

The Gathering of An Easter People

Please Stand

God in Christ has revealed his glory

All Come let us worship.

From the rising of the sun to its setting

All The Lord's name is greatly to be praised.

Give him praise, you servants of the Lord.

All O praise the name of the Lord!

We stand before the throne of God
with countless crowds
from every nation and race, tribe and language.

**All Blessing and glory and wisdom,
thanksgiving and honour, power and might
be to our God for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Through lent we were invited in the name of the Church, to observe
a holy time where
by self-examination and repentance,
and by prayer, fasting and self-discipline,
and through the reading and meditation upon God's Holy word,
we can know God more clearly,
love God more dearly
and follow God more nearly, day by day.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are an Easter People,
a people who watch in faith for the signs of hope, love and
resurrection.

At an Easter vigil we remember the night in which our Lord Jesus
Christ passed over from death to life: the ultimate sign of hope for us
all.

Through lockdown we have abided in a Lenten world, with moments
of Easter hope, and so now, as an Easter people gathering once again,
we call to mind the light which gives us hope.

Confession and Absolution

Please Sit

Human sin disfigures the whole creation,
which groans with eager longing for God's redemption.
We confess our sin in penitence and faith:

**All Almighty God,
long-suffering and of great goodness:
I confess to you,
I confess with my whole heart
my neglect and forgetfulness of your commandments,
my wrong doing, thinking, and speaking;
the hurts I have done to others,
and the good I have left undone.
O God, forgive me, for I have sinned against you;
and raise me to newness of life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ
has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed:
forgive you your sins,
open your eyes to God's truth,
strengthen you to do God's will
and give you the joy of his kingdom
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Lighting of our Easter Candle

Please Stand

Eternal God, who made our Eastertide
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.

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.

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

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

The light of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

All Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing choirs of angels!
Exult, all creation around God's throne!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!

Sound the trumpet of salvation!
Rejoice O earth in shining splendour,
radiant in the brightness of your King!

Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!
Darkness vanishes for ever!
Rejoice, O Mother Church, Exult in glory!

The risen Saviour shines upon you!
Let this place resound with joy,
echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

Motet

Please Sit

I was Glad
by Sir Charles Hubert Parry

*I was glad when they said unto me: We will go into the house of the Lord.
Our feet shall stand in thy gates: O Jerusalem,
Jerusalem is builded as a city: That is at unity in itself.*

*O pray for the peace of Jerusalem: They shall prosper that
love thee.
Peace be within thy walls: And plenteousness within thy palaces.*

Words: Psalm 122 vs 1 - 3, 6 - 7

Collect

Let us pray, with one heart and mind.

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Epistle - Romans 8:1-11 | Life in the Spirit

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Psalm 24 – Sung by Durham Cathedral Choir

THE earth is the Lord's, and all that therein is; the compass of the world, and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and stablished it upon the floods.

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall rise up in his holy place? Even he that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; and that hath not lift up his mind unto vanity, nor sworn to deceive his neighbour.

He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. This is the generation of them that seek him; even of them that seek thy face, O God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? It is the Lord strong and mighty, even the Lord mighty in battle.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? Even the Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

Gospel Reading - Matthew 13:1-9,18-23 | The Parable of the Sower

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Sermon

Music - Organ Voluntary

Intersessions

Renewal of Baptism Vows

Please Stand

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the paschal mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life within the family of his Church. Now that we have completed our observance of Lent and seen in the joyous Eastertide, we renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil:

Therefore I ask these questions:

Do we turn to Christ?

All We turn to Christ.

Do we repent of your sins?

All We repent of my sins.

Do we renounce evil?

All We renounce evil.

And now I ask you to make the profession of Christian faith into which you were baptized, and in which we live and grow.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
who made the world?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ,
who redeemed mankind?

All We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God?

All We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

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

Commission and Dismissal

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God.
Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil,
and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,
by prayer for the world and its leaders,
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Therefore, may you go forth into the world in peace.

Be of good courage.

Hold fast that which is good.

Render to no one evil for evil.

Strengthen the fainthearted.

Support the weak.

Help the afflicted.

Show love to everyone.

Love and serve the Lord,

rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;

and the blessing of almighty God,

the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always. Amen.