

# SERVICE RESOURCE

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER



## God's Story, Our Story



God's extraordinary love in ordinary ways

**Holy Week , Mon-Fri, 8pm**  
Night Prayer (Compline)

### Good Friday

**10am** All-age service in church and online  
**Midday** 'The Way of the Cross' online

**Saturday, 8pm**  
Self-led Prayer Vigil

### Easter Sunday

**9am** Holy Communion in church and online  
**10.30am** All-age Holy Communion in church and online



St Mark's

# HOLY WEEK COMPLINE

MON-FRI, 8PM, NIGHT PRAYER (COMPLINE)

## Preparation

The Lord almighty grant us a quiet night and a perfect end.

**All Amen.**

Our help is in the name of the Lord

**All who made heaven and earth.**

A period of silence for reflection on the past day may follow.

**All Most merciful God, we confess to you, before the whole company of heaven and one another, that we have sinned in thought, word and deed and in what we have failed to do. Forgive us our sins, heal us by your Spirit and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.**

O God, make speed to save us.

**All O Lord, make haste to help us.**

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

## The Word of God

### Psalm 91

- 1 Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High and abides under the shadow of the Almighty,
- 2 Shall say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my stronghold, my God, in whom I put my trust.'
- 3 For he shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.
- 4 He shall cover you with his wings and you shall be safe under his feathers; his faithfulness shall be your shield and buckler.

- 5 You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day;
- 6 Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor of the sickness that destroys at noonday.
- 7 Though a thousand fall at your side and ten thousand at your right hand, yet it shall not come near you.
- 8 Your eyes have only to behold to see the reward of the wicked.
- 9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge and the Most High your stronghold,
- 10 There shall no evil happen to you, neither shall any plague come near your tent.
- 11 For he shall give his angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways.
- 12 They shall bear you in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone.
- 13 You shall tread upon the lion and adder; the young lion and the serpent you shall trample underfoot.
- 14 Because they have set their love upon me, therefore will I deliver them; I will lift them up, because they know my name.
- 15 They will call upon me and I will answer them; I am with them in trouble, I will deliver them and bring them to honour.
- 16 With long life will I satisfy them and show them my salvation.

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

## Scripture Reading

Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

**All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

**All I commend my spirit.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit.

**All Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.**

## Gospel Canticle - The Nunc dimittis

All Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,  
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

- 1 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled.
- 2 My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people;
- 3 A light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel. Luke 2.29-32

All Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

**All Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.**

## Prayers

Intercessions and thanksgivings may be offered here.

Silence may be kept.

## The Collect

Almighty God,  
as we stand at the foot of the cross of your Son, help  
us to see and know your love for us, so that in humility,

love and joy we may place at his feet  
all that we have and all that we are;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

**All Amen**

**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 Conclusion

In peace we will lie down and sleep;

**All for you alone, Lord, make us dwell in safety.**

Abide with us, Lord Jesus,

**All for the night is at hand and the day is now past.**

As the night watch looks for the morning,

**All so do we look for you, O Christ.**

Come with the dawning of the day

**All and make yourself known in the breaking of the bread.**

May God bless us,

that in us may be found love and humility,

obedience and thanksgiving,

discipline, gentleness and peace.

**All Amen.**

# HOLY WEEK READINGS

MON-FRI, 8PM, NIGHT PRAYER (COMPLINE)

## Sunday

You, O Lord, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name; leave us not, O Lord our God.

Jeremiah 14.9

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## Monday

### Short Reading: the following or some other

Thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.

Isaiah 30.15

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## Tuesday

### Short Reading: the following or some other

Jesus said, 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'

Matthew 11.28-end

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## Wednesday

### Short Reading: the following or some other

Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5.6,7

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## Thursday

### Short Reading: the following or some other

Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil is prowling round like a roaring lion, seeking for someone to devour. Resist him, strong in the faith.

1 Peter 5.8, 9

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## Friday

### Short Reading: the following or some other

God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

1 Thessalonians 5.9, 10

# THE WAY OF THE CROSS

GOOD FRIDAY

## The Gathering

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.'

