

Ashburton and Moorland Team

EASTER DAY



¶ The Gathering

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Hymn – Jesus Christ is risen today

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DdaVbsf1kO4>

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia,
our triumphant holy day; alleluia,
who did once upon the cross; alleluia,
suffer to redeem our loss; alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing; Alleluia,
unto Christ our heavenly king; alleluia,
who endured the cross and grave; alleluia,
sinners to redeem and save: alleluia!

But the pains which he endured; Alleluia,
our salvation have procured; alleluia,
now above the sky he's King; alleluia,
where the angels ever sing: alleluia!

Sing we to our God above Alleluia!
praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
praise him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Lyra Davidica
1708

The Greeting

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

Prayer of Preparation

**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.**

Prayers of Penitence

The Summary of the Law

Our Lord Jesus Christ said:
The first commandment is this:
'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is the only Lord.
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.'
The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'
There is no other commandment greater than these.
On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.
Amen. Lord, have mercy.

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.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.**

**We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

**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

Readings

Isaiah 65.17-25

For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice for ever
in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,
and its people as a delight.
I will rejoice in Jerusalem,
and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,
or the cry of distress.
No more shall there be in it
an infant that lives but a few days,
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.
They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

They shall not labour in vain,
or bear children for calamity;
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—
and their descendants as well.
Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!
They shall not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
says the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

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.'

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn - Alleluia, alleluia! hearts to heaven and voices raise

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKqBY5Hsfik>

Alleluia, alleluia!
hearts to heaven and voices raise:
sing to God a hymn of gladness,
sing to God a hymn of praise;
he who on the cross a victim
for the world's salvation bled
Jesus Christ, the king of glory,
now is risen from the dead.

Alleluia, Christ is risen!
death at last has met defeat:
see the ancient powers of evil
in confusion and retreat;
once he died, and once was buried:
now he lives for evermore,
Jesus Christ, the world's redeemer,
whom we worship and adore.

Christ is risen, we are risen!
set your hearts on things above:
there in all the Father's glory
lives and reigns our king of love;
hear the word of peace he brings us,
see his wounded hands and side!
now let every wrong be ended,
every sin be crucified.

Alleluia, alleluia!
glory be to God on high:
alleluia to the Saviour
who has gained the victory;
alleluia to the Spirit,
fount of love and sanctity:
alleluia, alleluia
to the Triune Majesty!

Christopher Wordsworth
(1807 – 1885)

Gospel Reading

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.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 20.1-18

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Sermon

After the joyous years of Jesus’ ministry, his close friends – the disciples, his mother and brothers, Martha, Mary and Lazarus, Mary Magdalene – couldn’t have been more distressed by his death on the cross. They were miserable, lost and bereft, weeping and mourning.

It was a terrible time. They had followed all the traditions of wrapping his body in grave clothes, using nard and myrrh as ointments and perfume. The stone had been rolled across the tomb, and that was that. They had then gathered together in grief in the Upper Room.

I wonder what it was that drew Mary Magdalene to the tomb again the next morning? She went when it was still dark. What did she expect?

For several weeks Jesus had been giving hints that something would happen “on the third day” after his death – maybe she went just to reflect on what might be about to happen?

She knew that Jesus had brought Lazarus back to life, so maybe God would bring Jesus back to life, so he could reach a ripe old age before his natural death, just as Lazarus did? Should she expect Jesus to return that way? Wouldn’t Mary, his mother, be delighted?

Or maybe Jesus would come back to life and then live for ever, never growing old? How would that work?

Or maybe something else?

I'm sure that these possibilities flitted through her mind when she saw that the tomb was empty. But there was no sign of Jesus – “where had they laid him?”

Peter and his friend came to look, saw that Jesus wasn't there, and seeing that something extraordinary was happening, “believed”. It appeared that Jesus had “risen from the dead,” but in what way? Would it be like Lazarus over again, with Jesus being with them exactly as before?

I don't think they thought that, otherwise they would have gone looking for him, rather than “returning to their homes.” It was still a puzzle to them. What had happened?

It was the weeping Mary who first saw the risen Jesus – not just Jesus living again, but Jesus transformed and transfigured into a new life, a life for eternity.

Jesus was indeed Jesus, but he was no Lazarus – had he been that, the wonder and mystery would only have lasted a short while, and he would have died and been buried again.

But rather he became his true self, the very essence of himself, living in a new world of eternity, capable of appearing to people the world over, those who believe in his name.

As Isaiah, in his vision, saw God saying “be glad and rejoice for ever in what I am creating.” Jesus had become God's permanent link between earth and heaven, equally present in both places, opening the door to heaven, welcoming us in even as he forgives us our sins, making us fit for heaven.

None of his friends or disciples guessed this. God's plan was so creative and awe-inspiring that it was beyond human imagining – Heaven and earth for ever intertwined through Jesus; Jesus led the way for us all.

So what we are celebrating today is the way in which heaven has been opened to us. Heaven's joys are poured down into us. Death is no longer a defeat, but a door into a new life. We can live our lives without fear, knowing that we are already part of heaven.

May the joy of Easter be with you all. Amen.

The Nicene Creed

***// We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.***

***// We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.***

***For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.***

***For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.***

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

***He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.***

***// We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,***

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

***who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.***

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come.

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 us.

Hymn – Lord of the Dance

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6KVRcWtF5Gw>

'I danced in the morning
when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon
and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven
and I danced on the earth:
At Bethlehem I had My birth.

*'Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the dance,' said He,
'And I'll lead you all,
wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all
in the dance,' said He.*

'I danced for the scribe
and the pharisee,
But they would not dance
and they wouldn't follow Me.
I danced for the fishermen,
for James and John -
They came with Me
and the dance went on.

'Dance, then, wherever you may be

'I danced on the Sabbath
and I cured the lame;
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
and they hung Me on high,
And they left Me there on a cross to die.

'Dance, then, wherever you may be

'I danced on a Friday
when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance
with the devil on your back.
They buried My body
and they thought I'd gone,
But I am the dance, and I still go on.

'Dance, then, wherever you may be

'They cut Me down
and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die.
I'll live in you if you'll live in Me;
I am the Lord of the dance', said He.

'Dance, then, wherever you may be

Sydney Carter
(1915- 2004)

Prayers of Intercession

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

In joy and hope we pray.
We pray to the Father.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his
glorious and life-giving resurrection,
we pray to the Father.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

That persecuted churches, and churches struggling to maintain a sense of community at this time may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter,
we pray to the Father.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

That leaders of countries torn apart by war may find the means to withstand aggression, and to bring about a peaceful resolution of the conflicts,
we pray to the Father.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

That all those receiving refugees may find the resources to keep them safe,
we pray to the Father.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

That agencies and volunteers helping those who lack food, housing or medicine may be strengthened and encouraged in their good work,
we pray to the Father.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

That those who are working in over-stretched medical services may find refreshment and encouragement this Easter,
we pray to the Father.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

That God may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak and the dying,
to comfort and strengthen them,
we pray to the Father.
Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

That God may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people,
so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection,
we pray to the Father.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

**Merciful Father,
accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Hymn – Thine be the glory

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

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the church with gladness, hymns of triumph sing,
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is naught without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

Edmond Louis Budry
1854 - 1932

¶ Ending

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.

The Blessing

The God of peace,
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the eternal covenant,
make us perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.

Amen.