

Sunday 20 April 2025: Easter: First Service of the Day

God of glory,
fill your Church with the power
that flows from Christ's resurrection,
that, in the midst of this sinful world,
it may signal the beginning of a renewed humanity,
raised to new life with Christ;
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Isaiah 65.17-25

For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice for ever
in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
and its people as a delight.
I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,
or the cry of distress.
No more shall there be in it
an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.
They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.
They shall not labour in vain,
or bear children for calamity;
for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD —
and their descendants as well.
Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

May your word live in us

And bear much fruit to your glory

Psalm 118.1-2; 118.14-24

- ¹ O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:
his mercy endures for ever.
- ² Let Israel now proclaim:
that his mercy endures for ever.
- ¹⁴ The Lord is my strength and my song:
and has become my salvation.
- ¹⁵ The sounds of joy and deliverance:
are in the tents of the righteous.
- ¹⁶ 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.

May your word live in us

And bear much fruit to your glory

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.'

May your word live in us

And bear much fruit to your glory

Gradual Hymn

The Lord be with you

And also with you

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

Luke 24.1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.