

Easter Sunday 2025

St Mary's Church



He is risen!  
He is risen indeed!  
Alleluia!

## The Gathering

### Welcome

Christ yesterday and today,  
**All the beginning and the end.**

Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages;  
**All to him be glory and power,  
Through every age and forever. Amen.**

*We light the Easter Candle*

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

**All He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ was raised gloriously from the dead, crushing the power of sin, and destroying the sting of death. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the mighty power of God as Christ calls us out of darkness to share in his marvelous light. May we, and all Christ's people, shine as lights in the world to the glory of God the Father.

*Hymn – Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! - 381*

**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, Alleluia!  
Unto Christ, our heavenly king, Alleluia!  
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!**

**But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!  
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!  
Now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!  
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!**

## **Prayer of preparation**

**All** Risen Lord Jesus, as Mary Magdalene met you in the garden on the morning of your resurrection, so may we meet you today and every day: **Speak to us as you spoke to her; Reveal yourself as the living Lord; Renew our hope and kindle our joy; And send us to share the good news with others. Amen.**

## **Invitation to confession.**

Christ our Passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.  
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil  
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

## **Confession.**

Like Mary at the empty tomb, we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

Like the disciples behind locked doors, we are afraid to be seen as your  
followers.

Christ, have mercy.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

Like Thomas in the upper room, we can be slow to believe.

Lord, have mercy.

**All Lord, have mercy.**

## **Absolution**

God our Father, your gift of water brings life and freshness to the earth;  
In baptism it is a sign of the washing away of our sins and the gift of life  
eternal. Sanctify this water, we pray. Renew the living spring of your life  
within us, that we may be free from sin and filled with your saving health;  
Through Christ our Lord. **All Amen.**

*The people are sprinkled as a reminder of their baptism.*

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. **All Amen.**

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

*We stand to sing the Gloria.*

### **GLORIA**

**Moderato** ♩ = 116 ***ff***

[Organ] Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God in the

high - est. ***f*** Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on

earth. Lord God, Heav'n - ly King, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we

wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

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*[ff]* Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God in the high - est.  
*f* Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God in the high - est.

*mf* Lord, Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther. Lord God,

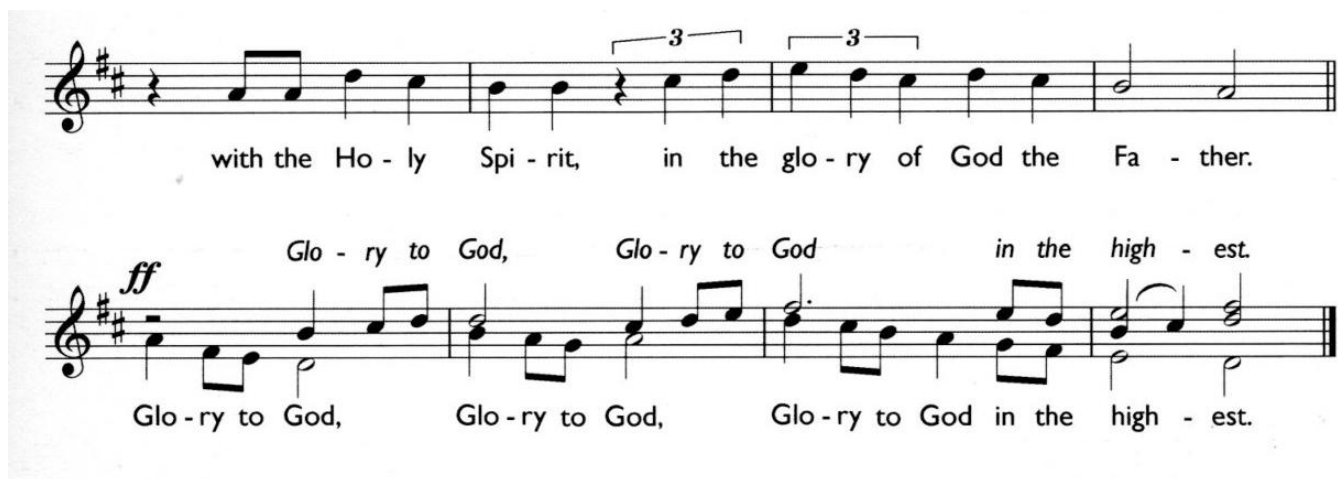
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

You are sea - ted at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our

prayer. *f* Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God in the  
 Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry to God in the

high - est. *f* high - est. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the

Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,



## **The 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.

**All Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

*Reading – Acts 10:34-43 read by Pamela Mugliston*

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.  
**All Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn - The strife is o'er, the battle done; - 733*

**The strife is o'er, the battle done;  
Now is the Victor's triumph won;  
O let the song of praise be sung.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Death's mightiest powers have done their worst,  
And Jesus hath His foes dispersed;  
Let shouts of praise and joy outburst.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**On the third morn He rose again  
Glorious in majesty to reign;  
Oh, let us swell the joyful strain!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Lord, by the stripes which wounded Thee.  
From death's dread sting Thy servants free  
That we may live and sing to Thee.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

