sinners,
bring *you* his pardon and peace, now and for ever.

Amen.

Collect

Eternal God,
in the cross of Jesus we see the cost of our sin
and the depth of your love:
in humble hope and fear may we place at his feet
all that we have and all that we are,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading – Isaiah 52:13-53:12

¹³See, my servant shall prosper; he shall be exalted and lifted up, and shall be very high. ¹⁴Just as there were many who were astonished at him – so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of mortals – ¹⁵so he shall startle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

¹Who has believed what we have heard? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? ²For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.

⁴Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. ⁹They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain. When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the LORD shall prosper. ¹¹Out of his anguish he shall see light; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. ¹²Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Hymn – My song is love unknown

My song is love unknown,
my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown,
that they might lovely be.
O, who am I that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh, and die.

He came from his blest throne,
salvation to bestow
but men made strange, and none
the longed-for Christ would know.
But O, my friend, my friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend.

Sometimes they strew his way,
and his sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day
hosannas to their King.
Then 'Crucify!' is all their breath,
and for his death they thirst and cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
he gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
themselves displease, and 'gainst him rise.

They rise, and needs will have
my dear Lord made away;
a murderer they save,
the Prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful he to suffering goes,
that he his foes from thence might free.

In life, no house, no home,
my Lord on earth might have;
in death, no friendly tomb,
but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was his home;
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

Here might I stay and sing,
no story so divine;
never was love, dear King,
never was grief like thine!
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

Samuel Crossman

Second Reading - Hebrews 10.16-25

The Holy Spirit testifies to us, for after saying, ¹⁶'This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds', ¹⁷he also adds, 'I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.' ¹⁸Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

¹⁹Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Sermon

Declaration of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**Though he was divine,
he did not cling to equality with God,
but made himself nothing.
Taking the form of a slave,
he was born in human likeness.
He humbled himself
and was obedient to death,
even the death of the cross.
Therefore God has raised him on high,
and given him the name above every name:
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Praise

You are worthy, O Christ, for you were slain;
and by your blood you ransomed for God
saints from every tribe and language and nation;
you have made them to be a kingdom and priests serving our God.
**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

To him who loves us
and has freed us from our sins by his blood,
and made us a kingdom of priests
to stand and serve before our God;
**To him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honour, glory and might,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Prayers

We use this response through the prayers.

...By the Saviour's cross and passion,
Lord, save us and help us.

The prayers end,
**Holy God,
holy and strong,
holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Hymn – When I survey

When I survey the wondrous cross,
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

See from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Watts, Isaac

Blessing

Christ crucified draw you to himself,
to find in him a sure ground for faith,
a firm support for hope,
and the assurance of sins forgiven;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

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Easter Vigil service - 8.30pm livestreamed

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
on this most holy night,
when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life,
the Church invites her children throughout the world
to come together in vigil and prayer.
This is the Passover of the Lord.
We remember his death and resurrection
by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries,
confident that we shall share his victory over death
and live with him for ever in God.

Exodus 14:10-15:2 – Crossing the Red Sea

¹⁰As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. ¹¹They said to Moses, ‘Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? ¹²Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, “Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians”? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.’ ¹³But Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. ¹⁴The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.’

¹⁵Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. ¹⁶But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. ¹⁸And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.’

²⁶Then the LORD said to Moses, ‘Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.’ ²⁷So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at

dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

³⁰Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

¹Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

 'I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
 horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

²The LORD is my strength and my might,
 and he has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise him,
 my father's God, and I will exalt him.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Collect

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.

Amen.

Romans 6.3-11 – Dead to sin, alive to God

³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Blessing and lighting the Easter Candle

The Easter Candle may be marked here.

Christ yesterday and today,
the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega,
all time belongs to him, and all ages;
to him be glory and power,
through every age and for ever. **Amen.**

Nails or incense studs may be inserted into the Easter Candle.

By his holy and glorious wounds
may Christ our Lord guard and keep us.

Amen.

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:
set us aflame with the fire of your love,
and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The president lights the Easter Candle, saying

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

The minister bearing the Candle raises it and says or sings three times

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

The Easter Candle is placed on a stand.

Gospel Reading – John 20:1-11

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.
He has defeated the powers of death.
Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing.
He has the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.
Alleluia.
Alleluia.
Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, ‘They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.’ ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Easter Acclamation

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

We sing,

Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Now he is living, the Christ.
Out of the tomb he is risen;
he has conquered death,
opened heaven to all believers.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christ is the firstfruits from death,
filling the church with his glory!
Darkness vanishes
in the light of his power.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Christopher Walker © 2010 OCP, reproduced by permission

Sermon

Declaration of Faith

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

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**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?

