



St **NICOLAS' CHURCH**
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

A Service of the Word



Officiant: Mrs Gwen Bevington

The Officiant gives any Notices and Welcomes the congregation

Welcome

Please stand:

The officiant says:

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
by raising Jesus from the dead.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Please sit or kneel for

The Confession

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.

Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

A moment of silence is kept.

Jesus Christ, risen master and triumphant Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our weakness and disbelief.

We have lived by our own strength,
and not by the power of your resurrection.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as faithless and not believing.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone,
and doubted our home in heaven.

In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

We say together

The Prayer for today

**Almighty Father,
In your great mercy you 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.**

We listen to

Christus resurgens ex mortuis
iam non moritur
mors illi ultra non dominabitur
quod enim vivit vivit Deo
Alleluia alleluia

Christ rising again from the dead
dieth now no more
Death shall have no more
 dominion over him
who indeed liveth unto God
Alleluia alleluia

Antiphon for Easter Sunday

Based on Romans 6 :9 - 10

from an early 14th chant book from Padua, Italy

THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading:

Acts 3: 12 - 19.

Peter 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 a man walk? The 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. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to

you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And 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.

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

For the gift of the Word:

Thanks be to God

Psalm said antiphonally:

Psalm 4

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.

**How long will you nobles dishonour my glory;
how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?**

But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness;
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

**Stand in awe, and sin not;
commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.**

Offer the sacrifices of righteousness;
and put your trust in the Lord.

**There are many that say, “Who will show us any good?”
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.**

You have put gladness in my heart,
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.

**In peace I will lie down and sleep,
for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Second Reading:

Luke 24: 36b - 48

While they were talking, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 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.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

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.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 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, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.'

For the gift of the Word:

thanks be to God.

Hymn:

Christ has risen while earth slumbers

Please remain seated as we meditate on the words below

(with accompaniment – but please DO NOT SING)

Christ has risen while earth slumbers,
Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised,
as we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing;
let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumour.
Christ is risen, God is here!

Christ has risen for the people
whom he loved and died to save;
Christ has risen for the women
bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen for disciples
huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation
is not silenced by the tomb.

Christ has risen and forever
lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled,
all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen. Christ is present,
making us what he has been —
evidence of transformation
in which God is known and seen.

John L. Bell (b. 1949) and Graham Maule (b. 1958)

SERMON

Please stand for

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.**

We sit or kneel for

The Prayers

At the end of each bidding when the leader says: Lord in your mercy,
we respond: Hear our prayer

At the end of the prayers we say the Lord's Prayer together.

The Lord's Prayer

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.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom,
the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever.

Amen.

Hymn: My song is love unknown

*Please remain seated as we meditate on the words below
(with accompaniment – but please DO NOT SING)*

My song is love unknown, my Saviour's love to me,
love to the loveless shown, that they might lovely be.
O who am I, that for my sake
my Lord should take frail flesh and die?

He came from his blest throne, salvation to bestow;
but they made strange, and none the longed-for Christ would know.
But O my Friend, my Friend indeed,
who at my need his life did spend!

Sometimes they strew his way, and his sweet praises sing;
resounding all the day hosannas to their King.
Then 'Crucify!' is all their breath,
and for his death they thirst and cry.

Why, what has my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run, he gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
themselves displease, and 'gainst him rise.

They rise, and needs will have my dear Lord made away;
a murderer they save, the Prince of Life they slay.
Yet cheerful he to suffering goes,
that he his foes from thence might free.

In life no house, no home, my Lord on earth might have;
in death, no friendly tomb but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heaven was his home;
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.

Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine:
never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine!
This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend.

Samuel Crossman (c. 1624–1683)

We pray together

**God of our salvation,
you have restored us to life,
you have brought us back again into your love
by the triumphant death and resurrection of Christ.
Continue to heal us, as we go to live and work
in the power of your Spirit, to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

Please stand for

The Blessing

**Please take this Service Booklet home with you
After the Service, remember social distancing as you leave,
& do not stop to chat on Church premises
Thank you**

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