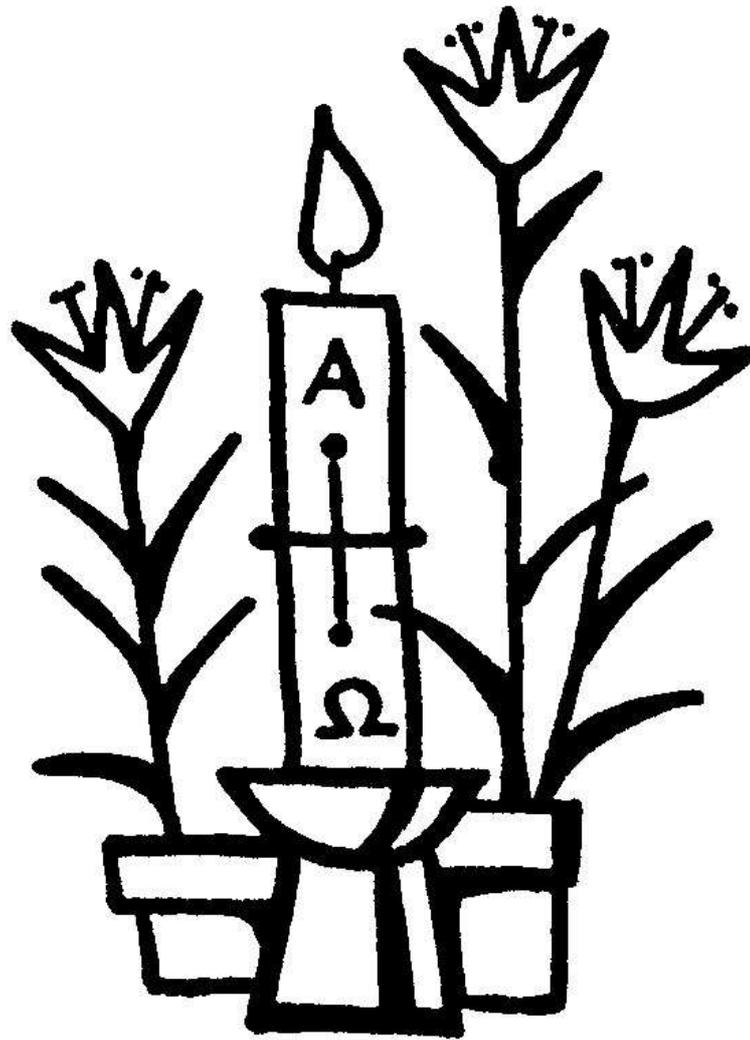


The Eucharist on Easter Day



Upper Weardale

Christ our life,
you are alive
 in the beauty of the earth
 in the rhythm of the seasons
 in the mystery of time and space
Alleluia

Christ our life,
you are alive
 in the tenderness of touch
 in the heartbeat of intimacy
 in the insights of solitude
Alleluia

Christ our life,
you are alive
 in the creative possibility
 of the dullest conversation
 the dreariest task
 the most threatening event
Alleluia

Christ our life,
you are alive
 to offer re-creation
 to every unhealed hurt
 to every deadened place
 to every damaged heart.
Alleluia

Welcoming the Easter Candle

You might like to light a candle at this point as we recall the moment that the Easter candle, which would have been lit from the fire at the Vigil on Saturday evening, is brought into church.

Christ yesterday and today,
the beginning and the end,

Alpha and Omega,
all time belongs to him,
and all ages;
**to him be glory and power,
through every age and forever. Amen.**

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ was raised gloriously from the dead, crushing the power of sin and destroying the sting of death. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the mighty power of God as Christ calls us out of darkness to share in his marvellous light. May we, and all Christ's people, shine as lights in the world to the glory of God the Father.

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

The light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

When the Candle is in place the Exsultet (the Easter Song of Praise) is said.

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
O Universe, dance around God's throne!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Sound the victorious trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in glory,
revealing the splendour of your creation,
radiant in the brightness of your triumphant King!
Christ has conquered! Now his life and glory fill you!
Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!
The risen Saviour, our Lord of life, shines upon you!
Let all God's people sing and shout for joy.

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 thanks and praise.

It is right and good that with hearts and minds and voices
we should praise you, Father almighty, the unseen God,
through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,
who has saved us by his death, paid the price of Adam's sin,
and reconciled us once again to you.

