

Sunday, 12 April 2026; Easter 1

Theme: Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs (3)

Welcome and Call to Worship

Minister Alleluia, Christ is risen!

All He is risen indeed, Alleluia!

Minister Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you;

All And also with you.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

All We will rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia!

Hymn 191, Hail, the day that sees Him rise...!

Minister We come together
in the name of Jesus Christ
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,
to hear and receive God's holy word,
to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,
that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Confession and Absolution

All kneel or sit

Minister But first, we keep a moment of silence, to reflect on God's presence with us now, on his directives for a fully human life, and on our feeble attempts to live up to them:

The first commandment is this: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength'; and the second is this: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself'. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

So, in penitence and faith we turn to Christ, confessing our sins and shortcomings, seeking his forgiveness, and asking for his strength to live in love and peace with all, we say together:

All God our Father,
long-suffering, full of grace and truth,
you create us from nothing and give us life.
You renew our life in the water of baptism,
and you will never cast us aside.
We confess to you that we have sinned
against you and against our neighbour.
We have wounded your love and marred your
image in us.
Restore us, for the sake of your Son,
And bring us at the last to your heavenly joy,
In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Minister May the Father of all mercies
cleansed you from your sins,
and restore in you the likeness of his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Minister The night has passed and the day lies open
before us;
Let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept

Minister As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. Amen

Hymn 474, The day of resurrection...!

The Word of God

Today's Reader is Kate Elliott

The first reading is Psalm 81.1-11

At the end

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

All stand as Kate announces

Our Gospel reading is St John 20.19.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

We continue our reflections on familiar hymns.

Today, 'Jesu, the very thought of thee' (based on a long poem by St Bernard of Clairvaux); and 'All creatures of our God and King' (based on St Francis of Assisi's 'Song of Creation')

Hymn 264, Jesu, the very thought of thee...

Apostles' Creed

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

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.

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

Colin and Jean Entwistle will lead our Intercessions this morning,

concluding with the Lord's Prayer

...Gathering our prayers and praises into one,

as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All 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.

The Peace

Minister The Risen Lord stood among them and said
'Peace be with you'. The peace of the Lord be always
with you.

All And also with you

Minister Let us offer one another a sign of Easter peace

*Hymn (during which an offering will be taken
for the ongoing work of the church)*

272, Jesus lives....!

Collect / Special Prayer of the Day

Risen Christ,
You filled your disciples with boldness and fresh
hope:
Strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
And fill us with your peace,
To the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Hymn 9, All creatures of our God and King....!

Blessing and dismissal

Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. Amen

Minister Let us bless the Lord!

All Thanks be to God! Amen