

## FIRST SUNDAY OF EASTER



*Easter, Empty Tomb, a interpretative painting of the resurrection scene from the collection of the Mafa Christian community of Cameroon (1973)*

[http://www.wccucc.org/uploads/3/0/0/2/3002205/jesus-at-empty-tomb-with-marys\\_orig.jpg](http://www.wccucc.org/uploads/3/0/0/2/3002205/jesus-at-empty-tomb-with-marys_orig.jpg)

St Paul's Church • Ipswich  
5 April 2026

## **GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

### **Processional Hymn**

*Jesus Christ is risen today* [TIS 216]

### **The Invocation**

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever.**

### **The Greeting**

Christ is Risen. Alleluia!  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**  
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

### **Welcome & Acknowledgement of Country**

### **Sentence**

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast.

### **Prayer of Approach**

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Kyrie eleison (Lord, have mercy)**

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

## **Confession**

Christ our Passover Lamb has been offered for us, therefore we come to celebrate the festival.

*Silence may be kept.*

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, with a sincere and a true heart.

**Merciful God,  
our maker and our judge,  
we have sinned against you  
in thought, word and deed,  
and in what we have failed to do:  
we have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves;  
we repent and are sorry for all our sins.  
Father, forgive us.  
Strengthen us to love and obey you  
in newness of life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **The Absolution**

Almighty God,  
who has promised forgiveness to all who turn to him in faith,  
pardon you and set you free from all your sins,  
strengthen you in all goodness  
and keep you in eternal life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Hymn of Praise, *Gloria in excelsis***

**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.**

## **Collect**

Glorious Lord of life,  
by the mighty resurrection of your Son  
you overcame the old order of sin and death  
to make all things new in him:  
grant that we, who celebrate with joy  
Christ's rising from the dead  
may be raised from the death of sin  
to the life of righteousness;  
through him who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### First Reading

Acts 10.34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Hear the word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 118.1-2; 118.14-24

<sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:

**his mercy endures for ever.**

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel now proclaim:

**that his mercy endures for ever.**

<sup>14</sup> The Lord is my strength and my song:

**and has become my salvation.**

<sup>15</sup> The sounds of joy and deliverance:

**are in the tents of the righteous.**

<sup>16</sup> The right hand of the Lord does mighty things:

**the right hand of the Lord raises up.**

17 I shall not die but live:  
**and proclaim the works of the Lord.**  
18 The Lord has disciplined me hard:  
**but he has not given me over to death.**  
19 Open me the gates of righteousness:  
**and I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.**  
20 This is the gate of the Lord:  
**the righteous shall enter it.**  
21 I will praise you, for you answered me:  
**and have become my salvation.**  
22 The stone that the builders rejected:  
**has become the head of the corner.**  
23 This is the Lord's doing:  
**and it is marvellous in our eyes.**  
24 This is the day that the Lord has made:  
**let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

## **Second Reading**

Colossians 3.1-4

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Hear the word of the Lord,  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn:** *The day of resurrection* [TIS 361]

## The Gospel

Matthew 28.1-10

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St Matthew.

**Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

## The Sermon

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Let us together affirm the faith of the church.

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made  
of one being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

The celebrant says.

Let us pray for the world, for the City of Ipswich and for the mission of the Church.

A minister continues

We pray for your Church throughout the world, rejoicing in the resurrection of your Son. May we be faithful witnesses to the transforming power of his risen life. Fill us with the joy of Easter, that we may proclaim your good news with courage, generosity, and love.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for peace among the nations. As Christ triumphed over sin and death, may his victory bring reconciliation to divided peoples and hope to places of conflict. Bless all who strive for justice and mercy, that your Kingdom may come on earth as in heaven.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in need: for the poor, the sick, the lonely, and the oppressed. May the light of the risen Christ shine into every place of suffering and despair, bringing healing, comfort, and new beginnings.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who mourn, especially those grieving loved ones who have died recently. May they find consolation in the promise of eternal life and the assurance that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We remember those who have died in the faith of Christ, especially those whose hope was in the resurrection. Grant them eternal rest in your presence, where sorrow and pain are no more and all things are made new.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for our community in Ipswich and beyond. May the joy of Easter renew our commitment to one another in love and service. Help us to share your risen life in our homes, workplaces, and streets, that your peace may dwell among us.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Let us now offer our own prayers, both spoken and unspoken, as we bring before God our gratitude, our hopes, and our needs this Easter day.

