

Order of Service for Easter Evening 2021

Video available via St James' West End YouTube Channel <https://youtu.be/aCJGPHNScuY>

Music with Introduction – 'Come ye Faithful Raise the Anthem'

Welcome by Carol Kidd LLM

'Alleluia Christ is Risen – He is Risen Indeed Alleluia!

Hymn: Jesus Christ is Risen Today

1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

2 Hymns of praise then let us sing Alleluia!
unto Christ our heav'nly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

3 But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

4 Sing we to our God above Alleluia!
praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
praise him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Opening Prayer: GIVING THANKS TO GOD

Praise be to you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

For your great mercy in giving us birth into a new life
and a new hope by raising Jesus Christ from death:
praise be to you, our God and Father!

For an inheritance that can never spoil or fade, kept for us in heaven:
praise be to you, our God and Father!

For the protection of your power, ours through faith, until salvation comes at the end of
time: praise be to you, our God and Father!

Father, to you be all praise, glory and honour
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

First Reading: Resurrection Morning from Luke 24:1-12 read by Rita Payne

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb. They went in but did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men stood by them in dazzling clothes. So the women were terrified and bowed down to the ground.

"Why are you looking for the living among the dead?" asked the men. "He is not here, but he has risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, 'It is necessary that the Son of Man be betrayed into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and rise on the third day?'" And they remembered his words.

Returning from the tomb, they reported all these things to the Eleven and to all the rest. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them were telling the apostles these things. But these words seemed like nonsense to them, and they did not believe the women. Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. When he stooped to look in, he saw only the linen cloths. So he went away, amazed at what had happened.

Listen to the anthem: 'This Joyful Eastertide' sung by St Martin-in-the-Field choral singers

'Jesus in the Garden' and 'Jesus on the Road'

Watch the first excerpt from 'Recognising You' video produced by Engage Worship
Poem written and read by Amy Scott-Robinson, images by Richard Lyall, music by Sam Hargreaves

Second Reading: On the Road to Emmaus from Luke 24:13-35 read by Betty Wood

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. 15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; 16 but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said

he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Jesus in the Locked Room and Jesus on the Shoreline

Watch the second excerpt from the ‘recognising You’ Engage Worship video

Poem ‘Love Overcame’ written by Julie Palmer and read by Enid Plowman

Love overcame
Emerging from a cold tomb
All the truth, majesty and creativity of a living God
Transforming a broken heart
Making a quiet return, in a still and sorrowful garden
The grave stone rolled away, to release redemptive love
Jesus resurrected and restored
Comforts a weeping woman
Speaks with travellers on a journey
Meets with his faithful friends
And they bow down before Christ alive
And acknowledged that the Saviour has arrived
That the word of God has come alive
And that the extraordinary transformation of heaven and earth
Is complete

Hymn: Loves Redeeming Work is Done

1 Love's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won:
lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er,
lo, he sets in blood no more.

2 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened paradise.

3 Lives again our glorious King;
where, O death, is now thy sting?
dying once, he all doth save;
where thy victory, O grave?

4 Soar we now where Christ has led,
following our exalted Head;
made like him, like him we rise;
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

5 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to thee by both be given:
thee we greet triumphant now;
hail, the Resurrection Thou!

A time of Prayer – intercessions read by Andrew Brooks

Risen Christ, when darkness overwhelms us - may your dawn beckon.
When fear paralyses us - may your touch release us.
When grief torments us - may your peace enfold us.
When memories haunt us - may your presence heal us.
When justice fails us - may your anger ignite us.
When apathy stagnates us - may your challenge renew us.
When courage leaves us - may your spirit inspire us.
When despair grips us - may your hope restore us.
And when death threatens us - may your resurrection light lead us.
Amen.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed by 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

Closing Prayer and Blessing

God the Father,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to us the gates of everlasting life. Amen.

God the Son,
who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,
bless us and give us joy that we may share the Easter faith. Amen.

God the Holy Spirit,
who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,
bless, empower and fill us with Christ's peace. Amen.
We are raised to new life with Christ
Let us go in His peace Alleluia Alleluia!
Thanks be to God Alleluia Alleluia!

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed Alleluia!

Closing Hymn: The Day of Resurrection

1 The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness,
the passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over,
with hymns of victory.

2 Our hearts be pure from evil,
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light;
and listening to his accents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and, hearing,
may raise the victor strain.

3 Now let the heavens be joyful!
Let earth the song begin!
Let the round world keep triumph,
and all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen
their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord hath risen,
our joy that hath no end.