



The Anglican Parish of Greater Hastings

encompassing
St Matthew's, Hastings
& St Peter's, Riverslea

Christian communities in the heart of Hastings



4th Sunday of Easter – 21st April 2024

The Gathering of the Community

Opening Hymn

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!
it soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
and drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole
and calms the troubled breast;
it satisfies the hungry soul,
and gives the weary rest.

Dear name, the rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding place,
my never-failing treasury, filled
with boundless stores of grace.

Jesus, my shepherd, brother, friend,
my prophet, priest, and king;
my Lord, my life, my way, my end,
accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart,
and cold my warmest thought;
But when I see you as you are,
I'll praise you as I ought.

Till then I would your love proclaim
with every fleeting breath;
and may the music of your name
refresh my soul in death.

(Words: J. Newton. Tune: St Peter)

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

'I am the good shepherd,' says the Lord:
'I know my own and my own know me.' *(John 10:14)*

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 kneel or sit

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.

Good shepherd of the sheep,
by whom the lost are sought
and guided into the fold;
**feed us and we shall be satisfied,
heal us and we shall be whole,
and lead us that we may be with you,
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
where you reign one God for ever. Amen.**

The Proclamation

The Readings

A reading from Acts 4:5-12

*Peter and John, taken into custody, stand before the Sanhedrin,
the Council of temple priests and put their case.*

After the reading

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd:
therefore can I lack nothing.

You Lord make me lie down in green pastures:
and lead me beside the waters of peace.

You revive my spirit:
and guide me in right pathways for your name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
for you are with me, your rod and your staff are my comfort.

You spread a table for me in the sight of my enemies:
**you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is over flowing.**

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

A reading from 1 John 3:16-24

God's love in our hearts leads to care and support for those in need.

After the reading

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

Gospel Hymn

**Loving Shepherd of your sheep,
keep us all, in safety keep;
nothing can your power withstand,
none can pluck us from your hand.**

**Loving Lord, you chose to give
your own life that we might live,
and your hands outstretched to bless,
bear the cruel nails' impress.**

**Help me praise you every day,
gladly serve you and obey,
like your glorious ones above
happy in your precious love.**

**Loving Shepherd, ever near,
teach us all your voice to hear,
let my footsteps never stray
from the true and narrow way.**

**Where you lead me I will go,
walking in your steps below,
till, before my Father's throne
I shall know as I am known.**

(Words: J. Lesson. Tune: Buckland)

We remain standing

The Holy Gospel according to John 10:11-18
Praise and glory to God.

Jesus is the good shepherd who is willing to die for his sheep.

After the reading:

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ the Word. Alleluia.

The Sermon – Rediscovering the Shepherd

The Prayers of the People

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

Good Shepherd, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

The Peace

We stand

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

Offertory Hymn:

**The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness fails me never;
I nothing lack if I am his,
and he is mine for ever.**

**Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul, he leads me;
and where the fertile pastures grow,
with food from heaven feeds me.**

**Perverse and foolish I have strayed,
but in his love he sought me,
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.**

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill
with you, dear Lord, beside me;
your rod and staff my comfort still,
your cross before to guide me.**

**You spread a banquet in my sight
of love beyond all knowing;
and O the gladness and delight
from your pure chalice flowing!**

**And so through all the length of days
your goodness fails me never:
Good Shepherd, may I sing your praise
within your house for ever!**

(Words: H.W. Baler. Tune: Dominus Regit Me)

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 up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is right indeed to give you thanks most loving God,
through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer,
the pioneer of our salvation,
one of us, yet from the heart of God.

For with your whole created universe,
we praise you for your unfailing gift of life.

Your love is shown to us,
for while we were yet sinners,
Christ died for us.

In that love, dear God,
righteous and strong to save,
you came among us in Jesus Christ,
our crucified and living Lord.

You make all things new.
In Christ's suffering and cross you reveal your glory
and reconcile all peoples to yourself,
their true and living God.

In the power of endless life Christ is risen from the grave.
His death has broken death
and opened for us the new and living way.
Christ is now our peace,
our freedom and our joy.

Through Christ you gather us,
new-born in your Spirit,
a people after your own heart.
Therefore with saints and martyrs,
apostles and prophets,
with all the redeemed,
joyfully we praise you and 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.**

Accept our praises, living God, for Jesus Christ,
the one perfect offering for the world,
who in the night that he was betrayed, took bread,
and when he had given thanks,
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 when he had given thanks,
he gave it to them and said:
Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you, and for many, to forgive sin.
Do this as often as you drink it to remember me.

Therefore, God of all creation,
in the suffering and death of Jesus our redeemer,
we meet you in your glory.
Here and now, with this bread and wine,
we celebrate your great acts of liberation,
ever present and living in Jesus Christ, crucified and risen,
who was and is and is to come.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

May Christ ascended in majesty be our new and living way.
In him we offer ourselves to do your will.

Empower our celebration with your Holy Spirit,
feed us with your life,
fire us with your love,
confront us with your justice,
and make us one in the body of Christ
with all who share your gifts of love.

Through Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Creator God,
in songs of everlasting praise.

**Blessing, honour and glory be yours,
here and everywhere,
now and for ever. 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

Christ, you are risen with the sun;
you are light in our darkness,
warmth in our cold.

**You are peace and hope and joy,
for you went willingly to death.**

You turned defeat and failure to victory for all.

**You live eternally, and with you live the millions,
living and dead, who trust in you. Alleluia!**

The Dismissal of the Community

The God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Final Hymn

**We shall go out with hope of resurrection
We shall go out, from strength to strength go on,
We shall go out and tell our stories boldly,
Tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted,
We'll dream our dream of hurts that can be healed,
We'll weave a cloth of all the world united
Within the vision of a Christ who sets us free.**

**We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken,
We'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed,
We'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
Vibrating love alive in every heart.
We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping,
Chant hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
We'll leap and dance the resurrection story
Including all within the circles of our love.**

(Words: June Tillman; tune: Londonderry Air)

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!