Matthew 16.24,25

**A brief moment of silence follows.**

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who in your tender love towards the human race  
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to take upon him our flesh  
and to suffer death upon the cross:  
grant that we may follow the example of his  
patience and humility,  
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

**All Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

## I: Jesus is judged

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have  
redeemed the world.**

**Reading:** Mark 15: 1-15

### Reflection

#### Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you were condemned to death for  
political expediency:

be with those who are imprisoned for the  
convenience of the powerful.

You were the victim of unbridled injustice:  
change the minds and motivations of oppressors  
and exploiters to your way of peace.

To you, Jesus, innocent though condemned,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the  
Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

**All Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

**Hymn:** My song is love unknown

### Silence

## 2: Jesus is scourged and led out to be crucified

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We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

**Reading:** Mark 15: 16-26

### Reflection

#### Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you faced the torment of barbaric punishment and mocking tongue:  
be with those who cry out in physical agony and emotional distress.

You endured unbearable abuse:  
be with those who face torture and mockery in our world today.

To you, Jesus, our crucified King,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

**All Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

**Hymn:** When I survey the wondrous cross

**Silence**

## 3: Jesus promises the kingdom to the penitent thief

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We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

**Reading:** Luke 23.32-43

### Reflection

#### Prayer:

Lord Jesus, even in your deepest agony you listened to the crucified thief:

hear us as we unburden to you our deepest fears.

You spoke words of love in your hour of death:  
help us to speak words of life to a dying world.

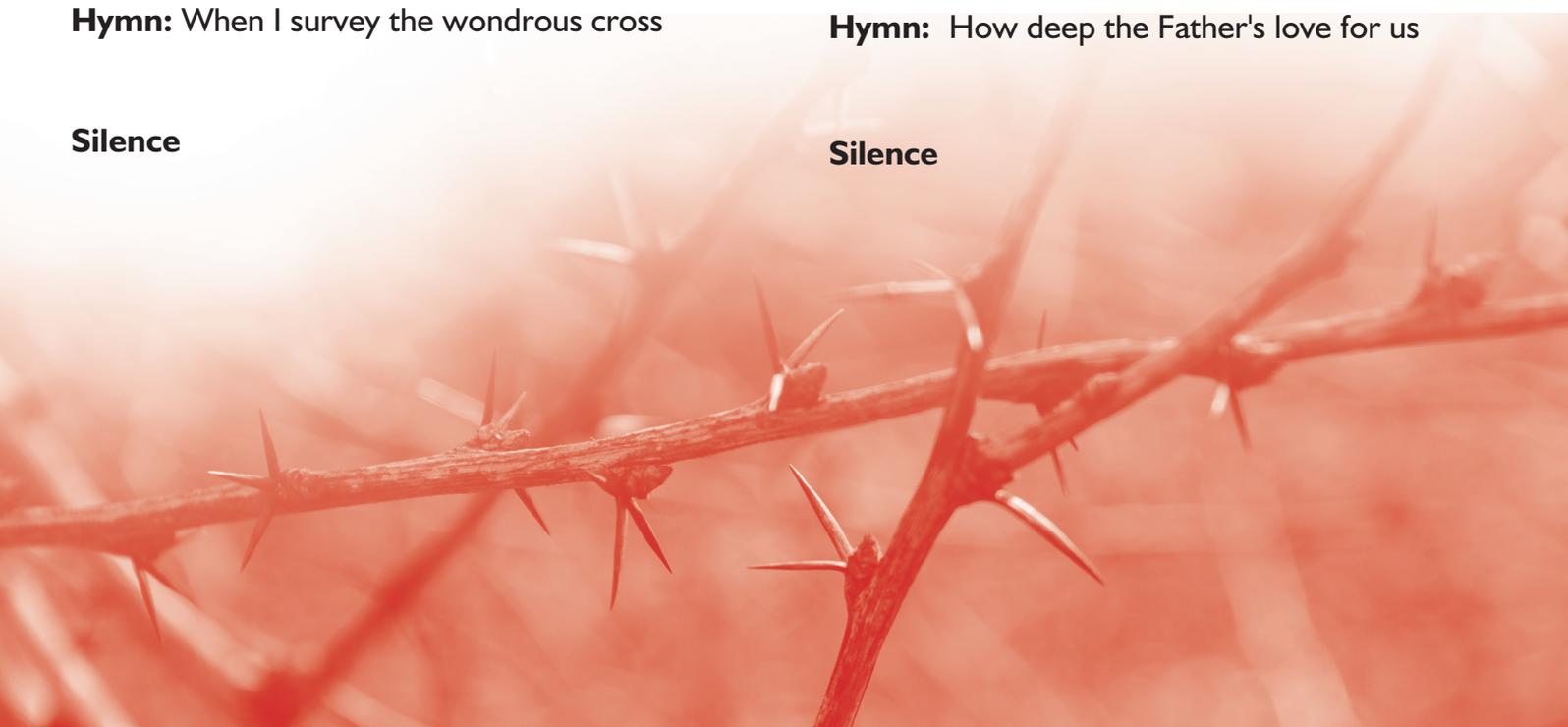
To you, Jesus, who offer hope to the hopeless,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

