

Parish of St. Thomas, Apostle & Martyr, Ipswich

Easter Sunday - 4th April 2021

Collect:

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.**

Psalm 118.1-2,14-24

1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

2 Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

14 The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

15 There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;

16 the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly."

17 I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

18 The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.

19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I



may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

20 This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

21 I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.

24 This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

A reading from the book of Acts (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.**

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to 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 toward 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 around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" 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.**

Reflection:

How should we consider Easter Day?

Is it just another day - or should it be shouted from the rooftops? Should Easter Day - the day our Lord was resurrected - change our lives? This is the day that Jesus who died for us, opened the gates of heaven for us to be united once again with God himself.

Consider Easter Day itself.

Easter Day, if we really want to celebrate, is about the wild delight of God's creative power. This is not something we usually do - but perhaps our Alleluias should be shouted not murmured. What about lighting every candle in the building and giving every man woman and child, cat, dog and mouse in the place a candle to hold. We should have a real bonfire (we do at St Thomas), and when we renew our baptism vows let's really splash the water all around. Let's all bless each other. Every step back from a wild celebration is a step backwards from the reality of the amazing miracle of Jesus' resurrection. Easter is about the real Jesus coming out of the real tomb and getting God's real new creation under way.

On Easter Day - how would it be if we 'threw our hats in the air' to show people who don't understand Jesus' sacrifice what it is all about. Easter marks the beginning of celebrating Jesus resurrection for 50 days. He appeared in that time to over 500 people - until the final 10 days leading to his Ascension.

The bible is a really good resource for understanding and celebrating Easter. But think about this: If you take Christmas out of the bible - in Biblical terms you lose two chapters at the front of Matthew and Luke; nothing else. Take Easter away and we won't have a New Testament; we won't have Christianity; as Paul says, 'you will still be in your sins'.

Easter is our greatest day - let's put the flags out!

- Easter is a time to sow new seeds and plant out new cuttings.
- It is a time for us to recognise that we are resurrection people - people who want to proclaim to the world that Jesus is ALIVE!

Let us think of what it means to celebrate in a really profound way - not just on the outside, but on the inside - deep inside. What about making a new start on it; it might give us an inkling of new possibilities, new hopes, new ventures you never dreamed of. Let's take Easter into our innermost life. Let's start recognising every day - the wonder of Jesus being risen from the dead. Let God through his Holy Spirit open your heart afresh to all he has for you to understand and live a new life.

CHRIST IS RISEN - HE IS RISEN INDEED - HALLELUJAH!

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.

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...

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...

Scriptures for our new priest:

We are hoping for a priest who can aspire to Philippians 2, and offer joy and humility in serving the Lord at St Thomas. To lift up holy hands in prayer (1 Timothy 2: 8) - and to keep hold of the deep truths of the faith (1 Timothy 3:9).

A prayer for Easter

Your love,
which breathed this world into being,
established a covenant people,
brought them out of captivity
and into a promised land.
Hallelujah!
Your love,
which from the moment of our birth
has known and called us by name
from out of this world's slavery
into the kingdom of God.
Hallelujah!
Your love,
poured into the heart of Jesus
who endured the nails of our sin,
defeated death to rise again
and causes our hearts to sing
Hallelujah!

Please pray for:

Those with chronic or long-term illness: Rosemary, Eric Dickerson, Jenny, Andrew Barfield, Kathy Steele, Andrew, Peggy, Margaret Christian, Natacha, Rex & Jill, Christine, Stephen, Samantha

Those undergoing treatment or currently ill: Katie, Gloria Elmer, Leslie Bloomfield, Roger Dickerson, Vicky & Matt, Dagmar, Roy, Kenneth Leek

All who are affected by the Coronavirus: *For all who have lost their jobs; all who are despairing. For all who have lost their lives; the injured, the bereaved. For hospital and health care workers.*

Those who have recently died, and their families mourning their loss: Sally Carson, Jean Dominy. RIP

Prayer for our new Priest-in-Charge:

Lord, give us all wisdom and guidance as the search process goes ahead. We know that you have plans for us as a church - and we trust you. We pray that the right person will be drawn to us, that your Spirit will be at work.

Grant us a vision, Lord, to see what we can achieve, to reach out beyond ourselves, to stretch our capabilities, to increase our sense of purpose, to be sensitive to your presence at all times and listen to your call.

Amen.

Notices:

Church Open for Prayer: From Thursday 8th April, church will be open for prayer 11.30-1.30 on Mondays & Thursdays.

New Vicar Search: Now that we are advertising, please pray that the right person will be attracted to apply for the position. Rev Jackie is collecting scripture verses / words of encouragement & inspiration for our prayers. Do email anything you'd like to share. jackie@jbsears.com

*Wishing you all a joyful Easter!
He is risen, Alleluia!*

Pray for members of the St Thomas Congregation

Roger & Gloria Elmer; Pam Everett; Christine Fisher; Caroline Fisk & family; Joanne Goddard with Patrick and Christine; Alison & Malcolm Gibbs; Carole & Frank Groom

Booking for in-person services: other than the Wednesday 10am Eucharist, all services must be booked into. Online booking forms are sent out via email.

To book by phone, call **01473 742973** and leave a message saying which service/s you are booking for, your name, and how many (including yourself) you are booking for.



4th: Patrick Watson
7th: Rosemary Suggate
9th: Jackie Sears

This Week:

Sunday 4th April

10am: Easter Eucharist with livestream and Zoom

Wednesday 7th April

10am: Eucharist

Thursday 8th April

11.30-1.30: Church open for prayer

Sunday 11th April

10am: Eucharist with livestream and zoom

Church website:

<http://stthomasipswich.org.uk/>

Sunday Worship & other Worship resources on the Church Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/stthomasipswich/>

Contacts:

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Cat's day off: Mondays

Lay Evangelist: Malcolm Gibbs m:07906 665530

Director of Music: Simon Clark BA (Hons) FLCM ARCO
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Church wardens: Roger Elmer m:07810 274586
Stephen Marginson 01473 258791

If you would like to chat, you could also ring:

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Rev Jackie 07962 172639 Revd Pat 464748
Rev Canon Chris 462109