

Service for Week 30th March- 5th April

2026 Easter Sunday By Chaplain Andy



Our Opening Prayer.

Loving God, we praise you for the great truth of Easter- the message that your love will not be defeated. When human evil had done its worst, still your will triumphed!

The stone was rolled away, the tomb was empty, Christ had risen! May that truth fire us each day with new hope, new confidence and new enthusiasm, knowing that whatever obstacles we may face there is nothing that will finally deny your saving purpose and separate us from your love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Say to yourself- The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven...Amen

Bible Reading Jn 19:1-8 Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe and went up to him again and again, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they struck him in the face. Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him." When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to

them, "Here is the man!" As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!" But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him."

Jn 19:17-19

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). Here they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle. Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.

Jn 19:28-30

Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty." A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

Mt 28:1-6, 9 &10

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they



shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Holy words, Holy wisdom,

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

We started this week thinking about Christ triumphantly entering Jerusalem on a donkey – but on Friday all hope seems to have gone and it has ended with Christ's agonizing death on the Cross.

The account of Jesus suffering and dying on the cross is a very powerful one – although it is a harrowing and awful account –and we can hardly bring ourselves to think about it – we know that Christ suffered as we humans suffer – and because of this he knows our pain, knows our suffering – and many people draw great comfort from this fact. The fact of knowing the God is not some remote super power that has no understanding of us. Because he lived through Jesus a human life he understands us and is with us in times of extreme depression and real physical suffering that we sometimes go through in life.

But we would be without hope, sad and depressed if the gospel account did end there with the suffering and death of Jesus Christ. But it doesn't end there! In our reading from Matthew's gospel, we hear how Mary Magdelene and the other Mary who have gone to the tomb are told that Jesus has risen from the dead. They are very afraid and cannot believe it but then they see Jesus. When he greets them, they know for certain that yes it was true Jesus really is there talking to them. He tells them not to be afraid but to go and tell the other disciples that he is alive.

We look forward to Easter Sunday and the knowledge that through Jesus' resurrection and His returning to God something wonderful happened, which gave us the reassurance that when we come to the end of this life we also will return to God in eternal life. Jesus' death and resurrection opened up a way to experience a direct relationship with God for each and every one of us.

Amen

Closing Prayer. Lord Jesus, teach me to live each day in the light of what you have done, confident that no situation, however dreadful it may seem is never beyond your power to change and redeem, and so may I put my trust in you always, for this life and the life to come. **Amen.**

Prayers inspired by 'Playfully Yours' by Nick Fawcett