

The Parish of Coatham & Dormanstown
Easter Day – Readings, Reflection and Prayers



Alleluia Christ is risen
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

Today we celebrate the raising of Jesus from the dead and by his resurrection; we receive the gift of new life, we have the light of hope, we have the assurance of God's encompassing love. Therefore let us the celebrate with hearts and minds full of love and joy.

Alleluia Christ is risen
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Thine be the glory – Edmond Budry (1854-1932), translated by Richard Burch Hoyle (1875-1939)

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:

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won*

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;
life is naught 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:

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won*

Gloria in Excelsis – (we have refrained from saying the Gloria during Lent, on this Easter Day let us declare its truths loudly and boldly)

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

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

Readings

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 10:34-43)

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 the Lord of all.

That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism 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 in 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 people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and 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 receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

A reading from the Letter to the Colossians (Colossians 3:1-4)

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on the earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you will also be revealed with him in glory.

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (Matthew 28:1-10)

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 as 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 to 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."

This is the gospel of the Lord – Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

Mary Magdalene, and the other Mary are women who are strong and faithful in their love for Jesus, they have supported his ministry, they remained at his Cross, staying with him until he died, they watched his body being taken down, and placed in a borrowed grave (Matt 26:55-56,61).

And then they had to leave him, as the Sabbath was about to begin. When they could, they returned immediately to the tomb. The gospels of Mark and Luke tell us that the women returned to the tomb with a specific purpose, to correctly anoint his body for burial, but Matthew does not tell us this detail. I wonder if those women who had loved and supported Jesus, who had had their lives transformed by him just wanted to be near him for one last time.

This is a very human need and response, we see it demonstrated in our own lives and the lives of others; when we visit the graves of our loved ones, or go to a place they loved, we lay flowers in their memory, and we dedicate time remembering them and the love we shared. These are precious times for us, for they remind us that the love we shared is not lost.

So the women come in the early morning, hearts full of grief, minds reeling from all they had witnessed on the Friday, which we now call Good, and with the question hanging over them of how could they move forward in their lives, Jesus had become their purpose and their joy – how could they go on without him?

But God is doing the work of resurrection and he invites them to be the first witnesses of this. They are shaken by an earthquake, the resurrection of Jesus is a seismic event in human history, and they see an angel of the Lord, one of his heavenly messengers, come and roll the stone away to reveal the emptiness of the very tomb they saw Jesus' body being laid in. And they hear the news that God has vindicated Jesus, by raising him from the dead to glorious new life. They are now given a new purpose, they are not remain here in grief and sadness, but to go to Jesus' disciples and share the good news with them.

Matthew tells us that they leave the tomb with fear and great joy, you can just imagine the roaring cascade of thoughts and emotions they must have been feeling – they have seen the power and the movement of God before their very eyes, they have seen the empty tomb, and have been told that Jesus has been raised from the dead. But they do as they have been told, they run to tell the disciples. This is news that can't wait to be told.

And then we see the pure beauty and graciousness of Jesus, he comes to meet them on the road, what they have been told is present and touchable before them, he is here and he is alive, they will not only recount the words of the angel, they will have their own personal testimony as well. Jesus' first word to them is one of greeting, it encapsulates the joy of being together. The separation of the cross has been transformed into personal encounter, with the one who has loved them, still loves them, and will love them to the end of time.

What can they do in response to this love and care, they do what human beings were created to do, to worship the Living Lord, they bow down, and touch his feet – this is real they have seen him, they have heard him and now they can touch him. What a story they will have to tell.

This is not only their story, but our story as well. We know the truth of the risen Jesus in our own lives, we know his presence with us, and his grace for living, and the hope that our lives are

no longer hemmed in by sin and death, but as St Paul declares they are now hidden in Christ, and he holds them with all the love and the care he has.

The resurrection of Jesus changed the world, and it changes lives, for the hope we have is in a risen glorious Lord who meets us in our everyday lives, and transforms us to be witnesses and messengers of hope, of joy, and of life – just like the two Marys'.

Alleluia Christ is risen

He is risen indeed. Alleluia

Amen.

Intercessions

Jesus our exalted Lord, has been given all authority.

Let us seek his intercession that our prayers may be perfected by his prayer

Jesus Christ, our great high priest

living for ever to intercede for us, pray for your Church, your broken body in the world; for all who are persecuted for their faith and witness of your life-giving love, for all Church family's in this time of separation and isolation that we may be united in worship and faith.

Lord in your mercy – hear our prayer

Jesus Christ, King of righteousness,

enthroned on the right hand of the majesty on high, pray for all people of the world, as together we face the threat of the Coronavirus pandemic; pray for all in authority that they may make wise decisions as they seek to protect and serve the people in their care, and we remember before you our Prime Minister, Government, our borough Council, and all who are key workers, remembering especially NHS and Care sector workers, and all involved in food production and distribution.

Lord in your mercy – hear our prayer

Jesus Christ, Son of Man,

drawing all humanity into the life of God pray for your sisters and brothers in need or distress; for those who are ill, we bring before you all those we carry on our own hearts, and all who are suffering from Covid-19. May they know your healing power at work within them

Lord in your mercy – hear our prayer

Jesus, Pioneer of our salvation,

bringing us to glory through your death and resurrection, surround with your saints and angels those who have died trusting in your promises, and comfort all who mourn at this time, especially those who could not be with their loved ones at the time of their death.

Lord in your mercy – hear our prayer

Jesus Christ,

Keep your Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at your feet; for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught 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

The Grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with us all evermore. Amen

In Christ alone - Keith Getty & Stuart Townend.

In Christ alone my hope is found,
he is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid ground,
firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my All in All,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone – who took on flesh,
fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
scorned by the ones he came to save:
till on the cross as Jesus died,
the wrath of God was satisfied
for every sin on him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay,
light of the world by darkness slain;
then bursting forth in glorious Day
up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory,
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
for I am his and he is mine –
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear of death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
from life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from his hand;
till he returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

