

St Matthew's – All Age Easter Communion with Baptisms

10.45am Sunday 5th April 2025

Service Leader: Rev Jim Trood

Preacher: Andrew Clayton

Welcome to St Matthew's. 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



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.

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.



Welcome, Notices and Banns

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

- Lord I come to you



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

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[Please stand]

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

[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

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
- Jesus, be the centre
- 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



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.