

Christ Church

High Harrogate



*Matthew 28:1 - 10*

A Parish service for when we're  
**UNITED** but **APART**



for

**EASTER DAY**

5th April 2026

**Welcome** to Christ Church, praying and united, with the whole Church of God ; may this bring a blessing upon your home, as also upon the needs of loved ones and the world,

We build upon all that we have shared and shared still, as now we rejoice in our renewal in Christ's grace, gather as the Church, and unite in fellowship, proclamation and prayer from the place of our own homes.

Be it 8am or 10am or other \_ still, maybe, the wisdom to quieten our mobile phone  and be very much in prayer  .

Please sit very comfortably.

Please feel free to sing ; and maybe to speak some parts of this prayer time out-loud \_ you may find it surprisingly helpful.

Please, above all, simply know that we are all together ; and as we pray where we are now, so do many many more, across the town, across these towns, and across the world,

The Lord is here.

**His Spirit is with us.**

*Matthew*

## The Easter Acclamation

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**All He is risen indeed. Alleluia !**

## The Easter Proclamation

*If you wish, and if safe to do so, you may wish to light a Candle.*

Choirs of angels, stars and planets :

**All all God's people sing and dance.**

All creation, Church of God :

**All all God's people sing and dance.**

We praise you Lord of life and death :  
we glorify your name :

**All all God's people sing and dance.**

This is the day you set us free,  
bringing us home in love ;  
holy day, when you led your people  
through the fearsome sea :

**All all God's people sing and dance.**

This is the day you brought your Son  
through the doors of death ;  
O holy day, when death takes flight  
and hope is born again :

**All all God's people sing and dance.**

This is the day our tears of sadness  
turn to shouts of joy ;  
holy day, when the choirs of earth  
sing the songs of heaven :

**All all God's people sing and dance.**

This is the day when Christ our Light  
makes the darkness bright :

**All all God's people sing and dance.**

Christ is the life that knows no end.  
Christ is the love that burns within.  
Christ is the peace that floods the world.  
Christ is the Lord who reigns on high :

**All all God's people sing and dance. Amen.**

## 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.

## The Liturgy of the Word

### The First Reading

*Jeremiah 31 : 1 - 6*



At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. <sup>2</sup>Thus says the LORD : The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness ; when Israel sought for rest, <sup>3</sup>the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love ; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. <sup>4</sup>Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel ! Again you shall take your tambourines, and go forth in the dance of the merry-makers. <sup>5</sup>Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria ; the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit. <sup>6</sup>For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim : ‘Come, let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God.’

*New Revised Standard Version*

This is the word of the Lord ;  
**All Thanks be to God.**

## **The Second Reading**

*Acts of the Apostles 10: 34 – 43*



Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius : '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 who were oppressed by the devil, 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, not 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. 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.'

*New Revised Standard Version*

This is the word of the Lord ;

**All Thanks be to God.**

**CLICK** below to hear Louise from our Choir lead us

**Hymn**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uflFXEXOwRo>

**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 is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen.*

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

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

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

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

Words : G R Woodward (1848-1934)  
Tune : This joyful Eastertide, arr Wood

## The Easter Gospel Reading

*Matthew 28 : 1 - 10*

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

**ALL Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there was a great earthquake ; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, ‘Do not be afraid ; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here ; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples, “He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee ; there you will see him.” This is my message for you.’ <sup>8</sup>So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them and said, ‘Greetings !’ And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, ‘Do not be afraid ; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.’

*New Revised Standard Version*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL Praise be to thee, O Christ**



From Peter, in the Acts of the Apostles, two words : 'Anyone' and 'Everyone' \_ with absolute beauty in between.

From Jeremiah \_ ooh, I'll come back to that.

From the Gospel \_ ? Think me not irreverent, but I hope delight with me : It would be easy to leap to the Main Event, Jesus, but he only comes-along in the last two verses ; what about the 'Supporting Acts' \_ . Mary and Mary \_ we were told Last Sunday how They saw where Jesus was buried - one of them only gets Half-a-name \_ but Still a mention ! - The Guards, well, they play their part. - The Angel, Angel of the Lord, his Messenger \_ he has verses 3 - 7, and I know it's not all about screen-time, but we've got to give him Some notice, surely ?

- Some of the Bible is serious, some of it is terrifying - in its truth terrifying ; some of it, I think, is full of humour \_ and some of That in Surprises - and surprises by their Nature are hidden, maybe for Ages, where, if we thought, we might say, 'Oh, yes, *that's a bit odd*' or just '*I've never really noticed*' \_ and then, for some reason, we Do, notice .

- What about 'Sass' ? Glorious, joyous 'Attitude' ?

*"An angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it."*

- He didn't roll it back and bow down and indicate an open, empty tomb ;

- He didn't roll it away, and back away himself, to assume a suitable distance and position of reverence and holiness ;

Oh no, he rolled it away and he sat on it !

We Could then read his words with a recognisable solemnity - but Why not go for Sass - Attitude - and Joy --

"Don't be afraid

I know what you're looking for \_\_\_

- Jesus who was crucified,

He's not here !!

