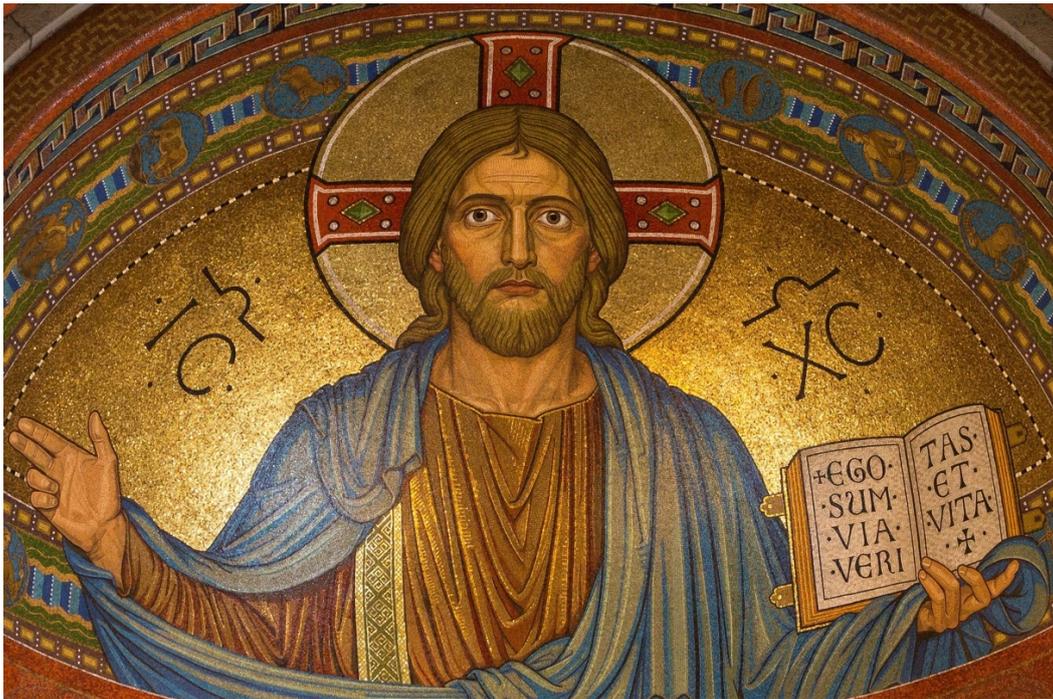


**The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Northampton**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter 2020**



**A Service of the Word**

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic this service will be available online on our YouTube channel (visit [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and search for Holy Sepulchre Northampton) and [facebook.com/holysepulchre.northampton](https://www.facebook.com/holysepulchre.northampton)

You are invited to join with the words in **bold**.



[stseps.org.uk](http://stseps.org.uk)



[holysepulchre.northampton](https://www.facebook.com/holysepulchre.northampton)



[@StSepsNN1](https://twitter.com/StSepsNN1)

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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.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

**Faithful one, whose word is life:**  
**come with saving power**  
**to free our praise,**  
**inspire our prayer**  
**and shape our lives**  
**for the kingdom of your Son,**  
**Jesus Christ our Lord.**  
**Amen.**

Invitation to Confession

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God.  
Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil  
and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Like Mary at the empty tomb,  
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Like the disciples behind locked doors,  
we are afraid to be seen as your followers.  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Like Thomas in the upper room,  
we are slow to believe.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

May the God of love  
bring us back to himself,  
forgive us our sins,  
and assure us of his eternal love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### The Collect

Almighty Father,  
who in your great mercy 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 your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

### The Liturgy of the Word

#### First reading

A reading from the Book of Acts:

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them:  
Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has  
made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'  
Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter  
and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to  
them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus

Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

(Acts 2:14a, 36-41- NRSV)

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

- 1 I love the Lord,  
for he has heard the voice of my supplication; ♦  
because he inclined his ear to me  
on the day I called to him.
- 2 The snares of death encompassed me;  
the pains of hell took hold of me; ♦  
by grief and sorrow was I held.
- 3 Then I called upon the name of the Lord: ♦  
'O Lord, I beg you, deliver my soul.'
- 4 Gracious is the Lord and righteous; ♦  
our God is full of compassion.
- 5 The Lord watches over the simple; ♦  
I was brought very low and he saved me.
- 6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul, ♦  
for the Lord has been gracious to you.
- 7 For you have delivered my soul from death, ♦  
my eyes from tears and my feet from falling.

(Psalm 116:1-7 - Common Worship Psalter)

A reading from First Peter:

And if you invoke as Father him who judges each one impartially according to his deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was destined before the foundation of the world but was made manifest at the end of the times for your sake. Through him you have confidence in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere love of the brethren, love one another earnestly from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God.

(1 Peter 1:17-23 - RSV)

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said, 'All who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

**Alleluia.**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are

you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

(Luke 24:13-35 - NRSV)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

## 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.**

## Prayers of Intercession

*The following response will be used:*

Jesus, Lord of life:  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praise into one, 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.**

## The Gloria

**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 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.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you. Alleluia, alleluia!  
**And also with you. Alleluia, alleluia!**

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.**

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.**

May Christ,  
who out of defeat brings new hope  
and a new future, fill us with his  
new life;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the  
Holy Spirit, be among us and  
remain with us always.

**Amen.**

We are raised to new life with Christ.

Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**