

**PARISH OF THE ASCENSION
EASTER DAY
MARCH 31, 2024**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (back of the Church)

Leader: The Lord is my strength and my song.

People: The Lord has become my salvation.

Leader: There is a song of joy and victory in the tents of the righteous.

People: The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! The right hand of the Lord is exalted!

Leader: Because of the Lord's victory I will not die.

People: Instead, I will live and proclaim what God has done.

Leader: Open to me the gates of the Temple.

People: I will go in and give thanks to the Lord.

Leader: I will give thanks to the Lord, for he has answered me.

People: He has become my salvation.

Leader: The stone the builders rejected as worthless turned out to be the most important of all.

People: The Lord has done this. It is marvellous in our eyes.

Leader: This is the day of the Lord's victory.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: The Lord is RISEN!

People: The Lord is RISEN indeed! ALLELUIA!

OPENING HYMN

WORDS OF WELCOME AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Leader: Let us Pray.

Most gracious and loving God, you who have swallowed up death with the resurrection of Christ Jesus, bring about in us new life with him.

Leader: Pour your Holy Spirit upon us and give us hearts and minds fitting for your praise.

Grant to us your continual help. Make us die every day to sin so that we may live with him forever.

Leader: You give us the joy of celebrating our Lord's resurrection. Give us also the joys of life in your service and bring us at last to the full joy of life eternal.

We ask these things in the name of your risen Son, he who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, both now, and forevermore. Amen.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation. **ISAIAH 25:6-9**

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

PSALM

Refrain: On this day, the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his mercy endures for ever. Let Israel now proclaim "His mercy endures for ever." **R**

The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation. There is a sound of exultation and victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! the right hand of the Lord is exalted! the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!" **R**

I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord. The Lord has punished me sorely, but he did not hand me over to death. **R**

Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord. "This is the gate of the Lord; he who is righteous may enter." **R**

I will give thanks to you, for you answered me and have become my salvation. The same stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. **R**

This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes. On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it. **R**
PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24

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 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." **ACTS 10:34-43**

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Reader: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you

**THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO JOHN**

People: Glory to, you Lord Jesus Christ

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled

up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my god and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her. **JOHN 20:1-18**

Reader: The Gospel of Christ

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Alleluia! What was dead shall live; what was dark shall shine; what was forgotten shall be remembered, for the Lord is risen and walks among us. Let us confidently bring before God the needs of all our world, asking God for renewal, saying:
Christ is risen, Christ is risen indeed. **Christ is risen indeed.**

Leader: God of life, in gratitude and great joy we laud you for the gifts of Christ's resurrection. on this day give us hope, for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed.**

Leader: On this feast day which brings joy to all Christian believers, may we commit ourselves to work toward the unity of the church, that Christ's body may be one, for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed.**

Leader: Honouring the gift of Christ's risen body, may we rise to serve all those whose needs keep them from seeing themselves as the image of God; for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed.**

Leader: For all who have need of the gift of Easter; for all who journey from illness to health, from despair to hope, from grief to consolation, from loneliness to love; for all people, that death may have no more power over us, for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed.**

Leader: For all who suffer and all who mourn, that today the Lord God will wipe away all tears, for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed.**

Leader: May we have the persistent faith of Mary Magdalene and the surprised belief of Peter and John. May we long to be God's sign of life in our world, for Christ is risen: **Christ is risen indeed.**

Leader: God of life, we thank you for the mystery planted in us, the paradox of life from death and community from scattered disciples. We praise you for the dying which saves us from death and for the rising which brings us life. We pray, as we live, through Jesus the risen one, in the power of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God our strength and salvation, receive all we offer you this day, and grant that we who have confessed your name, and received new life in baptism, may live in the joy of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ the Lord. AMEN

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of life, bring us to the glory of the resurrection promised in this Easter sacrament. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord. AMEN

I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES

I know that my Redeemer lives.
O the sweet joy this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living Head.

He lives to bless me with his love.
And still he pleads for me above;
He lives to raise me from the grave,
And me eternally to save.

He lives, my kind, wise, constant Friend.
Who still will keep me to the end;
He lives, and while he lives, I'll sing.
Jesus, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

He lives my mansion to prepare,
And he will bring me safely there;
He lives, all glory to his Name,
Jesus, unchangeably the same.

Ascension Prayer Cycle: Andrea, Annie, Aubrey, Audrey, Barbara, Barry, Baxter, Beulah, Bill, Brenda, Brian, Carl, Christina, Clarence, Claude, David, Debra, Delilah, Dennis, Donna, Doreen, Doris, Dulcie, Edgar, Edith, Elaine, Eleanor, Elizabeth, Erin, Frederick, Flo, Frank, George, Georgina, Gerry, Gordon, Harry, Harryetta, Herb, Jack, Jason, Jeff, Jennie, Joan, Joanna, John, Josephine, Karen, Kevin, Laura, Leo, Leonie, Lori, Louise, Lucy, Madeline, Madelyn, Marina, Marion, Maurice, Maxine, Maxwell, Melissa, Melvin, Michelle, Mildred, Nicole, Pam, Patricia, Phyllis, Randy, Randell, Raymond, Robert, Roland, Ruby, Ruth, Razia Rita, Scott, Sean, Shoma, Stephen, Suzie, Tina, Todd, Valerie, Warwick, Wilfred, Yvonne.