

Sunday 9 April 2023
Easter Day

If you have difficulty in standing please feel free to sit during any part of the service.

The procession gathers at the back of the Church. We stand and turn to face the back, as the president enters and says

Christ yesterday and today,
the beginning and the end,
Alpha and Omega,
all time belongs to him, and all ages;
to him be glory and power,
through every age and for ever.
Amen

A priest brings in the lit Easter Candle, proclaiming

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

The priest repeats the acclamation twice, louder each time.

The choir sings the Introit: This joyful Eastertide Wood as the procession moves to the Easter Garden.

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

A reader says:

The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.'

Matthew 28:5,6

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: to you be glory now and for ever. In your great mercy you have given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Bless this garden, and grant that we who have prepared it in celebration of his victory may be strengthened in faith, know the power of his presence, and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory.
Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

Risen Lord Jesus, as Mary Magdalen met you in the garden on the morning of your resurrection, so may we meet you today and every day: speak to us as you spoke to her; reveal yourself as the living Lord; renew our hope and kindle our joy; and send us to share the good news with others.

Amen

The procession continues to the altar as we sing the hymn:

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 that he endured *Alleluia*,
our salvation have procured; *Alleluia*,
now above the sky he's King, *Alleluia*,
where the angels ever sing *Alleluia*.

Lyra Davidica, 1708 and others
Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition*,
number 205

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ was raised gloriously from the dead, crushing the power of sin and destroying the sting of death. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the mighty power of God as Christ calls us out of darkness to share in his marvellous light. May we, and all Christ's people, shine as lights in the world to the glory of God the Father.

Placing the Easter Candle in its stand by the altar, the priest holding it says

The light of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

We remain standing to sing:

**Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the Highest.
Glory to God in the Highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, Heav'nly King,
Almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the Highest.
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.
Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the Highest.
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.
Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the Highest.**

We remain standing for 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**

We sit for the readings.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Acts 10.34-43

Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius: '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.'

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Colossians 3.1-4

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

For the word of the Lord
thanks be to God.

Stand to sing the Gradual Hymn

The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness,
the Passover of God;
from death to life eternal,
from earth unto the sky,
our God hath brought us over
with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be pure from evil,
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection-light;
and, listening to his accents,
may hear so calm and plain
his own 'All hail', and, hearing,
may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful,
and earth her song begin,
the round world keep high triumph,
and all that is therein ;
let all things seen and unseen
their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord is risen,
our joy that hath no end.

Himera ST John of Damascus (c.675–c.750)
translated by John Mason Neale (1818–1866)*
Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition*,
number 216

*We remain standing and turn to face where the Gospel
is read in the centre of the church.*

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Choir I am the first and the last, says the Lord,
and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Hear 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

Please sit after the short prayer.

We stand to say the 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**

Please sit or kneel for prayers of intercession.

During the prayers:

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

At the end:

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

Please stand for 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
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We sing the Offertory Hymn.

No collection is taken during this service.

*There is a collection plate and contactless card machine near
the door or donations can be made online via our website
www.attleboroughchurch.org.uk/donate*

Light's glittering morn bedecks the sky ;
heaven thunders forth its victor-cry :

Alleluia, alleluia.

The glad earth shouts her triumph high,
and groaning hell makes wild reply :

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

That Eastertide with joy was bright,
the sun shone out with fairer light,

Alleluia, alleluia.

when, to their longing eyes restored,
the glad apostles saw their Lord :

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

He bade them see his hands, his side,
where yet the glorious wounds abide ;

Alleluia, alleluia.

the tokens true which made it plain
their Lord indeed was risen again :

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Jesu, the King of gentleness,
do thou thyself our hearts possess,

Alleluia, alleluia.

that we may give thee all our days
the tribute of our grateful praise :

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All praise be thine, O risen Lord,
from death to endless life restored ;

Alleluia, alleluia.

all praise to God the Father be
and Holy Ghost eternally :

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

John Mason Neale (1818–1866)*

based on *Aurora lucis rutilat*, (Latin, 4th century)

Reproduced from *Ancient & Modern Electronic Words Edition*,
number 208

Please remain standing.

Lord, accept the prayers and offerings of your people.

With your help,

may this Easter mystery of our redemption

bring to perfection

the saving work you have begun in us. **Amen**

The Eucharistic Prayer:

The Lord be with you

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

The president praises God for his mighty acts.

*The choir sings the Sanctus and Benedictus
from Communion Service in E 'Collegium Regale' Darke*

*The president recalls the Last Supper, during which this
response is used:*

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

*The prayer continues and leads into the doxology
to which we sing **Amen***

We sit or kneel for the Lord's Prayer.

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
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**

Breaking of the Bread

We break this Bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one Bread.**

The president gives the invitation to Communion:

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*If you normally receive Communion in any Church you are
welcome to receive at this service; come forward to the altar
rail now. If you do not receive, you are welcome to come
forward for a blessing. Carry this booklet, or bow your head,
to indicate that you would prefer a blessing.*

*During the distribution the Agnus Dei is sung and the choir
sings the anthem: Come, ye faithful Thatcher*

*When everybody has received Communion please keep a
moment of silence before the Post Communion prayers:*

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**

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen**

The notices are given.

We stand to sing the final hymn.

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.*

*A toi la gloire, O Ressuscité
Edmond Budry (1854–1932)*

translated by Richard Birch Hoyle (1875–1939)

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We remain standing for the Blessing.

God the Father,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.
Amen

God the Son,
who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious
victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith.
Amen

God the Holy Spirit,
who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.
Amen

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Organ Voluntary:

Toccata from Symphony for Organ No. 5 Widor