

*The Benefice of St Mary the Virgin,
Higham Ferrers with St John the Baptist,
Chelveston-cum-Caldecott*

Festival Celebration



**for
Easter Day**

**‘There you will see him,
just as he told you.’**



Welcome on this festival day as we meet once again in Online worship to proclaim the astounding news - our Lord is risen! All creation rejoices and we celebrate with joy.

Today's service was recorded at home by members of
The Ministry Team and their families.

Thanks also to members of St Mary's Choir for recording the Gospel Acclamation, to Claire Scott and Richard Oberman for bringing the Gospel reading to life, to Annette, Darren, Rhys & Lowri Robinson for leading us in the Intercessions and to the many people who offered their thoughts on '*What Easter means to me*' – Amanda Smith, Sue & Bob Dennis, Sharron Smart, Sandy Coleman and Dave Stuttle.

Please have ready a bowl of water, and some candles to light as we join in this service together.

The experience of the last year and the suffering of our world once again has made this journey through Holy Week especially significant and our longing for things to be renewed and for new life make this Easter Day deeply meaningful.

We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song!

We begin in a moment by celebrating the resurrection as we welcome the light of the Easter candle, lit for the first time from the Easter fire at the Vigil service last night.

The Gathering

Alleluia. Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hymn

**Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!**

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

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



Welcoming the Easter Candle - Michelle, Chris, Georgie & Bella

The Easter Candle, lit at the Vigil Service is a sign for us of the resurrection.



This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ
was raised gloriously from the dead.
Throughout the world Christians
celebrate
the mighty power of God
as Christ calls us out of darkness
to share in his marvellous light.
May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

We are invited to light a candle at home as a sign of our sharing the light of Christ in all the world

May we, and all Christ's people,
shine as lights in the world
to the glory of God the Father.

The light of Christ - Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Saying Sorry

On this day of days we give thanks that we have been forgiven our failings and we give praise to God for Jesus who has washed away all our sins. As a sign of this we take a bowl of water.

God our Father,
your gift of water brings life and freshness to the earth;
in baptism it is a sign of the washing away of our sins
and the gift of life eternal.
Sanctify this water, we pray.
Renew the living spring of your life within us,
that we may be free from sin
and filled with your saving health;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

We can dip our fingers in the water and make the sign of the cross with it on our forehead or hands, just as we made the sign of the cross with ash at the beginning of Lent.



We are Forgiven

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.

Music

We hear a recording of Peterborough Cathedral Choir singing:

This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow!
My Love, the Crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow.

*Had Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day
prison,
Our faith had been in vain: but now hath Christ arisen.*

My flesh in hope shall rest, and for a season slumber:
Till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number.

Death's flood hath lost his chill, since Jesus cross'd the river:
Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver.

Words: G R Woodward (1848-1934) Music: William Harris (1883-1973)



The Easter Collect – Brenda & John

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

**God of glory,
by raising 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.**

New Testament Reading – Acts 10:34-43- Linda

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles:

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on



the third day and allowed him to appear to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He 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. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

For the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



*We sing **Alleluia** to greet the Gospel – led by members of the Choir of St Mary's*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Now he is risen, the Lord,
out of the tomb he is risen;
he has conquered death,
opened heaven to all believers.*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*Christ is the first fruits from death,
filling the church with his glory!*

*Darkness vanishes
in the light of his power.*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!



Gospel – Mark 16:1-8 – *read by Paul, Claire & Richard*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark
Glory to you, O Lord

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the

tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But 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.

But 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.' So 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.

Alleluia! This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



Song

***Alleluia, alleluia,
give thanks to the risen Lord.***

***Alleluia, alleluia,
give praise to his name.***

**Jesus is Lord of all the earth:
he is the King of creation:**

**Spread the good news o'er all
the earth:**

Jesus has died and has risen:

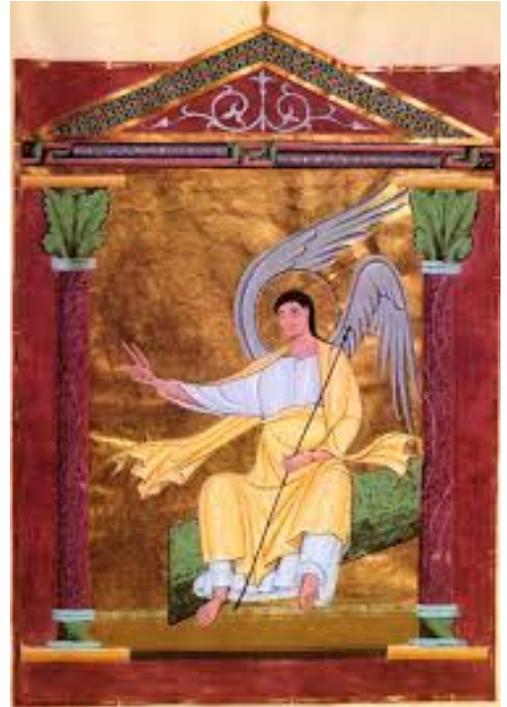
**We have been crucified with
Christ:
now we shall live for ever:**

**God has proclaimed the just reward:
life for the world, alleluia:**

**Come, let us praise the living God:
joyfully sing to our Saviour:**

Words & Music: Donald Fishel (b.1950)

Homily – Michelle



What Easter means to me...

