



# SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL

7

2024

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

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

We are an Easter people,  
ours is an Easter faith,  
the yeast is rising in our hearts,  
our wine has vintage taste.

Christ is risen, Christ is risen,  
risen in our lives.

We are an Easter people,  
ours is an Easter faith,  
our tears are freed to flow and heal  
our shattered hopes and hearts.

Christ is risen, Christ is risen,  
risen in our lives.

We are an Easter people,  
ours is an Easter faith,  
our fears have died, we rise to dream,  
to love, to dance, to live.

Christ is risen, Christ is risen,  
risen in our lives.

*Words: Bill Wallace  
Tune: Alive, Alison Carey. AA 146*

# 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! <sup>1</sup>**

*Please be seated.*

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

# THE SENTENCE AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Peace be with you. As Abba God sent me, so I'm sending you.

*John 20:21*

Alpha and Omega,  
our beginning and our end,  
you break through the locks  
of gated communities and hardened hearts:  
accept our doubts,  
heal our desire for certainty and  
**by your Spirit's gentle touch,**  
make us a people forgiven and forgiving. Amen. <sup>2</sup>

# THE FIRST READING

A reading from the Acts of Apostles.

*Acts 4:32-35*

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

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<sup>2</sup> *Steven Shakespeare, adapt.*

# THE 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!

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# THE SERMON

*Silence*

# REFLECTIVE MUSIC

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<sup>3</sup> Music Michael CW Bell

# 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. <sup>4</sup>

*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.*

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<sup>4</sup> Dorothy McRae-McMahon "Liturgies for High Days"



# THE OFFERTORY HYMN \*

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain:  
love lives again, that with the dead has been:  
Love is come again,  
like wheat that springs up green.

In the grave they laid him, Love whom hate had slain,  
thinking that he never would awake again.  
Laid in the earth, like grain that sleeps unseen:  
Love is come again,  
like wheat that springs up green.

Up he sprang at Easter, like the risen grain,  
he who for the three days in the grave had lain,  
raised from the dead my living Lord is seen:  
Love is come again,  
like wheat that springs up green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
then your touch can call us back to life again —  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:  
Love is come again,  
like wheat that springs up green.

*Words: John Macleod Campbell Crum (1872-1958) alt.  
Tune: Noël Nouvelet, French traditional melody, harm. the Iona Community. TiS 382*

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

*For electronic giving option to make a fast one off or ongoing donation to St Matthew-in-the-City text **stmatthew** to **818**, or scan this QR code:*



# 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.** <sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> *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. <sup>6</sup>

**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.

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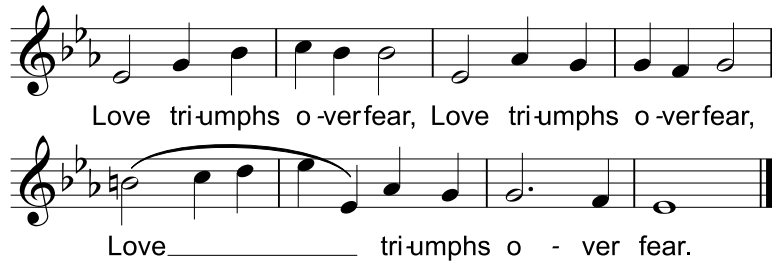
<sup>6</sup> *Richard Fabian, St Gregory of Nyssa, San Francisco, adapted*

# 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 tri-umphs o-verfear, Love tri-umphs o-verfear,  
Love \_\_\_\_\_ tri-umphs o - ver fear.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G minor (one flat). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: 'Love tri-umphs o-verfear, Love tri-umphs o-verfear,'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line: 'Love \_\_\_\_\_ tri-umphs o - ver fear.' The lyrics are written below the notes.

# 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. <sup>7</sup>

## THE BLESSING

## NOTICES

## FINAL HYMN

**The strife is o'er, the battle done,**  
The victory of life is won;  
The song of triumph has begun.  
Alleluia!

The powers of death have done their worst,  
But Christ their legions has dispersed:  
Let shouts of holy joy outburst.  
Alleluia!

The three sad days are quickly sped,  
Christ rises glorious from the dead:  
All glory to our risen Head:  
Alleluia!

Christ, by your wounds on Calvary  
From death's dread sting your people free,  
That we may live eternally.  
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*

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<sup>7</sup> Steven Shakespeare

*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

*Variations on O Filii*

*from Twelve Choral Preludes on Gregorian Chant Themes*

*Jeanne Demessieux (1921-1968)*

## MUSIC NOTES

A student of Marcel Dupré, Jeanne Demessieux had a brilliant international career as a virtuoso and was particularly renowned for her improvisations. She was the first female organist to perform at Westminster Abbey and sadly passed away from throat cancer at the age of 46. She produced a dozen wonderful preludes based on Gregorian chant themes, including the Easter benediction 'O filii et filiae' (O sons and daughters). It is presented as a theme with five variations, ranging from playful through to the mysterious and the regal. The text of the chant is notable for its focus on the role of women in the resurrection story. Demessieux's chromatic harmonies enhance the modal flavor of the original tune, which she also cleverly disguises with rhythmic displacement throughout the piece.

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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