

Sunday 18th April 2021 **Third Sunday of Easter**

10am St Mary's Church, Frittenden

United Benefice Holy Communion

*O God, whose blessed Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread: Open the eyes of our faith,
that we may behold him in all his redeeming work;
who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

You are welcome to join in with the
words **in bold**

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

We reflect on this hymn of praise

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
he whose word cannot be broken
formed thee for his own abode;
on the Rock of Ages founded,
what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

See! the streams of living waters,
springing from eternal love,
well supply thy sons and daughters
and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint, when such a river
ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace which, like the Lord, the Giver,
never fails from age to age.

We say sorry to God:

In your mercy, forgive us. **Lord, hear us and help us.**

We listen to God's Word: Ezekiel chapter 1

¹⁹ In my thirtieth year, in the fourth month on the fifth day, while I was among the exiles by the River Kebar, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God. ² On the fifth of the month – it was the fifth year of the exile of King Jehoiachin – ³ the word of the Lord came to Ezekiel the priest, the son of Buzi, by the River Kebar in the land of the Babylonians. There the hand of the Lord was on him. ⁴ I looked, and I saw a violent storm coming out of the north – an immense cloud with flashing lightning and surrounded by brilliant light. The centre of the fire looked like glowing metal, ⁵ and in the fire was what looked like four living creatures. In appearance their form was human, ⁶ but each of them had four faces and four wings. ⁷ Their legs were straight; their feet were like those of a calf and gleamed like burnished bronze. ⁸ Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands. All four of them had faces and wings, ⁹ and the wings of one touched the wings of another. Each one went straight ahead; they did not turn as they moved.



Round each habitation hovering,
see the cloud and fire appear
for a glory and a covering,
showing that the Lord is near.
Thus they march,
their pillar leading,
light by night, and shade by day;
daily on the manna feeding
which he gives them
when they pray.

Saviour, if of Zion's city,
I through grace a member am,
let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy Name.
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
all his boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasure
none but Zion's children know.

John Newton

¹⁰ Their faces looked like this: each of the four had the face of a human being, and on the right side each had the face of a lion, and on the left the face of an ox; each also had the face of an eagle. ¹¹ Such were their faces. They each had two wings spreading out upwards, each wing touching that of the creature on either side; and each had two other wings covering its body. ¹² Each one went straight ahead. Wherever the spirit would go, they would go, without turning as they went. ¹³ The appearance of the living creatures was like burning coals of fire or like torches. Fire moved back and forth among the creatures; it was bright, and lightning flashed out of it. ¹⁴ The creatures sped back and forth like flashes of lightning.

¹⁵ As I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel on the ground beside each creature with its four faces. ¹⁶ This was the appearance and structure of the wheels: they sparkled like topaz, and all four looked alike. Each appeared to be made like a wheel intersecting a wheel. ¹⁷ As they moved, they would go in any one of the four directions the creatures faced; the wheels did not change direction as the creatures went. ¹⁸ Their rims were high and awesome, and all four rims were full of eyes all around.

¹⁹ When the living creatures moved, the wheels beside them moved; and when the living creatures rose from the ground, the wheels also rose. ²⁰ Wherever the spirit would go, they would go, and the wheels would rise along with them, because the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. ²¹ When the creatures moved, they also moved; when the creatures stood still, they also stood still; and when the creatures rose from the ground, the wheels rose along with them, because the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

²² Spread out above the heads of the living creatures was what looked something like a vault, sparkling like crystal, and awesome. ²³ Under the vault their wings were stretched out one towards the other, and each had two wings covering its body. ²⁴ When the creatures moved, I heard the sound of their wings, like the roar of rushing waters, like the voice of the Almighty, like the tumult of an army. When they stood still, they lowered their wings.

²⁵ Then there came a voice from above the vault over their heads as they stood with lowered wings. ²⁶ Above the vault over their heads was what looked like a throne of lapis lazuli, and high above on the throne was a figure like that of a man. ²⁷ I saw that from what appeared to be his waist up he looked like glowing metal, as if full of fire, and that from there down he looked like fire; and brilliant light surrounded him. ²⁸ Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. When I saw it, I fell face down, and I heard the voice of one speaking.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

We tell each other Psalm 142:

¹ I cry aloud to the Lord; I lift up my voice to the Lord for mercy.

² I pour out before him my complaint; before him I tell my trouble.

³ When my spirit grows faint within me,
it is you who watch over my way.

In the path where I walk people have hidden a snare for me.

⁴ Look and see, there is no one at my right hand;
no one is concerned for me.

I have no refuge; no one cares for my life.