- Have a look \_ come and see !

Then Go, go-go-go-go-go \_\_\_

Tell them "He's been raised from the dead,

He's going Ahead of you

There you will see him."

That, is My Message, for you."

--- For Mary \_ and 'the Other One' : who pick up the Story  
and pass it on \_ in an unsurprising and entirely relatable Fear  
And joy.

What do Supporting Acts do ? They prepare for the  
Main Event ; without them we're just not ready \_ but often,  
they're surprisingly good, diamonds newly discovered in the  
rough.

*"The people who survived the sword found grace in the  
wilderness."*

-- Come through life, it's Real trials and tribulations \_  
but find moments of Grace, diamonds in what is So Tough :  
who Look for rest, and find God \_

*"I have loved you with an everlasting love ;  
therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you \_\_\_ Again  
I will build you, and you shall be built \_\_\_ Again you will  
take your tambourines and dance \_\_\_ Again you shall plant  
Vineyards - and the ones who plant shall eat the fruit\_"*

- They, and not others ; because they will Not be frightened away or lose their place ; and Their place \_ in truth \_ is 'under My Blessing, and is deeply, deeply loved ; Anyone and Everyone' says God.

We receive this as Recipients and Onlookers ; As Audience, but also as Support Acts : the 'Other' Mary \_ the other Matthew, Pete, Jill, Frances, Beth, John, Alastair, David, Sue, Paul \_\_\_\_\_ the Real and full You. Anyone\_ and Everyone \_ pausing at His table \_ inviting Him to Yours. Diamonds in the rough of life for many, revealing Glory and Grace ; Surprised in our Own life, to find New life through His name ; ours to share with Joy.

Amen.

*The Revd Matthew Evans*

## **The Renewal of Baptismal Vows**

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that 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 the Church.

Let us therefore renew the promises made at our baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil. Therefore we renew in ourselves these questions :

Do we reject the devil and all rebellion against God ?

**All I reject them.**

Do we renounce the deceit and corruption of evil ?

**All I renounce them.**

Do we repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour ?

**All I repent of them.**

Do we turn to Christ as Saviour ?

**All I turn to Christ.**

Do we submit to Christ as Lord ?

**All I submit to Christ.**

Do we come to Christ,  
the way, the truth and the life ?

**All I come to Christ.**

So we proclaim the Christian faith  
into which we were baptized  
and in which we live and grow.

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

**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.**


**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 Prayers of Intercession

As children and pilgrims of a loving God who always listens to our cries, we are invited to come before God, in all that we are, and with all the prayer we need make.

*You may wish to use these, or other, prayers as part of this time. Bringing before God all that is your concern ; not least in prayer for our families, loved ones, those who are sick, those providing care, the Church and people of God - knowing all is held by God*

Jesus, light of the world,  
bring the light and peace of your Gospel  
to the ways of the nations . . .  
Lord in your mercy, hear us.



Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,  
be with us and all who  
seek to follow you in the Way ;  
deepen our knowledge  
and our life in your truth  
fill us with your grace,  
and lead us to proclaim glory. ...  
Lord, in your mercy, hear us.

Lord Jesus, faithful good shepherd,  
who gave up your life for the sheep ;  
through us and by Your power, presence and spirit  
bind up the injured,  
heal the sick,  
bring rest to the weary  
and comfort to the lonely ;  
strengthen all who seek peace,  
and who work for the  
healing, well-being and care of others ...  
Lord, in your mercy hear us.

Lord Jesus, bread of life,  
may we learn your ways of  
gentleness, truth and peace ;  
may we realise our power to  
bless, accompany and heal ;  
may we seek and discover the  
Truth of our Father's kingdom  
made present in Eternal life :  
to share, release, and receive -  
together, in all the days of our life.  
Lord in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,  
we give you thanks for all who have  
lived and believed in you ;  
all who have shared and share our journey  
and hold and guide us in Faith ;  
all who keep the truth of our heart,  
and in our heart we hold true ;  
raise them, with us, to eternal life ;  
Lord in your mercy, hear us

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.

**CLICK** below to hear Louise from our Choir lead us

## **The Dismissal**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=InHgK6lyZro>

**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.**

**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.**

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

*Words : Greek, John of Damascus (c 750)  
translated by J M Neale (1816-1866)  
Tune : Ellacombe*

## The Blessing



God the Father,  
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,  
open to you who believe the gate of everlasting life.  
Amen.

God the Son,  
who in bursting the grave has won a glorious victory,  
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.  
Amen.

God the Holy Spirit,  
whom the Risen Lord breathed into his disciples,  
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.  
Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.  
Amen.

## The Peace

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.

*Please look to your ROOM and HOME \_*

*--- please look from your WINDOW ---*

*In our place, heart and home, and to all the world :*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*{ - and also with you. Alleluia }*

## The Dismissal

Let us go in the light and peace of Christ  
to love and serve the Lord, in the name of Christ, amen.

The Lord is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia ! Alleluia ! Alleluia !**

***HAPPY  
EASTER !***