For this is the Passover feast,
when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain,
whose blood consecrates the homes of all the faithful.
This is the day when you first saved our ancestors,
freeing Israel from her slavery
and leading her safely through the sea.

This is the day when Jesus Christ vanquished hell,
broke the chains of death
and rose triumphant from the grave.

This is the day when all who believe in him are freed from sin, restored to grace and holiness, and share the victory of Christ.

This is the day that gave us back what we had lost;
beyond our deepest dreams you made even our sin a happy fault.

Crowning glory of all feasts ! Evil and hatred are put to flight and sin is washed away, lost innocence regained, and mourning turned to joy.

Feast truly blessed, when hatred is cast out,
peace and justice find a home, and heaven is joined to earth and all creation reconciled to you.

Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy
accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering,
this wax, the work of bees and the hands of your ministers.

As we gaze upon the splendour of this flame
fed by melting wax conceived by mother bee,
grant that this Easter Candle may make our darkness light.

For Christ the morning star has risen in glory;
Christ is risen from the dead and his flame of love still burns
within us! Christ sheds his peaceful light on all the world!
Christ lives and reigns for ever and ever!

Amen.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Gloria in Excelsis

The angels' song of praise is said and bells may be rung

**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 Collect

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (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 what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, 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.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and

say to them, “I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.” ’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

(John 20: 1-18)

At the end:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev Linda Lindsay, St Catherine’s Crook

Easter Day. A day we would normally celebrate with Alleluias and Easter Eggs and family gatherings. In Church, with great ceremony we light the Easter Candle and the candle is processed through the Church. The whole Church is bathed in the light. The light that came into the world and which not even death can extinguish. This is a day when our hearts burst with joy – because... Alleluia, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed Alleluia.

I can see that glorious and most beautiful procession in my mind – and have so looked forward to this day – Easter Day – so that we can once again remind ourselves and celebrate that the son of God conquered death, is alive and lives amongst us.

Today our resurrection account comes from John’s gospel – my favourite of the four Gospels. It is such a dramatic account of the events of that glorious first Easter morning and it takes us to the very heart of the Gospel message – that Jesus was crucified and has conquered death and that a new creation has begun – Jesus lives Alleluia.

Whilst all the Gospel accounts vary to some degree about the events of that morning, they all agree that it is Mary Magdalene

who is the first to go to the tomb. In John's account we feel the agony of Mary Magdalene as she puts her own grief to one side in order to tend the body of her beloved friend and teacher. We aren't told in our reading whether Mary Magdalene entered the tomb or not, we only know that she saw that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb and that she fled in order to alert the other disciples – and when they came they entered and found that Jesus body had gone. Did Mary presume that Jesus body had gone – that someone had entered the tomb and stolen Jesus body. Did she jump to conclusions – as we perhaps so often do about God's actions in our lives. Whether she presumed or not, she was right, Jesus body wasn't there.

As the story moves on, more disciples turn up including “the disciple whom Jesus loved”. Over centuries there have been many suggestions and ideas as to whom this disciple might be. I would like to think that this disciple isn't named because they are there to represent you or me. And that puts us, as ordinary people, at the very heart of this extraordinary account. It makes it personal and it makes it real, it makes it meaningful to us today as we read the account and try to comprehend the magnitude of these events.

In our gospel reading we get a sense of urgency at the scene – Mary ran to those whom she trusted, the disciples ran towards the tomb to determine what had happened. And so probably with his heart pumping from running and fear, Peter enters the tomb and discovers it is, indeed, empty. And then we get such detail about the cloths which bound Jesus and how they are carefully placed and in the case of the covering which had been on Jesus head - that was carefully rolled and left on its own in the tomb.

The tomb is empty – no angel, no heavenly messenger. And we are told that the disciple whom Jesus loved “saw and believed”.

What did he believe? Did he believe that Mary was correct – that Jesus body had been stolen, or did he believe what Jesus had said the night of their last meal together, that Jesus had indeed "conquered the world!"

These two disciples go home. There are no shouts of joy, no celebration. The emptiness of the tomb has not, as yet, made a difference. Isn't it the same in our communities to some extent – a lack of understanding at the enormity of what has happened – at what this means for us as Christians.

