

St Matthew's – All Age Easter Communion with Baptisms

10.45am Sunday 5th April 2025

Service Leader: Rev Jim Trood

Preacher: Andrew Clayton

Happy Easter - Welcome to St Matthew's. Please join us for tea or coffee after this service.

Today's service is an All Age Communion service. At the appropriate point in the service, and following the wardens' directions, please come forward to receive a blessing or communion. If it is your normal practice to receive bread and wine, you are welcome to receive it at St Matthew's. Some of our children have also been admitted to communion before confirmation and will receive the bread and the wine. For hygiene reasons we do not "dip" the bread in the wine but if you prefer just to receive the bread, that is perfectly acceptable.

Please place any financial gifts in the bags which will be passed around during our offertory song. If you prefer you may use the contactless machine at the back of church or donate via the church website.

If you would like a translation or captions to help follow today's service in real-time, please scan this QR code and select English for live subtitles or choose your preferred language.



Hymn

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.

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.

Easter Shout

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. 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.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.



Welcome, Notices and Banns

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, your Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence.
Give us new hearts and constant wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Saying Sorry

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.



We have lived by our own strength,
and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone,
and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Lord, hear us and help us.

God Forgives

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.
Amen.



Baptism

❖ Presentation of the Candidates

[The minister addresses the congregation]

Do you wish to be baptised or reaffirm your faith in Jesus Christ?
[Candidates] **I do.**



Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome these candidates and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

[All] **With the help of God, we will.**

❖ Decision

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?
[Candidates] **I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?
[Candidates] **I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?
[Candidates] **I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?
[Candidates] **I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?
[Candidates] **I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?
[Candidates] **I come to Christ.**

❖ **Signing with the Cross**

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross.

[The sign of the cross is made on each of the candidates]

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin, the world and the devil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, restore in you the image of his glory, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

Amen.

❖ **Prayer over the Water**

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptised in the river Jordan: we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse us and revive us. We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the promised land. We thank you that through the deep waters of death you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph.

Bless this water, that these candidates are to be washed in, that they may be made one with Christ in his death and, in his resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

Send your Holy Spirit upon him; bring him to new birth in the household of faith, and raise him with Christ to full and eternal life; for all might, majesty, authority, and power are yours, now and for ever.

Amen.

❖ **Profession of Faith**

Let us affirm, together with Candidates, our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

❖ **Baptism** [*The candidates, minister & assistant enter the pool*]

*[Harry
Abbie
Owen
Arvin]*

[Name] is this your faith?

[Candidate] **This is my faith.**

[Name] I baptise you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Sung Worship

[Children's Church Performance Song]

King of kings, majesty

God of heaven living in me.
Gentle Saviour, closest friend.
Strong deliverer, beginning and end.
All within me falls at your throne:

Your majesty, I can but bow,
I lay my all before you now.
In royal robes I don't deserve
I live to serve your majesty.

Earth and heaven worship you.
Love eternal, faithful and true.
Who brought the nations, ransomed souls.
Brought this sinner near to your throne.
All within me cries out in praise.

Lord I come to you

Let my heart be changed, renewed
Flowing from the grace that I found in you
And Lord I've come to know
The weaknesses I see in me
Will be stripped away, by the power of your love.

Hold me close, let your love surround me
Bring me near, draw me to your side
And as I wait, I'll rise up like the eagle
And I will soar with you
Your Spirit leads me on
In the power of your love.

O Lord, unveil my eyes
Let me see you face to face
The knowledge of your love, as you live in me
And Lord, renew my mind
As your will unfolds in my life
In living every day, by the power of your love.



Prayers

[Response:]

Risen Lord

We give you glory



Collect (Easter Day)

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.

Amen.

Gospel Reading - Matthew 28:1-10 p.1000 (Rita Chilton)



[Please stand]

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

28 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

² 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. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴ The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

⁵ The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples: "He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him." Now I have told you.'

⁸ So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them. 'Greetings,' he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

[At the end]

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Talk (Andrew Clayton)



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,
And also with you.