⁵ **I cry to you, Lord; I say, 'You are my refuge,
my portion in the land of the living.'**

⁶ **Listen to my cry, for I am in desperate need;
rescue me from those who pursue me,
for they are too strong for me.**

⁷ **Set me free from my prison, that I may praise your name.**

**Then the righteous will gather about me
because of your goodness to me. Amen**

We affirm our faith in God:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

We listen to God's Word: Acts chapter 3

¹¹ While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. ¹² When Peter saw this, he said to them: 'Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. ¹⁴ You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶ By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.

¹⁷ 'Now, fellow Israelites, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did your leaders. ¹⁸ But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹ Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰ and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you – even Jesus. ²¹ Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

The Glory God Displays: Tony Staples

We sit or kneel to talk to God: Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

We celebrate the Lord's Supper:

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 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.



It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King, almighty and eternal God.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you
because you raised him gloriously from the dead.
For he is the true paschal lamb who was offered for us,
and has taken away the sin of the world.
By his death he has destroyed death,
and by his rising to life again he has restored to us everlasting life.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you, and saying:
**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Father of all, we give you thanks for every gift
that comes from heaven.
To the darkness Jesus came as your light.
With signs of faith and words of hope
he touched untouchables with love and washed the guilty clean.
This is his story.
This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

The crowds came out to see your Son,
yet at the end they turned on him.
On the night he was betrayed he came to table with his friends
to celebrate the freedom of your people.
This is his story.
This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus blessed you, Father, for the food;
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:
This is my body, given for you all.
Jesus then gave thanks for the wine;
he took the cup, gave it and said:
This is my blood, shed for you all for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this in remembrance of me.
This is our story.
This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate the cross on which he died to set us free.
Defying death he rose again
and is alive with you to plead for us and all the world.
This is our story.
This is our song: Hosanna in the highest.
Send your Spirit on us now that by these gifts we may feed on Christ
with opened eyes and hearts on fire.

May we and all who share this food offer ourselves to live for you
and be welcomed at your feast in heaven
where all creation worships you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**Blessing and honour, glory and power
be yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

**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.**

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

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Alleluia. Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

We remain in our seats as Diana distributes the bread & wine.

*Diana is placing a drop of wine on each piece of bread,
meaning we can receive both the bread and wine.*

**Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

He is not here. He is risen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.

1. Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

3. But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured, Alleluia!
now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

April 2021 What's coming up...

SUNDAY 18th 6pm United Benefice Evening Prayer at Trinity, Sissinghurst

MON 19th 7:45pm Marriage Preparation course Session 3 *via zoom*

WED 21st 9am Silence, Prayer & Communion Ending at 9:30am at St Mary's

10am NEW! Virtual Coffee Morning - Ruth Valerio from Tearfund.
Do spread the word, all welcome along to hear Ruth talking about our role in the climate crisis, and ask a question... *via zoom*

2-5pm St Mary's Church open for Private Prayer

8pm NEW! Living in the Light of God's Presence - Bible Study
All warmly welcome. *via zoom/phone*

THU 22nd 10am NEW! Living in the Light of God's Presence - Bible Study
All warmly welcome. *via zoom/phone*

7:30pm St Mary's PCC *via zoom*

(NB APCM moved to June so we can meet together in person)

SUNDAY 25th 10am United Benefice Morning Worship at Trinity

4pm Families Together at Trinity (deavesclaire@gmail.com)

6pm United Benefice Communion (Book of Common Prayer), St Mary's

MON 26th 7:45pm Marriage Preparation course Session 4 *via zoom*

WED 28th 2-5pm St Mary's Church open for Private Prayer

8pm Bible Study - all warmly welcome. *via zoom/phone*

THU 29th 10am Bible Study - all warmly welcome. *via zoom/phone*

7:30pm Trinity PCC *via zoom*

FRI 30th Prayer Walks in both Frittenden and Sissinghurst - all warmly welcome.

More details from Nicky Robinson (robinson.nj@btinternet.com)

or Tim Heath (tim@heathcom.net)

SAT 1st May – NEW! Building Healthy Churches – online Bible by the Beach event.

More details to follow

SUNDAY 2nd 10am United Benefice Morning Worship at St Mary's

6pm United Benefice

Bible Studies: Today we begin our six-week sermon series Living in the Light of God's Presence. During our midweek Bible Studies we get to think further about what we've been learning. All welcome 8pm Wed 21st or 10am Thu 22nd - booklets available today from a friendly churchwarden for just £3!

For the remainder of April please continue to book in for services by emailing Joanna - St Mary's Frittenden, or Penny - Trinity Sissinghurst, or Claire - Families Together. This helps us ensure we can seat everyone and also to print enough service sheets for everyone. That said, if you've not booked, please still join us, and thank you for bearing with us as we seek to accommodate everyone safely. *Pete*