

StN Easter 31032024 - communion full service - final

Welcome

Call to worship -

Hymn – To God be the glory (CH4 512/MP 708)

Opening prayer & Lords Prayer

Bible Readings: *Thelma*

1st Reading – Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 NIV

2nd Reading – John 20:1-18 NIV

Hymn – This is the day (CH 194 / MP 691)

Reflection -

Offering - In Christ alone (MP 1072/ A&M 678)

Prayers of intercession - *Isobel*

Hymn - He is Exalted (CH4 437 / MP 217)

Communion

Hymn – Thine be the glory (CH 419 / MP 689)

Benediction

Close

Note: A&M – song book Ancient and Modern

Psalm 118

- ¹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.
- ² Let Israel say:
“His love endures forever.”
- ¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my defence^[a];
he has become my salvation.
- ¹⁵ Shouts of joy and victory
resound in the tents of the righteous:
“The LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!
- ¹⁶ The LORD’s right hand is lifted high;
the LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!”
- ¹⁷ I will not die but live,
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.
- ¹⁸ The LORD has chastened me severely,
but he has not given me over to death.
- ¹⁹ Open for me the gates of the righteous;

I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.
²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD
through which the righteous may enter.
²¹ I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
you have become my salvation.
²² The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
²³ the LORD has done this,
and it is marvellous in our eyes.
²⁴ The LORD has done it this very day;
let us rejoice today and be glad.

John 20:1-18

The Empty Tomb

²⁰ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

¹⁷ Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Prayers of intercession

Risen Christ, our eternal Savior,
Like the disciples,
we are gathered together the week after Easter:
wondering whether it is true,
marvelling at the possibility,
and daring to hope.

Like the disciples,
we are sometimes afraid,
sometimes full of doubt.

But in your extravagant generosity, your boundless love,
you appear to us in our fear and love us in our doubts
and grant us the oceans of your peace.
Thank you for loving us as we are.

Teach us not to hide from our doubt,
but to recognize it as a door to mystery and to deeper faith.
After all, the disciples' fear became a visitation
as they saw you among them, risen and triumphant.
Thomas' doubt became a moment of revelation
as he saw and touched you, and finally believed.

This morning we pray for the many men and women in our society
who have no faith at all.
There are so many who live without hope,
without knowledge of your resurrection,
without your light in their lives.
Grant us the courage to live as witnesses to your resurrection.
Risen Christ, be light in our world.

We pray for those in our congregation this morning
who find it difficult to believe.
Lord knows that they are not alone, but in the best of company:
even Christ's own disciples struggled to believe
all that they had seen and heard.
Loving Christ, it is your presence
that removes all fear and erases all doubts:
so come, and grant the doubting Thomases in our midst
your presence & peace.

And grant to all of us, living Lord Christ,
renewed faith, great courage, and your boundless peace.

We rejoice this morning with...*{insert names}*

Loving God, we pray for....*{insert names}*