Creedal Song (Offertory)

We believe in God the Father,
a mighty God who never sleeps,
He delights to hear our laughter,
He consoles the child that weeps,
And He loves us like a mother,
And He sent us Christ our brother,
Above Him there is no other!



We believe in God our Father,
And in Christ who sets us free.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
Blessed Trinity.



We believe in Christ our Saviour,
God with us to show us love,
Died a shameful death to save us,
Now He sits enthroned above.
You can come to Him whenever,
His forgiveness failing never,
Our Great Shepherd, King forever!

We believe the Holy Spirit
Is our comforter and guide.
Though we walk in fearful darkness,
Still we have this light inside,
Joy, Love, Gentleness and Kindness,
Self-Control, Peace, Patience, Goodness,
Adding Faithfulness to all this!

Bridge

Our Father God who made us,
His Son who came down to save us,
The Spirit who sustains us,
The Holy Three in One.

Offertory Prayer



Communion

The Lord is here.
His Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Lord of all life, you created the universe, where all living things reflect your glory. You give us this great and beautiful earth, to discover and to cherish.

You give us happy times and things to celebrate. In these we taste your kingdom, a feast for all your children. You made us all, each wonderfully different, to join with the angels and sing your praise:

**How great is our God, sing with me,
How great is our God
and all will see how great,
How great is our God. [Repeat]**

We thank you, loving Father, because, when we turned away, you sent Jesus, your Son. He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying: 'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life. As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit, and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Saviour.



Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

**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.**



Every time we eat this bread
and drink this cup,
**we proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.**

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.
**Jesus Christ is holy,
Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

*[Communion is distributed at the high table.
If you can't climb the steps, please let someone know and we will come to
you.]*

*Please note – dipping the wafer in the wine is not allowed for
health reasons.]*

Songs during Communion

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness,
Opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore You,
Hope of a life spent with you.



So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that You're my God:
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted,
Glorious in heaven above,
Humbly You came to the earth You created,
All for love's sake became poor.

Bridge

And I'll never know how much it cost,
To see my sin upon that cross. *[Repeat]*

Jesus, be the centre

Be my source, Be my light,
Jesus.



Jesus, be the centre
Be my hope, be my song,
Jesus.

Be the fire in my heart,
Be the wind in these sails,
Be the reason that I live,
Jesus, Jesus.

Jesus, be my vision
Be my path, be my guide,
Jesus.

Thank you for saving me;
What can I say?
You are my everything,
I will sing your praise.
You shed your blood for me;
What can I say?
You took my sin and shame,
A sinner called by name.



Great is the Lord. Great is the Lord
For we know your truth has set us free;
You've set your hope in me.

Mercy and grace are mine,
Forgiven is my sin;
Jesus my only hope.
The saviour of the world.
'Great is the Lord,' we cry,
'God let your kingdom come.'
Your word has let me see,
Thank you for saving me.

Post Communion Prayer

Father of all,
we thank you that you have shared this feast of your kingdom
with all peoples
and have united all races
in your Son Jesus Christ:
may the unity we have known here
give us a joyful anticipation of the fullness of life
to which you call us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.



Baptism [Conclusion]



❖ **Giving of a Candle**

Receive this light.

This is to show you have passed out of darkness into light. God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light.

Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

❖ **Welcome** [*Cards and Bibles are given to the candidates*]

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.

We welcome you into the fellowship of faith.

We are children of the same heavenly Father.

We welcome you!



Song

The greatest day in history

Death is beaten You have rescued me

Sing it out Jesus is alive

The empty cross the empty grave

Life eternal You have won the day

Shout it out Jesus is alive

He's alive



And oh happy day happy day, You washed my sin away

Oh happy day happy day, I'll never be the same

Forever I am changed

When I stand in that place

Free at last meeting face to face

I am Yours Jesus You are mine

Endless joy perfect peace

Earthly pain finally will cease

Celebrate Jesus is alive

He's alive

Bridge

Oh what a glorious day, what a glorious way

That You have saved me

And oh what a glorious day, what a glorious name

Closing Words and Blessing

May Christ,
who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,
fill you with his new life;
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.



Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.