Mary Magdalene is left alone, standing weeping outside of the tomb but she finds the courage to enter it. And the tomb which the other disciples found empty is not empty at all. Whilst the body of Jesus is not there, there are two angels. "Why are you weeping?" they ask her. Mary's response – she tells the angels why - because they have taken away her Lord. Finally, Mary repeats the question once again to a man she believes is the gardener. But the moment he speaks her name, she is in no doubt that it is Jesus – Rabbouni, her Teacher.

This passage of scripture gives us so much – it links the end of John's Gospel to it's beginning. In the opening of John's gospel Jesus asks the disciples of John the Baptist "What are you looking for?" and here towards the end of the gospel, Jesus asks Mary "Whom are you looking for?".

So we can link the heralding of Jesus first ministry with a new beginning. A new life in Christ. Jesus death is not the end of the story – it's a new beginning.

Remember too – at the beginning of John's Gospel is the absence of light. John took us to the creation story – "In the beginning ..." and it goes on .. "What has come into being in him

was life and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it". Remember the link between the opening of John's gospel and the Genesis story – the very beginning. "the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep". There are echoes too of St Paul's declarations – I'm thinking of Paul's second letter to the Corinthians. The declaration of a new creation – "everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new".

In our story today, we are in a garden and Mary thinks Jesus is the gardener – and so he is – bringing a new world, a new life and a new creation into being. Adam and Eve were driven out of the garden – in our story today, Mary is sent out of the garden rejoicing – she is sent to tell everyone that the darkness has not overcome the Word made flesh.

Our story today holds so much - fear, courage, hope and joy. Our lives today are not what we hoped for or anticipated on Easter Day. We live in unprecedented times – when many are sacrificing so much for the common good – whether putting themselves at risk to care for others, giving up our freedom in order to keep ourselves and others safe, whatever the sacrifice – we live with those emotions that are contained in our gospel story. Fear, courage and hope. But we have joy too – there is joy in the Easter message and there is an invitation.

Easter Day is about unlikely, surprising events which deliver to us the message of great hope that we are not beaten by death. In the here and now resurrection is an invitation to live by hope. There is a personal invitation to each and every one of us – we are invited to let God's love grow in our heart – and in that way he is always there for us, helping us to face all of life's challenges, even in the darkest of times.
"We are an Easter people, and Alleluia is our song."

Alleluia Christ is Risen -
He is Risen indeed – Alleluia.

Profession of Faith

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**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.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**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 Intercession

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.

Jesus, light of the world, bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations ... especially at this time of pandemic in many countries. Help all affected to know your presence with them and guide all in authority in the ways of justice and peace.
Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, bread of life, give food to the hungry and nourish us all with your word. At this time we pray for our farmers, all who produce and distribute our food and especially all those engaged in lambing..
Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,
be with us and all who follow you in the way ...
Deepen our appreciation of your truth
and fill us with your life.
Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,
recover the straggler, bind up the injured,
strengthen the sick and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.
Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,
we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you ...

especially remembering those who have died as a result of COVID-19.. raise us with them to eternal life.

Jesus, Lord of life,
**in your mercy, hear us,
accept our prayers, and be with us always.
Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples
and said, 'Peace be with you.'
Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

Alleluia.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you
and also with you. Alleluia.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Altar

*The gifts of the people are gathered and presented.
The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

The Eucharistic Prayer

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 thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and on this feast of our redemption
to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men, women and children
the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory.

**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.

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of your kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Jesus Christ is Lord:
**Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love
and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise:
**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Silence is kept.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation, let us pray with confidence as
our Saviour has taught us:

**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.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

Every time we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.**

Giving of Communion

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*It's really painful not to be able to receive communion at this
time. You might like to use this prayer:*

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits you
have given me, for all the pains and insults you have borne for
me. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know you
more clearly, love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day. Amen.

Silence may be kept.

Prayer after Communion

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only begotten
Son to the death of the cross,
and by his glorious resurrection
have delivered us from the power of our enemy;
grant us so to die daily to sin,
that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise to your praise and glory. Amen.**

The Dismissal

The Blessing

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
make you perfect in every good work to do his will;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The president or deacon says

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Rev Claire McClelland, priest-in-charge, Upper Weardale.
Please be in touch if you need any kind of support during this time.
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