

Sunday Reflections

Easter 2 April 12th 2026



Preparation

All: This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Through the brokenness of Christ, we become one body
as one body we now gather in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to receive God's
holy word, to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Our Confession

Let us come to the light of Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

All: Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to
you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

Be still for a moment in confession and in receiving God's Grace in Christ

All: May Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us
our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his
kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. **Amen.**

The opening prayer

All: The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

All: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire
with love for you; now and for ever. Amen.

The Psalm Psalm 16 *We say the psalm aloud*

Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge;
I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord, all my good depends on you.'
All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble in heart.
Though the idols are legion that many run after,
their drink offerings of blood I will not offer; neither make mention of their names upon my lips.
The Lord himself is my portion and my cup; in your hands alone is my fortune.
My share has fallen in a fair land; indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel, and in the night watches he instructs my heart.
I have set the Lord always before me; he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.
Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices; my flesh also shall rest secure.
For you will not abandon my soul to Death, nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.
You will show me the path of life; in your presence is the fullness of joy
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

Scripture Reading Acts 2.14a, 22-32

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them:
'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore, my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence."

'Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne.³¹ Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, "He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption." This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

At the end of the reading we say:

All: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gloria

All: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his 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.

The Gospel John 20. 19 to end

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'

After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.'²⁸ Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

at the end of the reading we say:

All: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

A Reflection for the day

There is a beauty in John's accounting of the resurrection, for he sides with side with the doubters, with all who have lingering questions about all that has happened, and what, following on it asks of us all.

Through the events of Good Friday and the Saturday God has been silent on matters, very silent. The Son, Jesus says little on anything, certainly nothing about kings and messiahs. The Father too has been silent, even in response to the Jesus's questions from the cross.

But all is answered now!

Not by prophetic utterances, miracles of deliverance, or demonstrations of might and power that would overthrow an empire or civilisation, as had happened with Egypt, Babylon or Assyria.

All is answered with an intense presence; God in Jesus Christ present in a manner greater than all known reality!

Peter says, 'whilst everyone and all things conspired to put Jesus to death, God has honoured all things, all scripture, every hope anticipated in the psalms and the prophets, and has raised him'; 'and we have been witnesses to this'.

Here is the glorious, scandalous heart of the Gospel. It isn't a human philosophy – the Greeks and Roman world were driven by such matters. It is not some edifying or wise religious words – the plethora of religions and gurus at the time put to shame any hippy or new age gathering. Here is a blunt and simple proclamation – Jesus who was crucified, dead and buried has been raised to life.

Nothing in history will ever be the same again; nothing can ever be the same again!

Resurrection challenges our worldviews, our philosophies, our wise words and any and all gurus.

'Peace be with you' are the words Jesus uses as he greets the disciples. Yet these are more than simple words, or a mind-set, this is the core being of the church; to be those who receive God's peace in Christ and bare that peace in the world.

This is not a heritage we are to guard, like an empty tomb, but an inheritance we are called to step into, embrace and form and shape us. Resurrection of the body is a hope for tomorrow, and also a work in us today through the Spirit. We are now the children of God, adopted and declared 'beloved' and able to proclaim 'Abba, father'. And yet we each have to 'grow' into the fullness of that inheritance, to be changed from one degree of glory to another and revealed as the children of God – as the bearers of the peace of God.

Our calling is to journey into the fullness of this reality, to follow Christ in each new day discovering the implications of the resurrection and our new life in Christ. Mary Magdalene is told 'not to cling to me' for there is no holding the Jesus she once knew; for the night is passed and the day lies open before us! Yet, within all his doubts and questions Jesus invites Thomas to 'touch', to encounter the fullness of His resurrection presence and to follow Him into the newness of His glorious day.

Nothing will be the same again, for all is accomplished! Like the manna of the desert, the bread of heaven is not something we can keep from yesterday, Jesus is our daily bread, new for what each day will be. Each day we are called anew to receive His presence with us, His Spirit come to us from the Father and His peace, which passes all understanding will keep us in life eternal.

The Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

Prayers *We make our intercessions*

As we continue this season of Easter let us pray that our faith will grow and develop.
Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

We pray for Bishops Michael and Fiona and all laity and clergy who seek to serve you in this diocese. May they be filled with the Spirit and speak with authority. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We Pray for the King, the Prime Minister, and all World leaders, that they may have the Spirit of wisdom to lead us in peace and justice. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We pray for our families, friends, and neighbours that we may serve Christ in one another and seek the common good. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

We pray for the sick, suffering, dying and those who mourn and we give thanks and pray for those who care for them. *Lord in your mercy. Hear our prayer.*

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints, we commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love. *Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son our saviour Jesus Christ, Amen*

The Collect

All: Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Conclusion

All: Christ, as a light illumine and guide me this day.
Christ, as a shield overshadow me.
Christ under me, Christ over me; Christ beside me on my left and my right.
This day be within and without me. Amen.