

All Age Easter Sunday 5th April 2026: Holy Communion Service

Welcome

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

We light the Easter Candle

This is the day when Jesus was raised to new life, bringing hope and joy to the world, overcoming sin and the power of death. Across the world, Christians celebrate God's great love as Christ calls us out of darkness into his wonderful light.

May we, and all God's people, live as that light each day, sharing hope, kindness, and joy, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Song

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY; Hallelujah!

Our triumphant holy day; Hallelujah!

Who did once upon the cross; Hallelujah!

Suffer to redeem our loss; Hallelujah!

Hymns of praise then let us sing; Hallelujah!

Unto Christ our heavenly King; Hallelujah!

Who endured the cross and grave; Hallelujah!

Sinners to redeem and save: Hallelujah!

But the pains which He endured; Hallelujah!

Our salvation have procured; Hallelujah!

Now in heaven above He's King; Hallelujah!

Where the angels ever sing: Hallelujah!

New Testament Reading - Acts 10.34–43

This is the word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God**

We say sorry to God and one another

Jesus Christ, risen master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection.

In your mercy, forgive us. **Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing.

In your mercy, forgive us. **Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven.

In your mercy, forgive us. **Lord, hear us and help us.**

We are forgiven

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by his Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Song

OH, TO SEE THE DAWN

Of the darkest day:

Christ on the road to Calvary.

Tried by sinful men,

Torn and beaten then

Nailed to a cross of wood.

This, the power of the cross:

Christ became sin for us.

Took the blame, bore the wrath –

We stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh, to see the pain

Written on Your face,

Bearing the awesome weight of sin.

Every bitter thought,

Every evil deed

Crowning Your bloodstained brow.

Now the daylight flees,

Now the ground beneath

Quakes as its maker bows His head.

Curtain torn in two,

Dead are raised to life;

'Finished!' the victory cry.

Oh, to see my name
Written in the wounds,
For through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death,
Life is mine to live,
Won through Your selfless love.

(Final chorus)

This, the power of the cross:
Son of God – slain for us.
What a love! What a cost!
We stand forgiven at the cross.

The church's prayer for today:

God of glory, by the raising of your Son you have broken the chains of death and hell: fill your Church with faith and hope; for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Gospel Reading – John 20:1–18

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John; **Glory to you, O Lord.**

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Talk

Song

HOW GREAT THE CHASM that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation, I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness, Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished, the end is written
Jesus Christ, my living hope

Who could imagine so great a mercy?
What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame

The cross has spoken, I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ, my living hope

*Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ, my living hope
Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ, my living hope*

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence, the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
Jesus, Yours is the victory, whoa!

*Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ, my living hope
Hallelujah, praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ, my living hope*

Jesus Christ, my living hope
Oh God, You are my living hope

We pray together

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

We declare our faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

We share God's peace

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you; **and also with you.**

We prepare for communion

Easter people, come now to the table with Jesus Christ!

For he is risen! He lives, and he presides at this feast!

Come, eat together the bread of life!

For he is risen, and nothing separates us from God's love!

Come, drink together from the cup of gladness!

For Christ is risen!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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 thanks and praise.**

It is always right to give you thanks, God our Creator, loving and faithful, holy and strong.

You made us and the whole universe, and filled your world with life.

You sent your Son to live among us, Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child.

He suffered on the cross; he died to save us from our sins; he rose in glory from the dead.

You send your Spirit to bring new life to the world, and clothe us with power from on high.

And so we join the angels to celebrate and sing: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Father, on the night before he died, Jesus shared a meal with his friends.

He took the bread, and thanked you. He broke it, and gave it to them, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine. He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you. This is my blood, the new promise of God's unfailing love. Do this to remember me.

Jesus Christ has died. **Jesus Christ has died.**

Jesus Christ is risen. **Jesus Christ is risen.**

Jesus Christ will come again. **Jesus Christ will come again.**

Father, as we bring this bread and wine, and remember his death and resurrection, send your Holy Spirit, that we who share these gifts may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Pour your Spirit on us that we may love one another, work for the healing of the earth, and share the good news of Jesus, as we wait for his coming in glory.

For honour and praise belong to you, Father, with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit: one God, for ever and ever.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray...

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.

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.

We share bread and wine together

Jesus, love resurrected, comes to each of us as the bread of life, and the cup of blessing. Friends, these are the gifts of God for the people of God.

If you would like prayer during Communion, you are warmly invited to go to the left, where our prayer team will be happy to pray with you.

Prayer after communion

Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Notices

Song

I CAST MY MIND TO CALVARY

Where Jesus bled and died for me.

I see His wounds, His hands, His feet.

My Savior on that cursed tree

His body bound and drenched in tears

They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb.

The entrance sealed by heavy stone

Messiah still and all alone

*O praise the name of the Lord our God
O praise His name forever more
For endless days we will sing Your praise
Oh Lord, oh Lord our God*

Then on the third at break of dawn,
The Son of heaven rose again.
O trampled death where is your sting?
The angels roar for Christ the King

He shall return in robes of white,
The blazing Son shall pierce the night.
And I will rise among the saints,
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face

We are sent out

From where we are to where you need us, **Jesus be beside us.**
From what we are to what you can make of us, **Jesus be before us.**
From old systems to new ways, **Jesus be beneath us.**
Through the streets of this world to the very gates of heaven, **Jesus be above us.**

May Christ who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future, fill you with new life; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

He is not here. He is risen.
Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.