

A Service of the Word • Sunday 21st April 2024 • The Fourth Sunday of Easter

Zoom: 9.50 Session opens 9.55 Gathering Music

10.00 Introduction, Greeting

In the name of the Father...

The Lord be with you:

Alleluia! Christ is risen

We have come together as the family of God...

Here are words you may trust. Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead:

All: and also with you.

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

All: he is our salvation, our eternal glory.

All: if we endure, we shall reign with him.

All: if we are faithless, he keeps faith.

All: and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

If we die with him, we shall live with him;

If we deny him, he will deny us;

For he has broken the power of death

Collect for Purity

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.

Hymn 588

1. And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Saviour's blood?
Died he for me, who caused his pain? For me, who him to death pursued?
Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

2. 'Tis mystery all: the Immortal dies!
Who can explore his strange design?
In vain the first-born seraph tries
to sound the depths of love divine.
'Tis mercy all! Let earth adore,
let angel minds enquire no more.

3. He left his Father's throne above —
so free, so infinite his grace —
emptied himself of all but love,
and bled for Adam's helpless race.
'Tis mercy all, immense and free;
for, O my God, it found out me!

4. Long my imprisoned spirit lay
fast bound in sin and nature's night;
thine eye diffused a quickening ray;
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;
my chains fell off, my heart was free,
I rose, went forth, and followed thee.

5. No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head,
and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach the eternal throne,
and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Confession

Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

All: Lord, have mercy

All: Christ, have mercy

All: Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

Gloria (*said*)

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.

Collect for The Fourth Sunday of Easter

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Isaiah 44. 6-8

Psalm 46

Refrain: The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

This is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Romans 8. 26-39

Hymn 207

1. Jesus lives! thy terrors now
can, O death, no more appal us;
Jesus lives! by this we know
thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us. Alleluia.

2. Jesus lives! henceforth is death
but the gate of life immortal:
this shall calm our trembling breath,
when we pass its gloomy portal. Alleluia.

3. Jesus lives! for us he died;
then, alone to Jesus living,
pure in heart may we abide,
glory to our Saviour giving. Alleluia.

4. Jesus lives! our hearts know well
naught from us his love shall sever;
life nor death nor powers of hell
tear us from his keeping ever. Alleluia.

5. Jesus lives! to him the throne over all the world is given:
may we go where he is gone, rest and reign with him in heaven. Alleluia.

Choir: Alleluia! (x4)

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.

All sing: Alleluia! (x4)

All sing: Alleluia! (x4)

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

After ... This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Choir Anthem for meditation *If we believe that Jesus died and rose again (Goss)*

Homily *The Vicar*

Affirmation of faith

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures; he was buried; he was raised to life on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures; afterwards he appeared to his followers, and to all the apostles: this we have received, and this we believe. Amen. *(cf 1 Corinthians 15. 3-7)*

Prayers using the response:

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

Prayerful Hymn 752

1. O love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

2. O light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

3. O joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain,
that morn shall tearless be.

4. O cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.

The Lord's Prayer

Notices

Peace

Hymn 645

1. God is our strength and refuge,
our present help in trouble;
and we therefore will not fear,
though the earth should change!
Though mountains shake and tremble,
though swirling floods are raging,
God the Lord of hosts
is with us evermore!

2. There is a flowing river,
within God's holy city;
God is in the midst of her —
she shall not be moved!
God's help is swiftly given,
thrones vanish at his presence —
God the Lord of hosts
is with us evermore!

3. Come, see the works of our maker, learn of his deeds all-powerful:
wars will cease across the world when he shatters the spear!
Be still and know your creator, uplift him in the nations —
God the Lord of hosts is with us evermore!

Blessing

Acclamation

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has given us new life and hope. He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

He has brought us out of darkness. He has made us light to the world.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia!!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!!

Closing Music

*No Collection is taken, please donate by Text or leave a gift (in a completed gift aid envelope if you are able to do so) in the Offertory Plates or by contactless card giving as you leave. Thank you. We are encouraging supporters of the church to give by Bank Transfer to support our work. Details are on our website at www.saintmichaelweb.org.uk/Groups/310541/Giving_To_St.aspx or contact the Parish Office at church@saintmichaelweb.org.uk
Thank you for joining this service, whether by Zoom or in person.*