

Service for the Third Sunday of Easter



St Laurence Church, Downton

18 April 2021

Preparation

Call to Worship

See what love the Father has given us,
that we should be called children of God.

The reason that the world does not know us
is that it did not know him.

1 John 3:1

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Team Rector introduces the service

Hymn: *Jesus lives! thy terrors now*
(St Martin's Voices)

Jesus lives! thy terrors now
can, O death, no more appal us;
Jesus lives! by this we know
thou, O grave, canst not enthral us. Alleluia.

Jesus lives! henceforth is death
but the gate of life immortal:
this shall calm our trembling breath,
when we pass its gloomy portal. Alleluia.

Jesus lives! for us he died;
then, alone to Jesus living,
pure in heart may we abide,
glory to our Saviour giving. Alleluia.

Jesus lives! our hearts know well,
naught from us his love shall sever;
life nor death nor powers of hell
tear us from his keeping ever. Alleluia.

Jesus lives! to him the throne
over all the world is given:
may we go where he is gone,
rest and reign with him in heaven. Alleluia.

*Jesus lebt, mit ihm auch ich
Christian Fuerchtegott Gellert (1715-1769), Frances Elizabeth Cox (1812-1897)*

Gathering:

We are witnesses,
to the love God has poured into us.

We are witnesses of God's love,
sharing it with each person we meet.

We are witnesses to everyone we encounter,
sisters and brothers in God's family.

Thom Shuman

Prayer:

Lord of Dawn and Darkness,
how grateful we are for your loving mercies.
You saw our fear and doubt, our suspicion, our mistrust,
and you banished them from our lives,
replacing them with hope, peace, love, and joy.

You called us to be your witnesses, to all the world,
unafraid of what others might think or say about us.
We have been invited out of our darkened hideaways,
into the light of your world as emissaries of hope and justice,
peace and compassion.

Be with us, as we participate in ministries of healing and hope
through this church, in our community,
region, nation, and world.

Give us courage and strength to be your disciples
in all the circumstances of our lives;
for we ask this in Jesus' Name. **Amen.**

Nancy C. Townley

Confession:

Beloved, we are God's children now,
but what we will be in the fullness of our time
has not been revealed.

What we do know is this:
we will be like Jesus the Christ and saints of God.

Let us consider how Jesus was revealed among us
and pray to be more like the Christ in every way.

Jesus embodied the unconditional love of God...

May we be more like Jesus.

Jesus fed those who were hungry...

May we be more like Jesus.

Jesus drew near to those living on the margins and excluded...

May we be more like Jesus.

Jesus brought healing and wholeness to those in need...

May we be more like Jesus.

Jesus hungered and thirsted for righteousness...

May we be more like Jesus.

Beloved, through the love shown to us by Jesus,
we can be sure that we are God's children now.

The Spirit of Christ is among us in our gathering
and the nature of Christ is revealed within us.

We are becoming more and more like Christ each day.

Therefore, let us live joyfully as God's people;

saints and instruments of God's way. **Amen.**

Seasons Online

The Liturgy of the Word

Readings:

Acts 3:12-19

Luke 24:36-48

After each reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Music: *O be joyful in the Lord*
(Oxford Choir)

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

The Collect

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
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. **Amen.**

Blessing:

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ
has given us the victory,
give you joy and peace in your faith;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you,
and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Jesus is the living bread that came down from heaven.
Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.