

**The Parish of St David with
St Michael and All Angels, Exeter**

**An order for the
EUCCHARIST
on Easter Day**

PRAYERS BEFORE WORSHIP

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy made glad the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life,
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Risen Lord Jesus, as Mary Magdalene met you in the garden
on the morning of your resurrection,
so may we meet you today and every day.
Speak to us as you spoke to her,
reveal yourself as the living Lord,
renew our hope and kindle our joy
and send us to share the good news with others. Amen.

THE PREPARATION

The priest offers a welcome.

The opening hymn

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!

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!

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!

The priest greets the people.

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Priest Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

**All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts**

**by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

Please sit or kneel as a minister leads the confession:

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength,
and not by the power of your resurrection.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as faithless and not believing.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

We have lived for this world alone,
and doubted our home in heaven.

Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

The priest pronounces the absolution.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We say the Gloria in Excelsis

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

THE COLLECT

The priest offers the prayer for the day.

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 READINGS

Acts 10: 34-43 - The Gentiles hear the Good News

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 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.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL READING

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 28: 1-10 - The Resurrection of Jesus

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 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. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 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.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

At the end the reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE ADDRESS

*An address for St David and St Michael, Exeter, Easter Sunday 2020
by Nigel Guthrie.*

What a strange world we are living in! People are living in virtual isolation in many countries. This can be very hard especially when people are living alone, or in cramped accommodation or with someone they cannot trust to treat them well. Church buildings, pubs and many businesses are closed. As a nation we are racking up unimaginable debts, debts which will take years to pay off. It is impossible to visit our family members living in residential care. Hospitals are filling up with people suffering from a disease of which we were hardly aware a few months ago. Many are dying, and those who do die are only allowed small scale funerals. Sometimes their loved ones have not been able to see them before they died.

We are living through an extraordinary and a painful time.

And yet good things are happening. Hospitals and care workers are managing heroically and on Thursday evenings we are coming out of our houses to applaud them and others who are putting their lives on the line. We are going out of our way to contact family, friends and neighbours to check that they are OK. Neighbourhoods are getting together to help those who are unable to leave their homes. And here in the middle of Exeter the air is clear and the birdsong is almost deafening first thing in the morning. There are no planes

above the city and hardly any cars on its roads. Levels of pollution are dropping rapidly around the world. For Christians there is an opportunity to deepen our prayer and engagement in scripture. And the clergy (even the older ones) are learning how to live stream services – for better or worse! Even the St Michael's peregrine has laid an egg in time for Easter.

Perhaps we are living through a time which will transform our societies and lead to better ways of relating to each other and to the world?

Most of us are certainly looking forward to an end to lockdown. I wonder if that will feel like a resurrection? I have a feeling it will be quite a shock for many of us when it does come.

Celebrating the resurrection of Jesus against this extraordinary backdrop is very odd for those of who are usually in church. We have had no Holy Week services and we cannot gather in church today. Yet we can share in faith, and in prayer and in care for each other. And we can be witnesses to the resurrection, which is what both of our scripture readings encourage us to be.

I wonder if you noticed which phrase cropped up twice in our gospel reading? It is a phrase which is said to occur 365 times in the bible. It is the phrase 'Do not be afraid'. In our gospel reading the words are spoken firstly by the angel who rolled back the stone from the tomb. Then when Jesus appeared to them he said 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me'.

The disciples were afraid. In spite of what Jesus had previously told them they were in a state of shock and mourning. There is genuinely much for us to fear at the moment both in the short term from the virus and in the longer term from the economic and social effects of the lockdown. But we know that fear is only productive if it leads us to act wisely and to avoid unnecessary danger. If it paralyses us and stops us from living fully then we need to break away from it and fix our minds on hope. In the first letter of St John's he writes:

'There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.'

What we see on the cross is perfect love; God's love poured out for us as Jesus suffered and died. It was love without limit. When we truly grasp the meaning of that sacrificial love we cannot be bound by fear because we know that we are forgiven and set free. And God's love was shown again on the first Easter morning when Jesus was brought to new life by the power of God. This power is quite beyond our imagination. It is not surprising that the soldiers and the women felt fear. Who would not be afraid in the face of such overwhelming power – power over life and death?

And that is why Easter is still being celebrated all over the world and even in such strange conditions. Because those who know the power of God for themselves are certain that nothing in life or death can separate us from the love that was poured out on the cross and joyfully vindicated in the resurrection. Even death can hold no fear because we know we are held within the loving purposes of God for all time and into eternity.

In her recent address our gracious Queen spoke of her confident hope that we will be together again. I wonder what your hope is: hope for a world in which people will care more for their neighbours and remember what is most important in life? Hope for a world where we value those who do the hardest jobs and give the most costly service? Hope for a world in which resources are more wisely used and more equitably shared?

May this Easter celebration strengthen you in hope and love; both in the knowledge of the love God has for you, and the love which you are able to share with those around you as witnesses of Jesus Christ our risen Lord.

THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,**

**was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

These or other responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy

All **hear our prayer.**

or

Lord, hear us.

All Lord, graciously hear us.

and at the end

Merciful Father,

All accept these prayers

for the sake of your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE PEACE

The priest introduces 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

All and also with you.

Minister Let us offer one another a socially distanced sign of
peace.

All may exchange a non-physical sign of peace.

Music is played while bread and wine are prepared.

Priest Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power,
the glory, the splendour, and the majesty;
for everything in heaven and on earth is yours.

**All All things come from you,
and of your own do we give you.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Priest The Lord is here.

All **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness
to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks because through him
you have given us the hope of a glorious resurrection;
so that, although death comes to us all;

yet we rejoice in the promise of eternal life;
for to your faithful people life is changed, not taken away;
and when our mortal flesh is laid aside,
an everlasting dwelling place is made ready for us in
heaven.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

We say the Sanctus and Benedictus.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Priest Lord, you are holy indeed,
the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us
the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;

he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

**All Dying you destroyed our death,
 rising you restored our life,
 Lord Jesus come in glory.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the
sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of

praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of David, Michael
and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All Amen.

Please sit or kneel for the Lord's Prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All 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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Priest Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,

All **We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

As the bread is broken the Agnus Dei is said.

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

THE COMMUNION

Priest Alleluia, Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

All **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The priest may first offer a post communion prayer.

Almighty God,

we thank you for feeding us

with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him we offer you our souls and bodies

to be a living sacrifice.

Send us out

in the power of your Spirit

to live and work

to your praise and glory.

Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

The Blessing is given.

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight;

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

All Amen.

A minister dismisses the people.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

The final hymn is sung

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 the 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 nought without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:

The service concludes with The Regina Coeli

Joy to thee, O Queen of Heaven, Alleluia
He whom thou wast meet to bear, Alleluia
As he promised hath arisen, Alleluia
Pour for us to God thy prayer, Alleluia.

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia
For the Lord hath risen indeed, Alleluia.

Let us pray,
God, who by the resurrection of thy son our Lord Jesus Christ,
hast given joy unto the world,
grant, we beseech thee,
that with his mother, the Virgin Mary,
we may obtain the joys of eternal life;
through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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