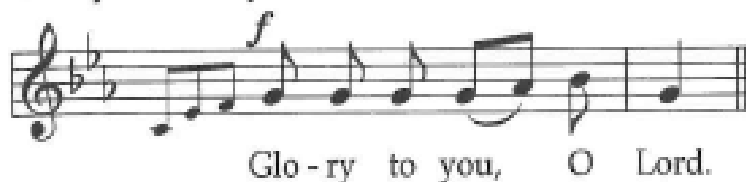
*The choir lead the singing of the 'Alleluia' to hail Jesus Christ who speaks to us through the gospel reading.*

Alleluia, alleluia  
I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;  
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.  
**Alleluia**

*We remain standing to hear the Gospel read by Helen O'Neill*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *John 20 v 1-18*

## *Gospel Response*

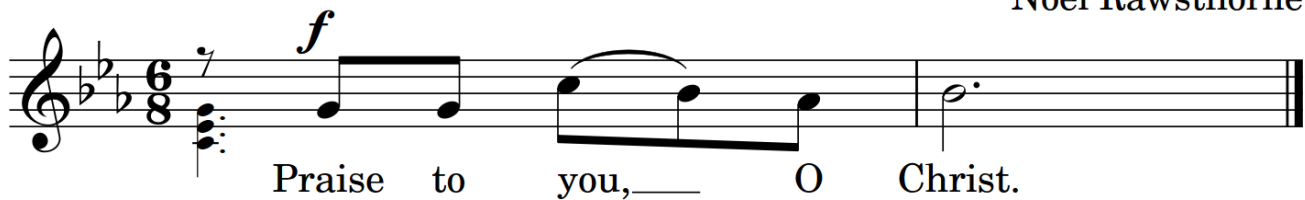


Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards 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? For whom are you looking?' 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.





*Please sit*

### **Sermon**

### **Creed.**

*Please stand.*

Let us affirm our faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God.

**All** Though he was divine,  
he did not cling to equality with God,  
but made himself nothing.  
Taking the form of a slave,  
he was born in human likeness.  
He humbled himself  
and was obedient to death,  
even the death of the cross.

Therefore God has raised him on high,  
and given him the name above every name:  
that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bow,  
and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*cf Philippians 2:6-11*

### **Prayers of intercession**

Robin O'Neill

*We sit or kneel for our prayers. These or other appropriate responses may be used;*

Lord, in your mercy

**All Hear our prayer.**

*And at the end*

Merciful Father,

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

## **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

### **The Peace**

*We stand for the Peace.*

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

**All and also with you.**

*We offer one another a sign of peace.*

*Hymn – Alleluia, Alleluia, - 32*

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**hearts to heaven and voices raise:**

**sing to God a hymn of gladness,**

**sing to God a hymn of praise;**

**he who on the cross a victim**

**for the world's salvation bled**

**Jesus Christ, the king of glory,**

**now is risen from the dead.**

**Christ is risen, Christ the first fruits  
of the holy harvest field,  
which will all its full abundance  
at his second coming yield;  
then the golden ears of harvest  
will their heads before him wave,  
ripened by his glorious sunshine,  
from the furrow of the grave.**

**Christ is risen, we are risen!  
shed upon us heavenly grace,  
rain and dew, and gleams of glory  
from the brightness of thy face;  
that we, with our hearts in heaven,  
here on earth may fruitful be,  
and by angel hands be gathered,  
and be ever, Lord, with thee.**

**Alleluia, alleluia!  
glory be to God on high:  
alleluia to the Saviour  
who has gained the victory;  
alleluia to the Spirit,  
fount of love and sanctity:  
alleluia, alleluia  
to the Triune Majesty!**

### **Preparation of the Table**

*The gifts of the people may be gathered and presented..*

**Risen Lord Jesus Christ,  
We believe you, and all we have heard is true.  
When you break the bread  
May we recognize you as the fire that burns within us,  
That we may bring light to your world. All Amen.**

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord be with you

**All and also with you.**

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.**

You are worthy of our thanks and praise,

Lord God of truth,

for by the breath of your mouth

you have spoken your word,

and all things have come into being.

You fashioned us in your image

and placed us in the garden of your delight.

Though we chose the path of rebellion

you would not abandon your own.

Again and again you drew us into your covenant of grace.

You gave your people the law and taught us by your prophets

to look for your reign of justice, mercy and peace.

And now we give you thanks

because in his victory over the grave a new age has dawned,

the long reign of sin is ended,

a broken world is being renewed

and humanity is being made whole.

As we watch for the signs of your kingdom on earth,

we echo the song of the angels in heaven,

evermore praising you and *singing*:

## SANCTUS

Moderato ♩ = 112

*[Organ]* *mf* Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of po - wer and

might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. *f* Ho - san - na,

Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## BENEDICTUS

*mf* Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. *f* Ho -

- san - na, *ff* Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*We sit or kneel as we continue in our Eucharistic prayer.*

Lord God, you are the most holy one,  
enthroned in splendour and light,  
yet in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ  
you reveal the power of your love  
made perfect in our human weakness.  
Embracing our humanity,  
Jesus showed us the way of salvation;  
loving us to the end,  
he gave himself to death for us;  
dying for his own,  
he set us free from the bonds of sin,  
that we might rise and reign with him in glory.

