

Douglas Union with Frankfield

Sunday 18 April 2021

(The 3rd Sunday of Easter)



A SERVICE OF THE WORD

The Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

On the first Easter Day you raised your Son, triumphant over sin, death and evil. He showed himself alive to his friends and before ascending to your side commissioned them to proclaim the Gospel to all the world, and to make disciples, baptising them in your holy name.

Blessed are you, Sovereign God, overflowing in love.

HYMN 288 *Thine be the glory (verse 1 and chorus)*

Penitence

In a moment of quiet reflection, let us honestly examine our lives, remembering where our attitudes have been wrong, where love has grown cold, where hurts have not been forgiven, or where cries for help have not been answered ...

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

**Most merciful God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
we confess that we have sinned
in thought, word and deed.
We have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
In your mercy
forgive what we have been,
help us to amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be;
that we may do justly,
love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

May Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive you your sins, and bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN 58 *Morning has broken*

Silent Reflection & Collect

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray...

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
Give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened
and sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

Psalm 4

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness;
you set me at liberty when I was in trouble;
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 How long will you nobles dishonour my glory;
how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?
- 3 But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness;
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.
- 4 Stand in awe, and sin not;
commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.
- 5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness
and put your trust in the Lord.
- 6 There are many that say, 'Who will show us any good?'
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart,
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.
- 8 In peace I will lie down and sleep,
for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

The First Reading

Acts 3: 12-19

¹²When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, ‘You Israelites why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

17 ‘And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah* would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Canticle - THE EASTER ANTHEMS

1 Corinthians 5: 7,8 Romans 6: 9-11 1 Corinthians 15: 20-22

- 1 Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us,
therefore let us celebrate the feast,
- 2 Not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness,
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
- 3 Christ, once raised from the dead dies no more;
death has no more dominion over him.
- 4 In dying, he died to sin once for all;
in living, he lives to God.
- 5 See yourselves therefore as dead to sin;
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

- 6 Christ has been raised from the dead:
the firstfruits of those who sleep.
- 7 For as by man came death,
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
- 8 For as in Adam all die,
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
Glory ...

The Second Reading

Luke 24: 36b-48

36 While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’³⁷ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost.³⁸ He said to them, ‘Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?’³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.’⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish,⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

44 Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,⁴⁶ and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.’⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

This is the word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

The Sermon

HYMN 383 *Lord, be thy word my rule*

The Apostles' Creed

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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessions

Our loving Father in heaven, as we recall the change that came over the disciples when they met the risen Christ on that first Easter Day, we pray for the renewal of faith, hope and love among your people today:

We pray for the Church, for Paul our bishop and for all who lead and minister in Christ's name and those who open our minds to understand the scriptures. For those training for both ordained and lay ministry. Grant that we may be nourished in our faith and understanding, and bear daily witness to Christ's love.

Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

We pray for the nations of the world and for those who take authority to serve the cause of justice and human well-being. Remembering the words Jesus said to his disciples after the resurrection, 'Peace be with you' we pray for our President, our Government and the leaders of the nations. Bless them with the gifts of wisdom, courage and integrity, that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

We pray for those who are afflicted by natural disasters or caught up in brutal conflicts. We pray for Myanmar that peace, justice and democracy would prevail, for an ease of ethnic tension in parts of the United States and for the residents on St Vincent after recent volcanic eruptions. Fill them with the resurrection hope that good will prevail and bless all who stand with them in finding solutions to their difficulties.

Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

We pray for the people we are called to serve, in the home, the neighbourhood and at work. We continue to pray for all medical professionals and carers, those involved in the vaccine programme. We pray for the communities in Northern Ireland, especially those places where there has been tension recently. Help us to work hard at building good relationships and to strive for reconciliation when they break down.

Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

We pray for all who suffer from illness, loneliness or loss, especially those known to us. May they know the presence of the risen Christ with them. Raise them from despair to hopefulness and health.

Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

We remember with thanksgiving those who have died. In this Easter season, strengthen all who mourn, with the sure hope that, in Christ, death is destroyed and that their loved ones are raised to fullness of life.

Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

Accept all these prayers for the sake of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

HYMN 263 *Crown him with many crowns (verses 1,3,4,6)*

The Blessing

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

Go in the peace of the Risen Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!