

**Welcome**

**Easter shout:** Christ is risen **He is risen indeed. Hallelujah**

**Song:** The strife is o'er *From Latin, translated by Francis Pott*

1. The strife is o'er, the battle done; now is the Victor's triumph won.  
O let the song of praise be sung. Allelujah
2. Death's mightiest pow'rs have done their worst, and Jesus hath his foes dispersed;  
Let shouts of praise and joy outburst. Allelujah
3. On the third morn he rose again glorious in majesty to reign;  
Oh let us swell the joyful strain. Allelujah
4. Lord, by thy stripes which wounded thee from death's dread sting thy servants free,  
That we may live and sing to thee. Allelujah

**Our Collect is also our Confession** Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification; grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

**Absolution**

God, the Father of mercies, who has reconciled the world to himself, not counting our trespasses against us, through the death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, grant you his pardon and peace. **Amen**

**Reading.**

*1 Peter 1:3-9*

- 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
- 4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,
- 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
- 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,
- 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honour, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,
- 8 whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory,
- 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls

This is the Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

*John 20:19-end*

- 19 Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."
- 20 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.
- 21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."
- 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.
- 23 "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."
- 24 Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.
- 25 The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."
- 26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!"
- 27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."
- 28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"
- 29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."
- 30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;
- 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name

This is the Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

**Song** This is the day *By Les Garrett*

1. This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;  
We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it' and be glad in it.  
This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it  
This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.
2. This is the day, this is the day when he rose again, when he rose again;  
We will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.  
This is the day when he rose again; we will rejoice and be glad in it.  
This is the day, this is the day that he rose again.

**Reflection**

One of my favourite TV programmes is 'Who do you think you are?'

I love to see peoples faces when presented with evidence about their history, and see documents and photos of their grandparents and great grandparents', learning about their birth, life experiences, jobs, marriages, children, their deaths, and their wills.

I love to hear the searchers wows of wonder when learning about different parts of their heritage, and what is in their DNA - who they are! When, sometimes discovering about a lordly predecessor and property, the question is asked: Is there any inheritance left for me?

Peter writes about 'Who' we are as Christians and about our heritage and Hope: He writes about

- knowing our spiritual birth or re-birth

- knowing about our eternal inheritance which is found and founded on Christ's death and resurrection

Let's look at the documents we have before us!

Peter says in 1Peter1:3 *according to His abundant mercy God has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you*

Our spiritual 'birth certificate' says: *according to His abundant mercy Father God has begotten us again through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.* Through Christ we are given life - life eternal!

Looking at Christ's 'death certificate' 1Cor15 says: *Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures*

Saint John says in 1Jn1:9 *the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin*

God promises us, through faith in Jesus and his death on the cross for us, we have forgiveness. Through trusting in Jesus and his work we have a future

1Peter1:4 says *God has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

As children of God resurrection life, perfect, permanent and personal, is promised to us

-Forgiveness of the past is indisputably given and -hope for the future is fully guaranteed

This is the Easter message that Christians have and hold on to. Who do we think we are?

1<sup>st</sup> We are children of God - we are *born again* (literally: birthed spiritually from above) by Christ, and activated by personal faith in him - It's not by 'being good', not by religious rituals, but by confessing Jesus Christ, like Thomas, as 'MY Lord and My God'

Who do we think we are? We are children of God and as children of God we become citizens of Heaven and inheritors of eternal life. There's a place in heaven reserved for us with our name on it

All this is given to us through Christ's death, and guaranteed through Christ's resurrection. However it is activated by personal faith in Jesus. Do we believe this? Have we received this?

So let's do that now in our **Prayers**

First a prayer of Christian commitment

Holy God I admit that I am a sinner needing your grace. Thank you Jesus you died to forgive all my sins, and rose to give me life eternal. Please pardon my faults and failing; come and fill me by your Spirit with your living presence; and make me a child of God. Jesus be my Lord in this life and lead me safely to your home in heaven. For your glory's sake I pray this Amen

Then, as God's children we can confidently pray **the Lord's Prayer** saying

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name**

**Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven**

**Give us this day our daily bread,**

**and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that 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**

Finally we make our **Intercessions**

-*For the church.* where there is success give humility, where there is confusion give light, and where there is suffering give courage. Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

- *For the world and those in authority.* Where there is need give your provision, where there is war give peace, where there is hunger give food, where there disaster give hope. And for King Charles as he prepares for his coronation give him your holy anointing of righteousness and godly direction

Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

- *For our communities.* Where we live give harmony and neighbourliness, and make us lights in the darkness. And for Jane and Nigel as they prepare to leave us give them your serenity, and for ourselves give us faith and a new priest who will lead us in your paths of mercy and truth Lord in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

- *For the needy.* Where there is sickness of body give endurance and healing, where there is disquiet of mind give assurance and courage, and where there is a troubled spirit give comfort and true faith in the power of our risen Lord Lord in your mercy **hear our prayers Amen**

We **Declare our Faith** in words from 1 Corinthians 15:5-7 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**

**Song** Jesus is Lord *By David Mansell*

1. Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it, For by his power each tree and flow'r was planned and made.

Jesus is Lord! The universe declares it; Sun, moon, and stars in heaven cry: Jesus is Lord!

*Ref:* Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord! Praise him with hallelujahs for Jesus is Lord.

2. Jesus is Lord! Yet from his throne eternal in flesh he came to die in pain on Calv'ry's tree.  
Jesus is Lord! From him all life proceeding, yet gave his life a ransom thus setting us free.

*Ref:* Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord! Praise him with hallelujahs for Jesus is Lord.

3. Jesus is Lord! O'er sin the mighty conqu'ror, from death he rose, and all his foes shall own his name.  
Jesus is Lord! God sends his Holy Spirit to show by works of power that Jesus is Lord

*Ref:* Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord! Praise him with hallelujahs for Jesus is Lord.

### **Blessing**

May the God of peace who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you perfect to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord to whom be the glory for ever and ever. **Amen** And .....

The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord turn his face towards you and give you his peace. **Amen**

John 20:19-end 19 Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."

20 When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

23 "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

24 Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

26 ¶ And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!"

27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;

31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name

**Song:** He is Lord *Unknown*

I am a child of God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gws47Z2kI6A>