**All Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

**Hymn:** How deep the Father's love for us

**Silence**



## 4: Jesus completes his work

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We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

**Reading:** John 19: 25-30

### Reflection

#### Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you died on the cross  
and entered the bleakest of all circumstances:  
give courage to those who die at the hands of  
others.

In death you entered into the darkest place of  
all:

illumine our darkness with your glorious  
presence.

To you, Jesus, who by your death conquered  
the power of death,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the  
Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

**All Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

**Hymn:** Oh to see the dawn

**Silence**

## 5: Jesus is laid in the tomb

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We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
**All because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.**

**Reading:** John 19:38-42

### Reflection

#### Prayer:

Lord Jesus, Lord of life, you became as  
nothing for us:

be with those who feel worthless and as  
nothing in the world's eyes.

You were laid in a cold, dark tomb and  
hidden from sight:

be with all who suffer and die in secret,  
hidden from the eyes of the world.

To you, Jesus, your rigid body imprisoned in  
a tomb,

be honour and glory with the Father and the  
Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

**All Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

## The Conclusion

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Let us pray for the coming of God's kingdom:

Most merciful God

who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ

delivered and saved the world:

grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross

we may triumph in the power of his victory;

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,

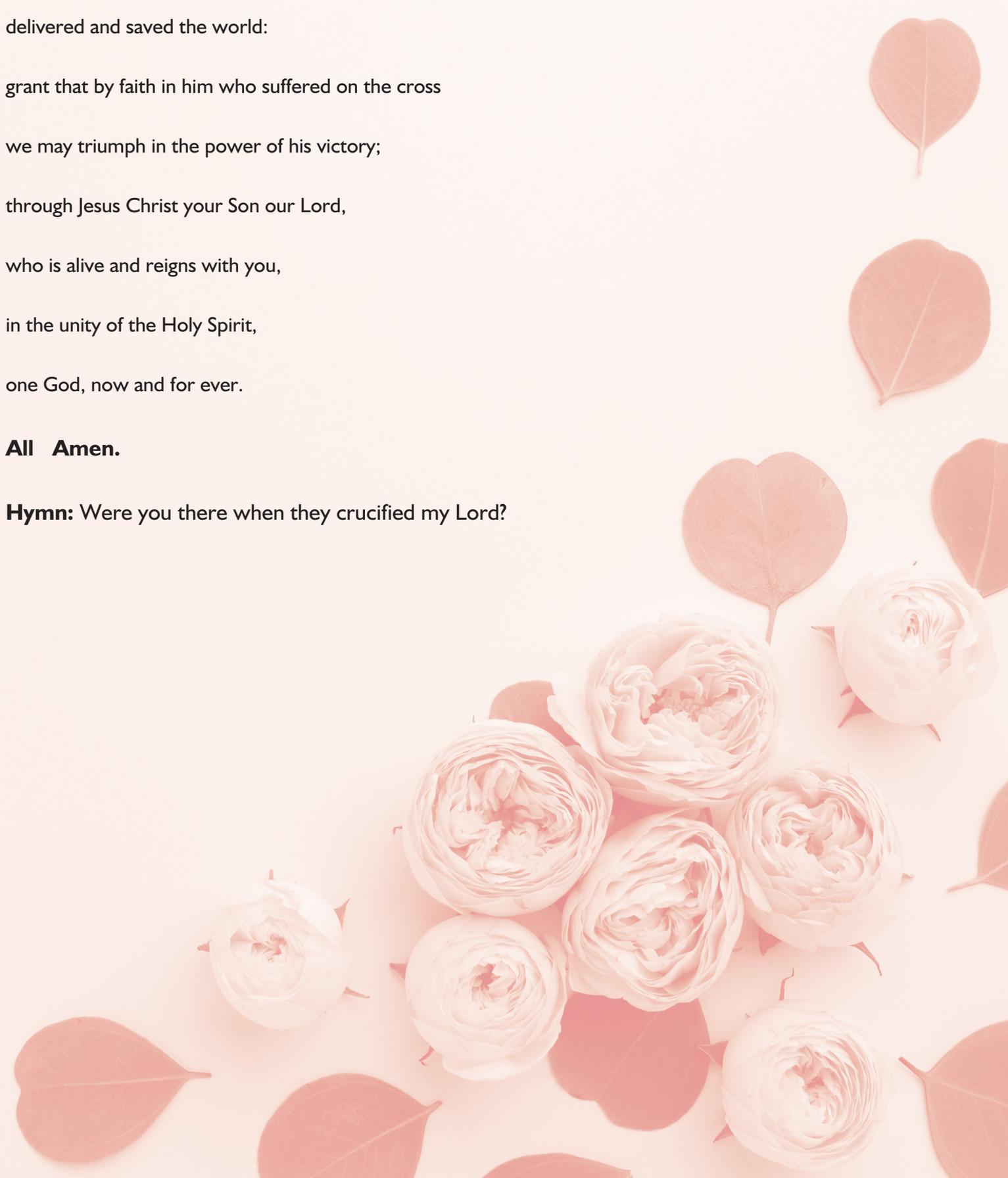
who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever.

**All Amen.**

**Hymn:** Were you there when they crucified my Lord?



# PRAYER VIGIL

SATURDAY 8PM - SELF-LED

Please use this self-led liturgy at your own pace. *(There is no central service)*

Easter Eve can sometimes get forgotten and yet is as significant in our Easter journey as the other days. This is the day when all seemed lost, the darkness before the dawn of Easter Day. Most Christian traditions reflect on this with prayers and readings that remind us of what is called 'salvation history' – glimpses of God's saving plan for creation, which at the time of the vigil is within a few hours of fulfilment.

In our simple Easter vigil, there are some thoughts to guide us, Bible passages for you to read, some suggestions in red of something you might like to do and some words in bold you might like to say. Let's begin.

(Safely) light a candle or a lamp.

As we await the risen Christ, let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, recalling how he saved his people in ages past and in the fullness of time sent his Son to be our Redeemer; and let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

## In the beginning:

### Read Genesis 1 – 2v3

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 'Say Yes to Life' reminds us that as people made in the image of God, we are entrusted to look after what He has created.

Think of some aspect of God's creation and thank Him for it.

Prayer:

**Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.**

**Your love cannot be contained**

**and overflows in the wonder of creation.**

**You formed the universe out of nothing**

**and moulded us from the clay of the earth.**

**All you have made sings of your marvellous deeds,**

**O Lord, our maker and redeemer. Amen**

## The Fall:

### Read Genesis 3

"When a newspaper posed the question, 'What's Wrong with the World?' the Catholic thinker G. K. Chesterton reputedly wrote a brief letter in response: 'Dear Sirs: I am.'

