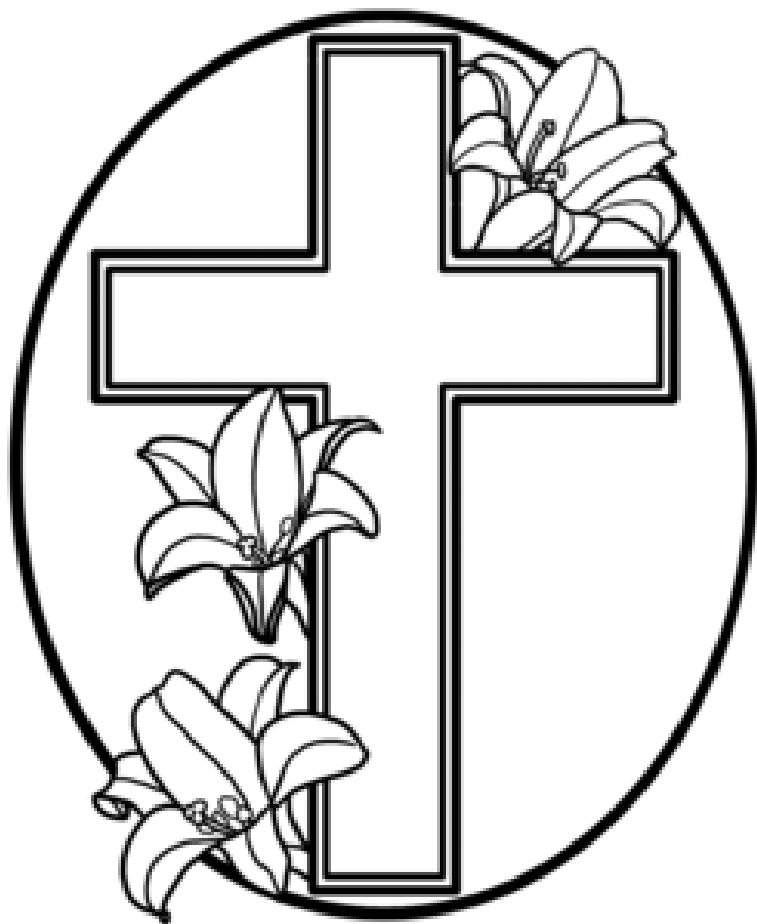


A Service for Easter Day



St Laurence Church, Downton

4 April 2021

The Service of Light

Introduction

Christ yesterday and today,
the beginning and the end,

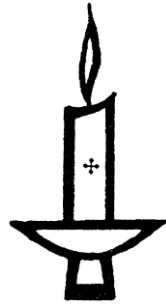
Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him,
and all ages;

**to him be glory and power,
through every age and for ever. Amen.**

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ
passed from death to life.

Throughout the world Christians
celebrate the awesome power of God.

As we hear his word and proclaim all that God has done,
we can be confident that we shall share his victory over death
and live with him for ever.



The Candle is lit:

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Team Rector introduces the service

Hymn: Jesus Christ is risen today (*St Martin's Voices*)

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 that he endured, Alleluia.
our salvation have procured; Alleluia.
now above the sky he's King, Alleluia.
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia.

Surrexit Christus hodie - anonymous Latin, Lyra Davidica (1708)

Gathering:

Out of the darkness of grief and despair
comes a message of hope. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed.

We run to the tomb to see for ourselves.
And it is true. Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed.

We hear a voice call our name,
and we know our risen Lord
is with us now and always.

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen, indeed. Thanks be to God.

Prayer:

O God of all our days,
we come this morning with eager anticipation.
We seek to know you, to see you, to touch you.
Open our hearts, that we might experience you anew.
Open our lives, that we may be faithful witnesses
to your resurrection.

May we, with shouts of joy,
proclaim your steadfast, liberating love
to all people, everywhere. **Amen.**

Abingdon Press

Praise:

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

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

the right hand of the Lord is exalted;
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.'

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

Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

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

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

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

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

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

Psalm 118:14-24

The Liturgy of the Word

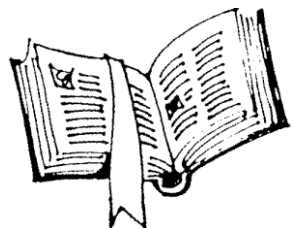
Readings:

Acts 10:34-43

John 20:1-18

After each reading:

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



Reflection from Bishop Andrew

Music: Hallelujah Chorus - Handel's Messiah
(St Martin's Voices)

Prayers

We are led in a time of prayer

This response is used:

Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer is said:

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Conclusion

Collect:

Let us pray that we may walk the risen life of Christ in glory.

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity. **Amen.**

Blessing:

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

God has claimed us as his own.

**He has brought us out of darkness.
He has made us light to the world.**

and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.