On the night he gave up himself for us all  
he took bread and gave you thanks;  
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 gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
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.

Therefore we proclaim the death that he suffered on the cross,  
we celebrate his resurrection, his bursting from the tomb,  
we rejoice that he reigns at your right hand on high  
and we long for his coming in glory.

As we recall the one, perfect sacrifice of our redemption,  
Father, by your Holy Spirit let these gifts of your creation  
be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;  
form us into the likeness of Christ  
and make us a perfect offering in your sight.

Look with favour on your people  
and in your mercy hear the cry of our hearts.  
Bless the earth,  
heal the sick,  
let the oppressed go free  
and fill your Church with power from on high.  
Gather your people from the ends of the earth  
to feast with all your saints  
at the table in your kingdom,  
where the new creation is brought to perfection  
in Jesus Christ our Lord;

**All by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

### **Giving of Communion**

Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

*You are invited to Communion. Christians of all traditions are welcome to receive this sacrament. All are welcome for a blessing.*

*During communion the choir will sing*

*Agnus Dei*

*Rise, heart, thy Lord is risen*

*(Solo by Harry Sunderland)*

*Glorious and powerful God*

*Thorne*

*Vaughan Williams*

*Wood*

*Communion Hymn – Now the green blade riseth - 533*

**Now the green blade riseth  
from the buried grain,  
wheat that in the dark  
earth many days has lain;  
Love lives again,  
that with the dead has been:  
Love is come again,  
like wheat that springeth green.**

**In the grave they laid him,  
Love by hatred slain,  
thinking that never  
he would wake again,  
laid in the earth  
like grain that sleeps unseen:  
Love is come again,  
like wheat that springeth green.**

**Forth he came at Easter,  
like the risen grain,  
he that for three days  
in the grave had lain;  
quick from the dead,  
my risen Lord is seen:  
Love is come again,  
like wheat that springeth green.**



When our hearts are wintry,  
grieving or in pain,  
thy touch can call us  
back to life again;  
fields of our hearts,  
that dead and bare have been:  
Love is come again,  
like wheat that springeth green

### **Prayer after Communion**

Here are words you may trust.  
Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead:  
**All He is our salvation, our eternal glory.**  
If we die with him, we shall live with him;  
**All If we endure, we shall reign with him.**  
If we deny him, he will deny us;  
**All If we are faithless, he keeps faith.**  
For he has broken the power of death  
**All and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel.**

<b>The Dismissal</b>
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*Hymn – Thine be the glory - 751*

**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 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.

*Thine be the glory...*

### **Blessing**

God the Father,  
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,  
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
*All Amen.*

*Sing – Hallelujah Chorus*

### **Dismissal**

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**All Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

All are invited to stay for refreshments after the service, at the back of the church.

If you would prefer to  
give to today's collection  
electronically, please use  
this QR code.  
Many thanks.



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Congregation

# Hallelujah

George Frideric Handel

Allegro ♩ = 100

Hal - le-lu-jah,

hal - le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah!

Hal-le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah!

For the Lord God Om-ni - po-tent reign - eth. Hal-le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah!

Men's voices All

lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah! For the Lord God Om-ni - po-tent reign - eth. f Hal-le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah, Hal-le-lu-jah, f For the Lord

Ladies' voices

God Om - ni - po - tent reign - eth.

All voices

For the Lord God Om-ni - po-tent reign - eth.

For the Lord God Om - ni - po - tent

Choir only

reign - eth. Hal - le - lu - jah! The king-dom of this

35 40

world is be - come the King-dom of our Lord and of His Christ, and of His

Turn over

**D** *Men's voices* 45  
Christ; and He shall reign for e - ver and e - ver,

*Ladies' voices*  
And He shall reign for e - ver and e - ver,

50 **E** *Ladies' voices* 55  
*f* King of Kings, \_\_\_\_\_ and Lord of Lords. \_\_\_\_\_

*Choir only* 60  
King of Kings, \_\_\_\_\_ and Lord of

Lords, \_\_\_\_\_ King of Kings, \_\_\_\_\_

65 **F** \_\_\_\_\_ and Lord of Lords, \_\_\_\_\_ and Lord of

*Men's voices* 70 *Ladies' voices*  
Lords And He shall reign for e - ver and e - ver, and

*All voices*  
He shall reign for e - ver and e - ver. King of

75 2 **G** \_\_\_\_\_ King of \_\_\_\_\_

Kings, \_\_\_\_\_ and Lord of Lords. \_\_\_\_\_

85 2  
Kings and Lord of Lords, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords!

90  
For e - ver and e - ver, for e - ver and e - ver: Hal-le-lu jah, Hal-le-

lu-jah, Hal-le - lu-jah, Hal-le - lu-jah! Hal -le - lu - jah!