

Opening: *Alleluia! Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia! Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Who gave us new life and hope by raising Jesus from the dead. Rejoice, then, even in your distress. We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears. God has claimed us as God's own. God called us from our darkness into the light of the day. Alleluia! Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!* (BAS p. 98)

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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. (BAS p. 185)

Reading & Reflection (see information by Sunday)

Proclamation of Faith: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your hearts, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

Prayers: In joy and hope let us pray to the source of all life, saying 'Hear us, Lord of glory'.

That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his holy and life-giving resurrection. Hear us, Lord of glory.

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the Easter gospel. Hear us, Lord of glory.

That Jesus may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love. Hear us, Lord of glory.

That Jesus may continue to draw people to serve those who lack food, work, or shelter. Hear us, Lord of glory.

That by Jesus' power wars, famine, and isolation may cease through all the earth. Hear us, Lord of glory.

That Jesus may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak, and the dying, that they may be comforted and strengthened. Hear us, Lord of glory.

That Jesus may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon the people, that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection. Hear us, Lord of glory.

Lord's Prayer: 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. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen. (BAS p. 211)

Collect (see information by Sunday)

Closing: *Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.* (BAS p. 214)

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (BAS p. 55)

Information by Sunday

Sunday, Apr. 11, 2021 – Easter 2

Readings: Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

Reflection: *Alleluia! Christ is risen. This belief is foundational to the Christian Church. We celebrated this belief last week on Easter Sunday. We will continue to proclaim this faith throughout the Easter season.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen. As we journey through this season, we are challenged to consider what this belief means to us. How do we embody this faith in our lives? Today's reading offer suggestions for how the wonder and grace of the resurrection impacted the disciples and, subsequently, the early Church communities. In what ways do we see similar impacts in our Church communities today? How are we continually transformed by our belief that Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia?

Collect: *Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.* (BAS p. 336)

Sunday, Apr. 18, 2021 – Easter 3

Readings: Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48

Reflection: *Alleluia! Christ is risen. The implications for that first Easter continue to be revealed in the lives of the disciples and of the early Church community. Faith is a journey. It requires an ongoing openness to learn, to seek deeper understanding. Faith also creates space through which God, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.*

What will you do to create space for learning this week? How have you experienced God working in you? What do pray God will do in you at this time?

Collect: *O God, you Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.* (BAS p. 338)

Sunday, Apr. 25, 2021 – Easter 4

Readings: Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18

Reflection: *Alleluia! Christ is risen. But before he rose, Jesus laid down his life for us. This was and is a sign of God's love for the world. Jesus is the good shepherd, caring for us, giving us what we need, and loving us with the fullness of his life. By this example, we are challenged to love one another. The first letter of John emphasises what this should look like in our lives. How will you embody the love of Jesus this week?*

Collect: *O God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do your will, and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BAS p. 339)*

Sunday May 2, 2021 – Easter 5

Readings: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

Reflection: *Alleluia! Christ is risen. The words nurture our Easter journey as these are proclaimed at the beginning of worship. We are reminded in today's scriptures that faith ought to also be regularly expressed beyond worship. Philip met an Ethiopian Eunuch along a wilderness road. The psalmist proclaims: 'all the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord'. The first letter of John challenges us to love our siblings leaving no room for alternative expressions. Jesus reminds us to be centred in him because through him we can bear fruit.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen. How do these words remain in our hearts and on our tongues throughout the week? To whom will do we proclaim the Good News?

Collect: *Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another and walk in the way of his commandments, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (BAS p. 340)*

Sunday, May 9, 2021 – Easter 6

Readings: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

Reflection: *Alleluia! Christ is risen. What does love look like? How do we know love when we see it? We recognise love in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. That love continues to live in this world sustained by the ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit. In what ways are we signs of that love in our world today? How does the Holy Spirit guide our actions? To what is Jesus still calling us?*

Collect: *Merciful God, you have prepared for those who love you riches beyond imagination. Pour into our hearts such love toward you, that we, loving you above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (BAS p. 341)*

Sunday, May 16, 2021 – Ascension of the Lord (transferred)

Readings: Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

Reflection: *Alleluia! Christ is risen. Jesus is no longer present in the world as he once was. We cannot experience the physical presence of the risen Jesus the way the disciples did. Still, we trust this truth to be timeless. Jesus ascended into heaven and left a legacy sustained by the Life-Giving Spirit through those who believe. We are witnesses, through faith, of these things. How do we continue to serve God as witnesses? In what ways are we continuing to spread the Good News? How are we the voices that share God's love in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus in the world today?*

Collect: *Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord. Keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of his peace, and bring the whole of creation to worship at his feet, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (BAS p. 343)*