

The Anglican Parish of Greater Hastings encompassing St Matthew's, Hastings & St Peter's, Riverslea

Christian communities in the heart of Hastings



2nd Sunday of Easter – 7th April 2024

The Gathering of the Community

Morning of mornings, Jesus is risen,
over the sealed grave victor is he!
praise him with joyful songs of thanksgiving;
new every morning his life in me.

Morning of mornings, darkness is over,
no guard could hold him, nor stone enclose;
Son of the Most High came forth in glory;
Jesus the Saviour from death arose.

Morning of mornings, Jesus' disciples
struggled with sadness, doubting and fears,
but, when they saw him in all his glory,
knew he had risen - gladness for tears!

Brian Black (b.1926), Tune: BUNESSAN

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The risen Christ meets us at the tomb,
and turns our tears to joy.
For your love and goodness
we give you thanks, O God

Christ comes through our locked doors,
and turns our fear to courage.
For your love and goodness
we give you thanks, O God.

Christ comes to daily life and work,
and turns our failure to new vision.
For your love and goodness
we give you thanks, O God.

Christ breaks the bread,
and turns our despair to hope.
For your love and goodness
we give you thanks, O God.

As we rejoice in the gift of Christ's risen presence, we say:

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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.**

We sit or kneel.

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you forgive our sins:
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the living bread:
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

In silence before God,
we confess our sins.

Silence

God forgives you.
Be at peace.

The peace of Christ rule in our hearts.
The word of Christ dwell in us richly.

God you are the first light
cutting through the void.
You are the final light which we shall enjoy forever.
**Help us to welcome the light
and walk in it always.**
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

The Proclamation

The Readings

A reading from Acts 4:32-35
*A feature of the early Church was a strong sense of community,
of fellow believers, and of sharing resources.*

After the reading
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Psalm 133

How good and pleasant a thing it is:
when God's people live together in unity.

**It is like the precious oil on Aarons head,
which ran down on to his beard:
and over the collar of his vestment.**

It is like the dew of Hermon:
falling upon the hill of Zion.

**For there the Lord promised the blessing:
which is life for evermore.**

A reading from 1 John 1:1 – 2:2

Jesus Christ as God's light to the world.

After the reading

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Gospel Hymn

**Jesus, stand among us
in your risen power;
let this time of worship
be a hallowed hour.**

**Breathe the Holy Spirit
into every heart;
bid the fears and sorrows
from each soul depart.**

**Thus with quickened footsteps
we'll pursue our way,
watching for the dawning
of eternal day.**

Words: W. Pennefather, Tune: NORTH COATES

We remain standing

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Holy Gospel according to John 20:19-31

Praise and glory to God.

The frightened disciples find the risen Jesus in their midst.

After the reading:

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ the Word. Alleluia!

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

**You, O God, are supreme and holy.
You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do.
You have always been with us.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous,
good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved
your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.
You are with us now.
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
You are our God. We worship you.**

We sit or kneel.

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the Church and for the world,
giving thanks for God's goodness.

Sing to the Lord a new song
For he has done marvellous things.

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said,
Peace be with you! Then they were glad when they saw the Lord.
Alleluia!

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you.
And also with you. Alleluia!

The Preparation of the Gifts

*The altar is prepared, and the offerings of the people are presented as we
sing the Offertory Hymn*

**The strife is past, the battle done;
now is the victor's triumph won
O let the song of praise be sung,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Death's mightiest powers have done their worst;
and Jesus has his foes dispersed
let shouts of praise and joy outburst,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**The three sad days have quickly sped,
he rises glorious from the dead,
all glory to our risen head
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Lord over death, our wounded king,
save us from Satan's deadly sting
that we may live for you and sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Tune: VICTORY.

To you, Lord, belongs the greatness,
and the power, and the glory,
and the victory and the majesty.

**All that is in the heavens and the earth is yours,
and of your own we give you.**

The Great Thanksgiving

We remain standing, though feel free to sit if needs be.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed.

Lift your hearts to heaven
where Christ in glory reigns.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is the joy of our salvation, God of the universe,
to give you thanks through Jesus Christ.

You said, 'Let there be light'; there was light.

Your light shines on in our darkness.

For you the earth has brought forth life in all its forms.

You have created us to hear your Word,
to do your will and to be fulfilled in your love.

You sent your Son to be for us
the way we need to follow and the truth we need to know.

Christ is risen from the dead.

Love is come again:

Christ is sovereign over space and time.

You send your Holy Spirit to strengthen and to guide,
to warn and to revive your Church.

Therefore, with all your witnesses
who surround us on every side,
countless as heaven's stars,
we praise you for our creation and our calling,
with loving and with joyful hearts as we say:

**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.**

Blessed are you, most holy, in your Son.
On that night before he died
he took bread and gave you thanks.
He broke it,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;
do this to remember me.

After supper, he took the cup,
and gave you thanks.
He gave it to them and said:
Drink this. It is my blood of the new covenant,
shed for you, shed for all, to forgive sin;
do this to remember me.

Therefore with this bread and wine
we recall your goodness to us.
God of the past and present,
we your people remember your Son.
We thank you for his cross and rising again,
we take courage from his ascension;
we look for his coming in glory
and in him we give ourselves to you.
And so we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come in glory.**

Send your Holy Spirit,
that we who receive Christ's body
may indeed be the body of Christ,
and we who share his cup draw strength from the one true vine.

Called to follow Christ,
help us to reconcile and unite.
Called to suffer,
give us hope in our calling.
For you, the heavenly one, make all things new;
you are the beginning and the end, the last and the first,
to whom we bring our songs of everlasting praise.

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours,
here and everywhere
now and forever. Amen.**

The Communion

The risen Christ is in our midst, and so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

The priest breaks the bread in silence

Christ's body was broken for us on the cross.
Christ is the bread of life.

The priest lifts the cup

His blood was shed for our forgiveness.
Christ is risen from the dead.

Come God's people;
come to receive Christ's heavenly food.

Communion is offered in both kinds (bread and wine) though feel free to receive only the bread.

We do not, for health reasons, dip the bread in the wine.

Prayer After Communion

Gracious God,
we have seen with our eyes
and touched with our hands
the bread of life.

Strengthen our faith

**that we may grow in love for you and for each other;
through Jesus Christ the risen Lord. Alleluia!**

The Dismissal of the Community

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life, and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Final Hymn

**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 has brought us over,
with hymns of victory.**

**Now let the heavens be joyful!
Let earth her song begin!
The round world keep high triumph,
and all that is therein!**

**Let all things seen and unseen
their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord has risen,
our joy that has no end.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Go in peace. Alleluia!
Amen. We go in the name of Christ. Alleluia!



