



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL

12

2026

*At any time in the service when we invite you to stand
you are welcome to remain seated if you need to.*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

**The Day of Resurrection!
earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness,
the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over
with hymns of victory.**

**Our hearts be pure from evil,
that we may see aright
the Christ in rays eternal
of resurrection light;
and listening to his accents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and, hearing,
may raise the victor strain.**

**Now let the heavens be joyful!
Let earth her song begin!
The round world keep high triumph,
and all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen
their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ has now arisen,
our joy that hath no end.**

*Words: John of Damascus (c. 675-749);
trans. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)*

Tune: Ellacombe (1), melody from 'Mainz Gesangbuch', 1833. TIS 361

WELCOME

Priest: Kua ara a te Karaiti.
Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Grace to you and peace from God our Creator,
the love at our beginning and without end,
in our midst and with us.

God is with us, here we find new life.

Liturgist:

In this Easter season,
we celebrate that the powers
of despair and destruction
do not have the final word;
that new life can still break out;
that love is stronger than death;
and that nothing can stop the life, hope,
and determination of Easter people.

**God of grace, we come today with Easter joy,
seeking to be a people of resurrection.
Gather us together now,
form us into a community of your people,
and reveal to us the Holy One. Amen.**

THE GLORIA

**Praise the living God from the earth!
Praise God from the heavens,
sun and moon, and shining stars,
praise the living God!**

Praise the Holy Name,
whose word speaks all things into being,
who created the forces of the universe
and the laughter of children. Praise the Holy Name!

**Praise the living God from the earth!
Praise God from the heavens,
sun and moon, and shining stars,
praise the living God!**

Praise the living God:
clouds and storms and ocean currents,
fish in the sea and creatures of the deep,
animals and cattle, insects and birds,
praise the living God!

**Praise the living God from the earth!
Praise God from the heavens,
sun and moon, and shining stars,
praise the living God!**

Praise the Holy Name
who did not rely only on angels and messengers
but came among us in person,
whose living presence saves us!
Praise God's Holy Name!

**Praise the living God from the earth!
Praise God from the heavens,
sun and moon, and shining stars,
praise the living God!**¹

Please be seated.

¹ *Brian Wren (adapted)*

A NEW COMMANDMENT

Hear the teaching of Christ:

A new commandment I give to you,
that you love one another as I have loved you.

Spirit of God, search our hearts.

SENTENCE AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

By God's great mercy we have been born into a living hope.

1 Peter 1:3

**Loving God,
we thank you for the gift of curiosity,
for our yearning to understand our lives and our universe.
We thank you that no matter what questions we ask,
you will always love and accept us. Amen.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the First Epistle of Peter.

1 Peter 1:3-9

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN

**Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

**Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.**

**In every insult, rift and war,
where colour, scorn or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.**

**Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**

**Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.**

*Words: Brian A. Wren
Tune: Dunedin, Vernon Griffiths (1894-1985). AA 155*

THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of Christ according to John,
chapter twenty, beginning at verse nineteen.



Hal-le - lu - jah,___ hal-le-lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!

John 20:19-31

This is the Gospel of Christ.



Hal - le - lu - jah,___ hal-le-lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah! 2

SERMON

Silence

REFLECTIVE MUSIC

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Liturgist:

Let us stand to affirm our resurrection faith.

**We believe in the power of Christ
to overcome all deaths,
deaths in us and death in the world.
We believe in life which rises in freedom
and carries us in joy towards grace
beyond our imagining,
calling our spirits to soar in freedom
with wings of hope
borne high in the wonder of Easter Day.
The gift of life will never be taken from us.
The costly life of God will be our company
for ever and for ever.** ³

Please be seated.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Liturgist:

Let us pray for those far and near,
people and places, powerful and powerless,
all for whom we are concerned.

THE PEACE

Please stand for the Greeting of Peace.

The peace of God be with you all.

In God's justice is our peace.

E te whanau, Christ calls us to live in unity.

We seek to live in the Spirit of Christ.

Please turn and greet those around you with peace.

³ Dorothy McRae-McMahon "Liturgies for High Days"

OFFERTORY HYMN *

Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.

O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes, in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.

Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing;
true lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace
till we become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes her dwelling.

*Words: Bianca of Siena (c.1345 – c.1412)
tr. Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890)*

Tune: Down Ampney, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). TIS 398

* During this hymn there is a collection to support St Matthew's.

For electronic giving options:

1. to make a fast one-off, or ongoing, donation to St Matthew-in-the-City text **stmatthew** to **818**, or **scan this QR code**:
2. use the Tap-n-Go terminal on top of the donation box.



THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Glory be to God who flows through all creation,
blessing us with gifts to share.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Spirit is here.

God's hope is in us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the God of peace.

It is right to offer thanks and praise.

It is right and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Creating God.
In you all things are good.

You love us into being, you form us in your image
and breathe into us the breath of life.

When we turn away, and our love fails,
your love remains steadfast.

Your love delivers us from captivity,
and brings us into lands flowing with milk and honey.
You set before us the way of life.

And so, with the people of earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name as we join their unending hymn:

**Holy One, God of power and might,
Heaven and Earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Bless the One who comes in the power of love.

Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus.
By his baptism and death
you give your church birth into a living hope.
In Christ, risen from death,
you make a new covenant with us
by water and the Spirit, and deliver us into freedom.
We are now your resurrected people, the living body of Christ.
declaring life, hope and justice.

On the last night Jesus shared a meal with his friends,
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
Take, eat: this is my Body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said,
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new Covenant,
which is shed for you and for all,
for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.

On the third day he was revealed to the women
and was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of bread.

**Break the bread for freedom.
Pour the wine for justice.
Celebrate this meal for all the world,
a meal of faith and hope,
God's love, shared among us.** ⁴

⁴ *Jenny Blood (1932-2022)*

And so, remembering these
your mighty acts in Jesus the Christ,
we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice,
and we praise you and we bless you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
By your spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in loving service to all the world,
until all feast at your heavenly banquet. ⁵

**Blessing and honour and glory be yours,
here and everywhere, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us hold in our hearts the hope of Christ as 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.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

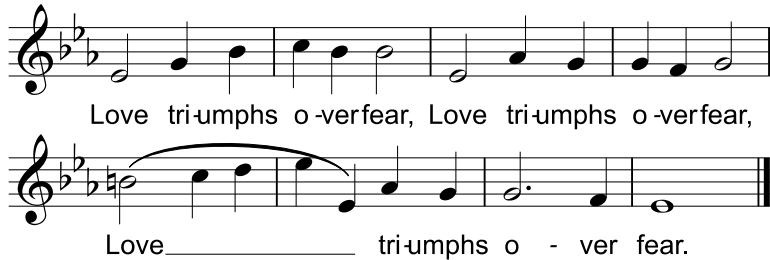
⁵ Richard Fabian, *St Gregory of Nyssa, San Francisco, adapted*

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the hope of Christ.

**We who are many are one body,
for we all share the one bread.**

We sing three times:



Love triumphs o-verfear, Love triumphs o-verfear,
Love _____ triumphs o - ver fear.

THE INVITATION

Haere mai e te kahui a te Atua,
tangohia enei kai rangatira a te Karaiti.

Come, bringing your varied faiths and backgrounds,
for all are welcome to share in this act of communion.

*All are welcome to come and receive the bread and wine;
there are gluten free wafers, just ask the serving priest.*

If you do not wish to take communion you may come forward for a blessing.

*If the stairs are a barrier please sit in the front pews
and communion will be brought to you.*

Te Taro o te Ora. The bread of life.

Te Kapu o te Ora. The cup of salvation.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Risen Christ, whom we have seen with our eyes
and touched with our hands;
the word of life in whom our joy is complete:
send us out to declare your truth,
your unshakeable faith in the world you love. Amen.** ⁶

⁶ *Steven Shakespeare*

BLESSING

NOTICES

FINAL HYMN

**The strife is o'er, the battle done;
Now is the Victor's triumph won;
O let the song of praise be sung.
Alleluia.**

**Death's mightiest powers have done their worst,
And Jesus hath his foes dispersed;
Let shouts of praise and joy outburst.
Alleluia.**

**On the third morn he rose again
Glorious in majesty to reign;
O let us swell the joyful strain.
Alleluia.**

**Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee
From death's dread sting thy servants free,
That we may live, and sing to thee.
Alleluia.**

*Words: Latin c.1695. Tr. Francis Pott, 1861; alt.
Tune: Vulpius, melody from Melchior Vulpius (c.1560-1615)
in his 'Gesangbuch', Jena, 1609. TiS 393*

Deacon from the rear of the Church:

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go now for the Spirit of God is alive in the land.

Amen. We go in the power of love.

Alleluia, alleluia.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

We invite you to **keep** this copy of the Service and take it home with you
to share with another member of your family, or with a friend
OR put in a recycling bin provided at the back of the church.

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