**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.**

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

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

Hymn – Thine be the glory

- 1. 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.
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**
- 2. 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:
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**
- 3. 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:
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

E. L. Budry

Blessing

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ
has given us the victory,
give you joy and peace in your faith;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

A minister says

With the risen life of Christ within you,
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

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Easter Day - Online worship

The 10.15am Easter communion service will be livestreamed. This service will be available on YouTube and Facebook from 8am onwards

Easter Acclamation

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Hymn or song

Led like a lamb to the slaughter
In silence and shame
There on Your back You carried a world
Of violence and pain
Bleeding, dying, bleeding, dying

*You're alive, You're alive
You have risen, Alleluia!
And the power and the glory is given
Alleluia, Jesus, to You*

At break of dawn, poor Mary
Still weeping she came
When through her grief she heard Your voice
Now speaking her name
Mary, Master, Mary, Master!

At the right hand of the Father
Now seated on high
You have begun Your eternal reign
Of justice and joy
Glory, glory, glory, glory

Kendrick, Graham © 1983 Kingsway's Thankyou Music,
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Prayers for a new beginning

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God.
Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil
and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

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

Assurance of God's forgiveness

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.

The Collect Prayer for Easter Sunday

Let us pray that we may walk the risen life of Christ in glory.

Silence is kept.

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

First Reading – Mark 16:1-8

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.’ ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Easter Acclamation

The response is louder on each 'Alleluia!'

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gloria in Excelsis

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

*Lord God, heavenly King, peace you bring to us;
we worship you, we give you thanks, we sing our song of praise.*

*Jesus, Saviour of all, Lord God, Lamb of God
you take away our sins, O Lord, have mercy on us all.*

*At the Father's right hand, Lord receive our prayer,
for you alone are the Holy One, and you alone are Lord.*

*Glory Father and Son, Glory Holy Spirit,
to you we raise our hands up high, we glorify your name.*

Anderson, M. © 1983, 1988 Michael Anderson, reproduced by permission

Second Reading – Acts 10:34-43

³⁴Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as

judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷'Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?' ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn – Jesus lives!

Jesus lives! Thy terrors now
can no more, O death, appal us;
Jesus lives! By this we know
thou, O grave, canst not enthral us.
Alleluia!

Jesus lives! Henceforth is death
but the gate of life immortal:
this shall calm our trembling breath,
when we pass its gloomy portal.
Alleluia!

Jesus lives! For us he died;
then, alone to Jesus living,
pure in heart may we abide,
glory to our Saviour giving.
Alleluia!

Jesus lives! Our hearts know well
naught from us his love shall sever;
life nor death nor powers of hell
tear us from his keeping ever.
Alleluia!

Jesus lives! To him the throne
over all the world is given:
may we go where he is gone,
rest and reign with him in heaven.
Alleluia!

Gellert, C.F., Cox, Frances E. (tr) and others

Declaration of Faith

Let us declare our faith
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**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.**

Intercession

We use this response:

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

The prayers end,

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

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**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.**

Hymn – Thine be the glory

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.
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory 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:
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory 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:
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Budry, E. L.

Acclamation

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.

Blessing

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ
has given us the victory,
give you joy and peace in your faith;
and the blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you now and always. Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

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Worship from Lichfield and beyond

There are a lot of other opportunities to join in worship online over these great days.

Lichfield Cathedral livestream many of their services – for details go to www.lichfield-cathedral.org/lent/holyweek-

Maundy Thursday

9am An online service from the Church of England
www.youtube.com/thechurchofengland

11am The Annual Chrism service includes renewal of vows by ministers, and the blessing of oils for the church's ministry. It is led as a Zoom service by Bishop Michael. Please contact Rev'd Nick for the link if you would like to take part.

Good Friday

9am An online service from the Church of England
www.youtube.com/thechurchofengland

Holy Saturday/Easter Eve

5.30pm An *in memoriam* service of Evening Prayer from Lichfield Cathedral, with the opportunity to send names beforehand to be remembered in prayer. -
<https://www.lichfield-cathedral.org/lent/holyweek->

Easter Day

5.45am A dawn service led by Bishop Michael
www.lichfield.anglican.org/Easter-daybreak-2021.php
or facebook.com/LichfieldCofE/



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

St Thomas' Church

Meeting God at the Heart of Wednesfield