



**The Anglican Parish
of Greater Hastings**

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



***The Eucharistic Liturgy
for Easter Day at St Matthew's –
20th April 2025***

Lighting of the Easter Candle

We stand as the priest greets us.

Dear friends in Christ, on this most holy day
when our Saviour Jesus Christ passed from death to life,
we gather with all the Church throughout the world.
Through light and word, through water, bread, and wine
we celebrate the new life that Christ shares with us.

The priest lights the Easter Candle and prays:

Redeeming God, source of life and light,
you made this most holy day
to shine with the brightness of your one true light;
bless this new flame,
and set us aflame with the fire of your love,
and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

The light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

The Gathering of the Community

Alleluia! Christ is risen.
HE IS RISEN INDEED. ALLELUIA!

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinner to redeem and save. Alleluia!

**But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured, Alleluia!
now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. 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.

Rejoicing 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.

Jesus Christ our Saviour,
you have delivered us from sin and death.
**You have brought with the dawn
a new beginning and an empty tomb;
grant us strength and humility to enter into life.
Hear this prayer for your love's sake. Amen.**

The Proclamation

The Readings

A reading from Acts 10:34-43

Peter realises that the good news of the gospel is meant for all people, and he proclaims the crucified and risen Jesus

After the reading:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

We give thanks to you O Lord for you are gracious:
and your love endures for ever.

Let the house of Israel say:

'God's love endures for ever.'

The Lord is my strength and my defence:
and has become my deliverer.

**There are shouts of joy and deliverance
in the tents of the righteous:**

the right hand of the Lord does mighty things.

The right hand of the Lord raises up:
the right hand of the Lord does mighty things.

I shall not die but live:

and proclaim what the Lord has done.

The Lord indeed has punished me:
but did not give me over to death.

Open to me the gates of the temple:

that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord:

through which the righteous shall enter.

I will thank you because you have answered me:

and you have become my deliverer.

The stone which the builders rejected:
has become the head of the corner.

**This is the Lord's doing
and it is marvellous in our eyes.**

**This is the day which the Lord has made:
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

A reading from 1 Corinthians 15:19-26

Paul describes the resurrection age; it has the begun with Christ's rising, and this event gives us confidence that God will defeat death, the last enemy.

After the reading:

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

Gospel 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!**

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 Luke 24:1-12

Praise and glory to God.

Three women disciples first learn of Jesus' resurrection .

After the reading:

This is the Gospel of Christ.

Praise to Christ the Word. Alleluia.

The Sermon

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

We stand

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the Easter mystery we have died and been buried with him in Baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life within the family of his Church. I invite us to renew the promises made at Baptism, affirming our allegiance to Christ, and our rejection of all that is evil.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Those who are baptised are called to worship and serve God. From the beginning, believers have continued in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers.

Will you commit yourself to this life?

I will, with God's help.

Will you forgive others as you are forgiven?

I will, with God's help.

Will you seek to love your neighbour as yourself,
and strive for peace and justice?

I will, with God's help.

Will you accept the cost of following Jesus Christ
in your daily life and work?

I will, with God's help.

With the whole Church will you proclaim by word and action
the Good News of God in Christ?

I will, with God's help.

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
whose promise endures for ever.

We thank you God for your love in all creation,
especially for your gift of water
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

We thank you that through the waters of baptism
you cleanse us, renew us by your Spirit
and raise us to new life.

In the new covenant we are made members of your Church
and share in your eternal kingdom.

Therefore, in joyful obedience to Christ,
we celebrate our fellowship in him through faith.
We pray that all who pass through the waters of baptism
may continue for ever in the risen life
of Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom,
thanksgiving and honour, power and might,
be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!**

As we sing this hymn the priest sprinkles us with the baptismal waters.

