

The Church of Saint John the Evangelist
The Service of Light and Festal Eucharist on Easter Day



10.30am

Sunday 31st March 2023

Parish of Malone

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

The Service of Light on Easter Morning

The choir enters.

The ministers proceed to the front of the choir, the deacon carrying the unlit Easter Candle, all the lights in the building being switched off.

This acclamation is used

*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.*

The Presiding Minister says

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the awesome power of God. As we hear his word and proclaim all that God has done, we can be confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever.


The Easter Candle is lit.

May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

The minister carrying the Candle raises it and says three times while moving up the aisle

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Members of the congregation light their candles from the Paschal Candle as the minister stops. When the minister carrying the Candle arrives at the front of the church it is placed on the stand beside the pulpit where it stays for 40 days. The candles in the sanctuary and Side Chapel are also lit. 

Presiding: The Rector *The presiding minister says from the west end of the church*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

A fanfare is played on the organ and all the lights in the church are switched on

Hymn 271

*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,
unto Christ, our heavenly King,
who endured the cross and grave,
sinners to redeem and save.

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

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.

PENITENCE

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbour as yourself On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets. *Matthew 22: 37-39*

Lord, have mercy on us, and write these your laws in our hearts.

The Confession is introduced:

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ, to save us from our sins, to intercede for us in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Silence

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned in thought and word and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may walk in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

The priest pronounces the Absolution:

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

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's 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 of Easter Day Let us pray *remain standing*

Almighty God, through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ you have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into your minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to

good effect; Through Jesus Christ our risen Lord who is alive and reigns with you in the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

The First Reading A reading from the Acts of the Apostles chapter 10 beginning at verse 34 **(34-43)** *all sit*

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.

THE EASTER ANTHEMS *all stand*

f 1 Christ our passover has been | sacri·ficed | for us: || therefore let us | cele|brate the | feast.

2 Not with the old leaven of cor|ruption · and | wickedness: || but with the unleavened | bread of · sin|cerity · and | truth.

ff 3 Christ once raised from the dead | dies no | more; || death has no | more do|minion | over him.

mp 4 In dying he died to sin | once for | all; || in | living, · he | lives to | God.

mf 5 See yourselves therefore as | dead to | sin; || *f* and alive to God in | Jesus | Christ our | Lord.

ff 6 Christ has been | raised · from the | dead: || the | firstfruits · of | those who | sleep.

mp 7 For as by | man came | death, || *mf* by man has come also the resur|rection | of the | dead.

mp 8 For as in | Adam · all | die, || *f* even so in Christ shall | all be | made a|live.

f Glory to the Father and | to the | Son || and | to the | Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be|ginning · is | now || and shall be for | ever. | A|men.

The Second Reading A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians chapter 15 beginning at verse 1. *all sit*

1 Corinthians 15: 1-11

15 Now I should remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ²through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

3 For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters* at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸Last of all, as to someone untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn 277

1. Love's redeeming work is done, fought the fight, the battle won.
Lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er! Lo, he sets in blood no more!
2. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal! Christ has burst the gates of
hell; death in vain forbids him rise; Christ has opened paradise.
3. Lives again our victorious King; where, O death, is now thy sting?
Dying once, he all doth save; where thy victory, O grave?
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, following out exalted Head;
made like him, like him we rise, ours the cross, the grave, the skies.
5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Praise to thee by both be given:
thee we greet triumphant now; hail, the Resurrection thou!


The choir sings 'Alleluia'



All-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia-, All-le-lu-ai.

All respond singing 'Alleluia'

Celebrant sings



I am the first and the last,
says the Lord, and the living one;

I was dead, and be-
hold I am alive for e-ver more.

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 respond singing 'Alleluia'

The Gospel Mark 16: 1 - 18

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to Mark chapter 16 beginning at verse 1

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ. *sung*

Mark 16: 1-8

16When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.’ ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ. *sung*

The Sermon The Rector

THE NICENE CREED *stand*

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 by

the Holy Spirit of 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 Prayers of the People *all kneel*

The Peace *stand*

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, Peace be with you. Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you

And also with you. *A sign of peace maybe shared*

Offertory Hymn 288

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 hast lost its sting:

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;
life is nought 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.

CELEBRATING AT THE LORD'S TABLE

THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

The bishop or priest who presides takes the bread and wine and may say

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us

therefore let us celebrate the feast.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is here.

His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Father, almighty and everliving God,

at all times and in all places

it is right to give you thanks and praise:

Above all we praise you

for the glorious resurrection of your Son

Jesus Christ our Lord,
the true paschal lamb who was sacrificed for us;
by dying he destroyed our death;
by rising he restored our life:
and so with all your people,
with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, Father,
the creator and sustainer of all things;
you made us in your own image,
male and female you created us;
even when we turned away from you,
you never ceased to care for us,
but in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin,
giving your only begotten Son to become man
and suffer death on the cross to redeem us:
he made there the one complete and all-sufficient sacrifice
for the sins of the whole world:

he instituted, and in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue,
a perpetual memory of his precious death
until he comes again.

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread;
and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat,
+ this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup;
and when he had given thanks to you,
he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you,
for + this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we do as Christ your Son commanded:

**we remember his passion and death,
we celebrate his resurrection and ascension,
and we look for the coming of his kingdom.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving;
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts,
grant by the power of the life-giving Spirit
that we may be made one in your holy Church

and partakers of the body and blood of your Son,
that he may dwell in us and we in him:
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
**all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *kneel*

The presiding minister says Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray

All pray together

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 COMMUNION

The bread which we break
is a sharing in the body of Christ

We being many are one body,

For we all share in the one bread.

Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God,
who has taken away the sins of the world.
Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

Agnus Dei is sung, all kneel

Draw near and receive...

The minister who gives the bread and wine says

The body of Christ keep you in eternal life.

The blood of Christ keep you in eternal life.

*and the communicant replies: **Amen.***

Motet – The Easter Song of Praise by Richard Shepherd

THE GREAT SILENCE

When all have received communion, the presiding minister, other ministers and people keep silence for reflection.

Post Communion Hymn 274

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

Alleluia!

The glad earth shouts her triumph high, And groaning hell makes wild
reply. *Alleluia!*

2. While he, the King, the mighty King, Despoiling death of all its
sting,

And, trampling down the powers of night, Brings forth His ransomed
saints to Light.

3.His Tomb of late the threefold guard Of watch and stone and seal
had barred;

But now, in pomp and triumph high, He comes from death to victory.

4.The pains of hell are loosed at last; The days of mourning now are
past;

An Angel robed in light hath said, The Lord is risen from the dead.

5.O Lord of all, with us abide In this our joyful Eastertide;

From every weapon death can wield your own redeemed forever
shield.

6.All praise be Thine, O risen Lord, From death to endless Life
restored;

All praise to God the Father be, And Spirit blessed eternally.

GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Post Communion Prayer *kneel*

Living God,

For the redemption you gave your only-begotten Son

To the death of the cross,

And by his glorious resurrection

You have delivered us from the power of our enemy.

Grant us so to die daily into 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 spiritual food of 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.**

Easter Dismissal

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 you perfect in every good work to do his will,
Working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight:
And the blessing..... **Amen.**
Go in the peace of the risen Christ Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God Alleluia! Alleluia!

Organ Voluntary

Toccata (Symphony No. 5) – Widor



Officiating: Revd Canon Stephen Fielding, Revd Dr Brian Crowe, Ms Maxine
Judge Diocesan Reader
Office Setting: Darke in F
Director of Music: Mr Richard Campbell

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