*Short moment of silence may be kept*

Please join me as we pray the Ipswich Anglicans Prayer together:

**God of new beginnings,  
bless our Ipswich Anglican community  
with a fresh vision for the future,  
with generous hearts to love one another,  
and with courage for the changes we now embrace.  
Draw us more deeply into the mystery of Christ,  
so that we draw closer to you and to each other.  
Make us a blessing to the city of Ipswich  
as we walk together  
into the future you have prepared for us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Almighty God, you have promised to hear our prayers.

**Grant that what we have asked in faith  
we may by your grace receive,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Offertory Hymn:** *Easter glory fills the sky* [TIS 388]

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,  
which earth has given and human hands have made.  
It will become for us the bread of life

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer.  
Fruit of the vine and work of human hands,  
it will become our spiritual drink

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.  
Through your goodness we have these gifts to share.  
Accept and use our offerings for your glory  
and for the service of your kingdom.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty Creator, ever living God. We give you thanks and praise for  
your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, who by the power of your Spirit  
was born of Mary and lived as one of us.

By his death on the cross, he offered the one true sacrifice for sin, and obtained an eternal deliverance for his people. And now we give you thanks that you raised him to life triumphant, and exalted him in glory.

By his victory over death, the reign of sin is ended, a new day has dawned, a broken world is restored and we are made whole once more.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and singing:

**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.**

Merciful God, we thank you  
for these gifts of your creation,  
this bread and wine,  
and we pray that by your Word and Holy Spirit,  
we who eat and drink them  
may be partakers of Christ's body and blood.

On the night he was betrayed Jesus took bread;  
and when he had given you thanks  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
'Take, eat. This is my body given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.'

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Therefore, in obedience to his command,  
we commemorate and celebrate  
his saving passion and death,  
his mighty resurrection and ascension into heaven  
and we eagerly await his coming again in glory.

Renew us by your Holy Spirit,  
unite us in the body of your Son  
and bring us with all your people  
into the joy of your eternal kingdom;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
with whom, and in whom,  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
we worship you, Father eternal,  
in songs of never-ending praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are confident to 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.**

As this broken bread was once many grains,  
which have been gathered together and made one bread:

so may your Church be gathered  
from the ends of the earth into your kingdom.

### **Agnus Dei**

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.  
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us your peace.

### **Invitation to the Table**

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
Holy things for holy people.  
Broken things for broken people.

*Please note that intinction (dipping the bread) is forbidden as it is a health risk; it also introduces gluten to the wine, which is a further health risk to those who have a gluten allergy. Please ask the priest if you require a gluten free wafer.  
If you do not wish to drink from the cup but want to acknowledge the sacramental presence, please feel free to pause briefly before the chalice and say 'Amen'.*

## **THE SENDING OUT OF GOD'S PEOPLE**

### **Prayer after Communion**

Most glorious Lord of life,  
we thank you that you nourish us  
in these Easter mysteries.  
Fill us with the Spirit of love  
and unite us in faith,  
that we may witness to the resurrection  
and show your glory to all the world. **Amen.**

### **Notice**

## **Blessing**

Almighty God,  
who redeemed us through the resurrection of Christ,  
and has brought us out of slavery into everlasting freedom,  
give you joy and peace in faith and bring you to your  
eternal inheritance; and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you  
and remain with you always. **Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**Recessional Hymn:** *Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son* [TIS 380]

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