**You choirs of new Jerusalem,
your sweetest notes employ,
the paschal victory to hymn
in strains of holy joy!**

**For Judah's Lion burst his chains,
and crushed the serpent's head;
he cries aloud from death's domains,
to wake the imprisoned dead.**

**Devouring depths of hell their prey
at his command restore;
his ransomed hosts pursue their way
where Jesus goes before.**

**Triumphant in his glory now -
to him all power is given;
to him in one communion bow
all saints in earth and heaven.**

**All glory to the Father be,
the Spirit and the Son:
all glory to the One-in-Three
while endless ages run.**

Almighty Father,
grant that we your children may never be ashamed
to confess the faith of Christ crucified,
but continue his faithful servants to our lives' end;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. **Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

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

We kneel or sit

Praise and honour to you Lord Jesus,
for you have triumphed gloriously.
We pray for your world:
for the welfare of all your people and all in positions of authority.
Roll away the stones of hatred and animosity.
Transform us with your spirit of justice
that all people may share in the freedom of your risen life.
Risen God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Praise and honour to you Lord Jesus,
for you have cancelled the power of sin.
We pray for the worldwide church:
for those who minister within our parish,
and all who renew their baptismal promises today.
Roll away the stones of discord and unbelief.
Transform your church with your spirit of wisdom and truth
that we may witness to your risen life.
Risen God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Praise and honour to you Lord Jesus,
for you show us the power of love.
We pray for the communities in which we live and work:
for our families, friends and all whom we love;
for those who are forgotten and undervalued.
Roll away the stones of apathy and selfishness.
Transform our lives with your spirit of love and forgiveness
that we may share in the joy of your risen life.
Risen God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Praise and honour to you Lord Jesus,
for you bring us hope when all seems lost.
We pray for those who suffer:
for the lonely and friendless;
for the sick and sorrowing and all who care for them.
Roll away the stones of pain and despair.
Transform the lives of all who suffer with your comfort
that they may share in the hope of your risen life.
Risen God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Praise and honour to you Lord Jesus,
for you have broken the bonds of death.
We give thanks for your people of every age
who have followed you in trust and love.
Transform our lives, by your risen power,
that we, with all your saints, may share in the glory of your risen life.
Risen God, 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 our offerings are presented as we sing the offertory hymn:

**Thine be the glory! risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory, over death you won;
angels robed in splendour rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave clothes where your body lay.**

**Thine be the glory! risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory, over death you won;**

See! 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 is living, death has lost its sting.

Thine be the glory ...

No more we doubt you, glorious Prince of life;
What is life without you? aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors,
through your deathless love,
bring us safe through Jordan to your home above:
Thine be the glory ...

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 right indeed, it is our joy and our salvation, holy Lord,
almighty Father, everlasting God, at all times and in places
to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son.

You are the source of all life and goodness;
through your eternal Word
you have created all things from the beginning
and formed us in your own image.

When we sinned and turned away
you called us back to yourself
and gave your Son to share our human nature.
You raised him to life triumphant over death;
you exalted him in glory.
By his victory over death,
the reign of sin is ended,
a new age has dawned,
a broken world is restored
and we are made whole once more.

In him you have made us a holy people
by sending upon us your holy and lifegiving Spirit.

Therefore with the faithful who rest in him,
with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**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.**

All glory and thanksgiving to you, holy Father;
on the night before he died
your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread;
when he had given 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;
when he had given you thanks,
he gave it to them and said:

Drink this, all of you,
for this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins;
do this as often as you drink it,
to remember me.

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

Therefore loving God,
recalling your great goodness to us in Christ,
his suffering and death,
his resurrection and ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate our redemption with this bread of life
and this cup of salvation.
Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
which we offer through Christ our great high priest.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine which we receive
may be to us the body and blood of Christ,
and that we, filled with the Spirit's grace and power,
may be renewed for the service of your kingdom.

United in Christ
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, O God,
in 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.

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
**We who are many are one body,
for we all share the one bread.**

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

All who are baptised are welcome to receive Communion.

The sacrament 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. This makes it safer for us all.

Prayer After Communion

Christ, you are risen from the dead.
We are risen with you.
**May our life never deny this eternal life,
this peace and hope and joy.**
**Praise and glory to the God of life
who is stronger than all kinds of death. Alleluia!**

The Blessing & Dismissal

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.**

**Our hearts be pure from evil,
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light;
and listening to his accents,
may hear so calm and plain
his own 'All hail!' and, hearing,
may raise the victor strain.**

**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.**

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