

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

Christian communities in the heart of Hastings



3rd Sunday of Easter – 14th April 2024

The Gathering of the Community

Jesus lives! Your terrors now can, O death, no more appal us: Jesus lives! by this we know you, O grave, cannot enthral us: Alleluia!

Jesus lives! henceforth is death but the gate of life immortal; this shall calm our trembling breath when we pass its gloomy portal: Alleluia!

Jesus lives! for us he died: then, alone to Jesus living, pure in heart may we abide, glory to our saviour giving: Alleluia!

Jesus lives! this bond of love neither life nor death shall sever, powers below, around, above tear us from his keeping never: Alleluia!

Jesus lives! to him the throne over all the world is given; may we go where he is gone, rest and reign with him in heaven: Alleluia!

I runga i te Ingoa o te Atua, te Matua, te Tama me te Wairua Tapu. **Amine.**

In the name of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

Lord, help us to see: to see what is eternally good and true, and having seen, to go on searching until we come to the joys of heaven. This we ask through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen

The Proclamation

The Readings

A reading from Acts 3:12-19 Peter has just healed a crippled man, and in this passage he proclaims the Fundamentals of the gospel to those who come running to hear him.

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

Psalm 4

Answer me when I call, O God, the defender of my cause: You set me free when I was in distress, be gracious to me now and hear my prayer.

How long, O mortals, will you defame my honour: how long will you love what is worthless and seek after lies?

Know this, that the Lord has chosen those who are righteous: **the Lord hears me when I call.**

Stand in awe, and cease from sin:

commune with your own heart upon your bed and be still.

Offer the sacrifices that are appointed: **and put your trust in the Lord.**

There are many who say, 'O that we might see prosperity: **lift up the light of your face on us O Lord.'**

But you have put gladness in my heart: more than they have when corn and wine are in plenty.

I lie down in peace, and sleep comes at once: for O Lord, it is you only who make me dwell in safety.

A reading from 1 John 3:1–7 The writer addresses the followers of Christ who are the 'children of God'.

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

Gospel Hymn

Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord, Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation. *Refrain*.

Spread the good news o'er all the earth. Jesus has died and has risen. *Refrain*.

We have been crucified with Christ. Now we shall live forever. *Refrain*.

Come, let us praise the living God, Joyfully sing to our Saviour. *Refrain.*

We remain standing

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 24:36b-48 **Praise and glory to God.**

The risen Jesus, shows himself again to his disciples, and he interprets to them the Scriptures which reveal that his death and resurrection were part of God's plan.

After the reading: This is the Gospel of Christ. **Praise to Christ the Word. Alleluia!**

The Sermon

Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

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

Living Christ Jesus, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

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

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, wheat that in the dark earth many years has lain; love lives again, that with the dead has been: love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

In the grave they laid him, love whom we had slain, thinking that he'd never wake to life again, laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen: love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

Up he sprang at Easter, like the risen grain, he that for three days in the grave had lain; up from the dead my risen Lord is seen: love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

When our hearts are saddened, grieving or in pain, by your touch you call us back to life again; fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been: love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

(Words: John M. C. Crum)

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 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.

Haere mai e te kāhui a te Atua, tangohia ēnei kai rangatira a te Karaiti.

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, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory, give you joy and peace in your faith, and the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life be with you always. **Amen.**

Final Hymn

We have a gospel to proclaim good news for all throughout the earth; the gospel of a saviour's name: we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Tell of his birth at Bethlehem, not in a royal house or hall but in a stable dark and dim: the Word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of his death at Calvary, hated by those he came to save; In lonely suffering on the cross for all he loved, his life he gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn: empty the tomb, for he was free. he broke the power of death and hell that we might share his victory. Tell of his reign at God's right hand, by all creation glorified; he sends his Spirit on his Church to live for him, the lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name him king: Jesus is Lord of all the earth. This gospel message we proclaim: we sing his glory, tell his worth

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!