Pause for a moment to call to mind those things for which we would want God to forgive us, those things that illustrate the fall in our own lives,

Prayer:

### Psalm 51 v 1-7

Easter Eve presents us with the frightening moment that maybe this prayer will not, or cannot, be answered because the one we hoped to be the Messiah has been crucified and now lies cold within a tomb. Yet there is hope, in the story of God's people and the words of Jesus before His death.

## Hope:

Read Exodus 14 v10-end

Prayer:

**Lord God our redeemer,  
who heard the cry of your people  
and sent your servant Moses to lead them out  
of slavery:  
free us from the tyranny of sin and death  
and, by the leading of your Spirit,  
bring us to our promised land;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Read Matthew 12 v38-40

Jesus was asked for a legitimizing sign that proved He was the Messiah. The sign He pointed to was not of a miracle, but of His absence.

Pause to reflect on whether Jesus seems close or distant to you.

The agony of the cross, the silence of the tomb, the joy of the resurrection.

## Promise

Read Isaiah 55 (slowly)

This passage tells us a lot about God and invites us to do a number of things.

What does this passage say to you?

We pray for our world. Creation itself will rejoice over the day when the silent tomb becomes the empty tomb.

Prayer:

**Blessed are you, Lord, God of our salvation.  
You quench the thirst of those who yearn for  
righteousness  
and satisfy the hunger of those who crave for  
justice.  
Lead your longing people back to peace,  
that with the mountains and hills  
we may burst into songs of joy,  
O Lord, our maker and redeemer. Amen.**

## Waiting

We keep a period of silence, in heart and mind waiting outside the tomb of Christ, seeing the seemingly unmovable stone, recalling the words of the Christmas carol now transferred from Bethlehem to this garden where we wait;

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

## The New Covenant

Read Jeremiah 31 v 31-34

## The Evening Collect

**Lighten our darkness we beseech thee O  
Lord and by thy great mercy defend us from  
all perils and dangers of this night, for the  
love of your only Son, our saviour, Jesus  
Christ. Amen**

Now we leave the garden tomb, but we will return tomorrow, on the third day.....



# HOLY COMMUNION

EASTER SUNDAY 9AM

## The Greeting

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: **he has given us new life and hope by raising Jesus from the dead.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

## Prayer of preparation

**Faithful one, whose word is life:  
come with saving power to free our praise,  
inspire our prayer and shape our lives  
for the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our  
Lord. Amen.**

## Confession and Forgiveness

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.**

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.**

## The Gloria

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his 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

(Special Prayer of the Day)

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.

Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according  
to N.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

## Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith  
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
**Christ died for our sins  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he was buried;  
he was raised to life on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
afterwards he appeared to his followers,  
and to all the apostles:  
this we have received, and this we believe.  
Amen.**

## Prayers

This or another response may be used...  
Jesus, Lord of life,  
**in your mercy, hear us.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.  
**All His Spirit is with us.**  
Lift up your hearts.  
**All We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**All It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
almighty and eternal Father,  
and in these days of Easter  
to celebrate with joyful hearts  
the memory of your wonderful works.  
For by the mystery of his passion  
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,  
has conquered the powers of death and hell  
and restored in men and women the image of your  
glory.  
He has placed them once more in paradise  
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.  
And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven  
resound with gladness,

while angels and archangels and the powers of all  
creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

**All 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.]**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his  
friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
Drink this, all of you;  
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.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.  
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of  
salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

**All Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

you have set us free.  
You are the Saviour of the world.  
Lord of all life,  
help us to work together for that day  
when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,  
gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.  
Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

**All Amen.**

## 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.**

## 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.**

## Giving of Communion

## Prayer After Communion

**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 Blessing

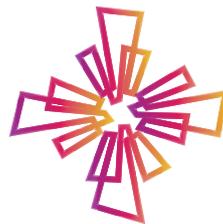
The God of peace,  
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
that great shepherd of the sheep,  
through the blood of the eternal covenant,  
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,  
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;  
and the blessing ...

## Closing Prayer

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

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die.*

John 11:25-26



**St Mark's**