Hearing stories from our church family...

Amanda, Sharron, Sue, Dave, Bob & Sandy.

Hymn

**See, what a morning, gloriously bright,
with the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
folded the grave-clothes, tomb filled with light,
as the angels announce, 'Christ is risen!'
See God's salvation plan,
wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,
fulfilled in Christ, the Man,
for he lives, Christ is risen from the dead!**

**See Mary weeping, 'Where is he laid?
as in sorrow, she turns from the empty tomb;
hears a voice speaking, calling her name;
it's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!
The voice that spans the years,
speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us,
will sound till he appears,
for he lives, Christ is risen from the dead!**

**One with the Father, Ancient of Days,
through the Spirit who clothes faith
with certainty;
honour and blessing, glory and praise
to the King crowned with power and authority!
And we are raised with him,
death is dead, love has won, Christ has
conquered;
and we shall reign with him,
for he lives, Christ is risen from the dead!**

*words & music: Stuart Townend (b. 1963) & Keith Getty
(b.1974)*



Prayers of Intercession -

led by Darren, Annette, Rhys & Lowri Robinson

We pray to Jesus, our Risen Lord, the Lord of life

who is with us as we worship and present with us to
eternity.

Jesus, light of the world,
bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations.

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

Jesus, bread of life,
give food to the hungry,
and nourish us all with your word.

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

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,
be with us and all who follow you in the way ...
Deepen our appreciation of your truth
and fill us with your life.

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

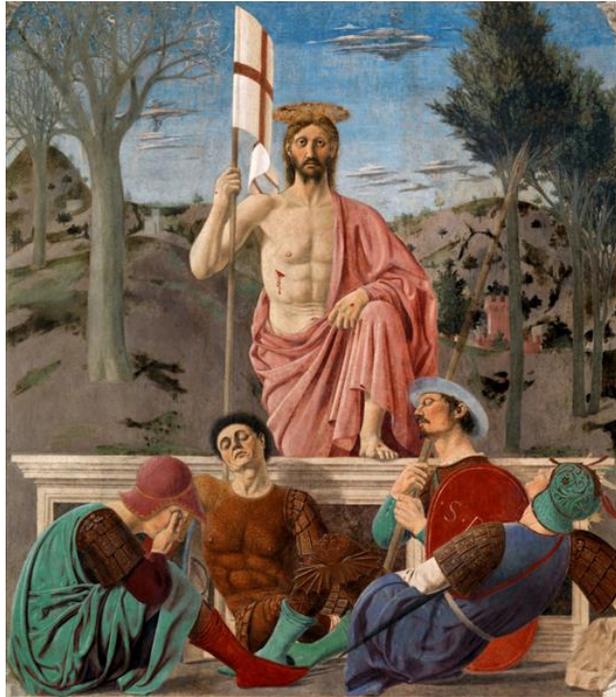
Jesus, Good Shepherd
who gave your life for the sheep,
recover the straggler,
bind up the injured, strengthen the sick
and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.



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

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,
we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in
you ...
Raise us with them to eternal life.

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



The Lord's Prayer – Lesley

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
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 this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory for ever and ever.
Amen.**



Hymn

**Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King.
To all the world glad news we bring:
*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!***

**The Lord of life is risen for ay:
bring flowers of song to strew his way;
let all the earth rejoice and say**

**Praise we praise in songs of victory
that Love, that Life, which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high**

**Thy name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing today with one accord
the life laid down, the life restored:**

Words: Cyril Argentine Alington (1872-1955)

Music: Melody from Melchior Vulpius's Gesangbuch, 1609

The Peace – Lesley



The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.'
Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.
Alleluia!

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you. Alleluia.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We share peace with those we are with, and with those we join with in worship, near and far, in this world and in the glorious new life of eternity.

Closing Prayer – Linda

We pray together

**God of our salvation,
you have restored us to life,
you have brought us back again
into your love, by the triumphant
death and resurrection
of Christ continue to heal us,
as we go to live and work
in the power of your Spirit,
to your praise and glory. Amen.**

The Dismissal

Acclamation – Brenda & John

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.

He 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! Alleluia! Alleluia!



Final Hymn

**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:**

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors,
thro' thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:**

*Words: Edmond Budry (1854-1932)
Music: GF Handel (1685-1759)*



The Blessing - Michelle

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.

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

Music at the end:

*Toccata from 5th Symphony – Charlie-Marie Widor (1844-1937)
from Peterborough Cathedral*



**Revd Michelle, Brenda,
Revd Linda, Fr Paul & Revd Lesley
wish you a very happy
and blessed Easter!**

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