



A Service of the Word

with the Option of Spiritual Communion

The Feast of St Mark the Evangelist

*If you are praying as a household one person may act as leader and the others as the congregation and they join in the sections in **bold** type. If alone read all the words aloud.*

You may like to light a candle before you begin, and have a bible, cross or crucifix with you

Preparation

Grace, mercy and peace
from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you [us]

[and also with you].

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Hymn: *The English Hymnal (220)* **The Saint who First Found Grace to Pen**

Omit starred verse

1. The saint who first found grace to pen
The life which was the life of men,
And shed abroad the Gospel's ray,
His fame we celebrate today.
2. Lo, drawn by Pentecostal fire,
His heart conceived its great desire,
When pure of mind, inspired, he heard
And with his hand set forth the Word.
- *3. Then, clearly writ, the Godhead shone
Serene and fair to look upon;
And through that record still comes power
To lighten souls in death's dark hour.
4. O holy mind, for wisdom fit
Wherein that Life of lives stood writ,
May we through minds of like accord
Show forth the patterns of our Lord.
5. And so may all whose minds are dark
Be led to truth by good Saint Mark,
And after this our earthly strife
Stand written in the Book of Life.
6. Praise God who made the world so fair,
And sent His Son our Saviour there,
And by His Holy Spirit wist
To teach the first evangelist.

Housman, Laurence, 1865-1959
TRURO

Thomas Williams

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Blessed are those who have not seen him
and yet have believed.

He is our Lord and our God.

We have seen his glory,
**the glory which he had as the Father's only Son,
full of grace and truth.**

The Lord says to us, 'Do you love me?'
Our hearts reply, 'You know that we love you.'

Jesus says, 'Whoever comes to me shall never hunger.
Whoever believes in me shall never thirst.'

This is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sins of the world.

Jesus is the resurrection and the life:
those who believe in him shall never die.

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

Prayers of Penitence

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

cf 1 Corinthians 5.7,8

**Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore to us the joy of your salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse *us* from *our* sins,
and restore *you* in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Kyrie Eleison

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Collect

Almighty God,
who enlightened your holy Church
through the inspired witness of your evangelist Saint Mark:
grant that we, being firmly grounded
in the truth of the gospel,
may be faithful to its teaching both in word and deed;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

† The Liturgy of the Word

Reading

Proverbs 15.28-33

- ²⁸The mind of the righteous ponders how to answer,
but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil.
- ²⁹The LORD is far from the wicked,
but he hears the prayer of the righteous.
- ³⁰The light of the eyes rejoices the heart,
and good news refreshes the body.
- ³¹The ear that heeds wholesome admonition
will lodge among the wise.
- ³²Those who ignore instruction despise themselves,
but those who heed admonition gain understanding.
- ³³The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom,
and humility goes before honour.

Psalm

Psalm 45

**R: Behold our defender, O God,
and look upon the face of your anointed.**

- 1 My heart is astir with gracious words; :
as I make my song for the king,
my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.
- 2 You are the fairest of men; :
full of grace are your lips,
for God has blest you for ever.
- 3 Gird your sword upon your thigh, O mighty one; :
gird on your majesty and glory.
- 4 Ride on and prosper in the cause of truth :
and for the sake of humility and righteousness.
- 5 Your right hand will teach you terrible things; :
your arrows will be sharp in the heart of the king's enemies,
so that peoples fall beneath you.

**R: Behold our defender, O God,
and look upon the face of your anointed.**

- 6 Your throne is God's throne, for ever; :
the sceptre of your kingdom is the sceptre of righteousness.
- 7 You love righteousness and hate iniquity; :
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness above your fellows.
- 8 All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes and cassia; :
from ivory palaces the music of strings makes you glad.
- 9 Kings' daughters are among your honourable women; :
at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

**R: Behold our defender, O God,
and look upon the face of your anointed.**

- 10 Hear, O daughter; consider and incline your ear; :
forget your own people and your father's house.
- 11 So shall the king have pleasure in your beauty; :
he is your lord, so do him honour.
- 12 The people of Tyre shall bring you gifts; :
the richest of the people shall seek your favour.
- 13 The king's daughter is all glorious within; :
her clothing is embroidered cloth of gold.
- 14 She shall be brought to the king in raiment of needlework; :
after her the virgins that are her companions.
- 15 With joy and gladness shall they be brought :
and enter into the palace of the king.
- 16 'Instead of your fathers you shall have sons :
whom you shall make princes over all the land.
- 17 'I will make your name to be remembered through all generations; :
therefore shall the peoples praise you for ever and ever.'

**R: Behold our defender, O God,
and look upon the face of your anointed.**

Lord our God,
bring your bride, your holy Church,
with joy to the marriage feast of heaven,
and unite us with your anointed Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn – Hymns Ancient and Modern (New Standard) (299)

*Omit * verse*

Captains of the saintly band

- 1 Captains of the saintly band,
lights who lighten every land,
princes who with Jesus dwell,
judges of his Israel.
- 2 On the nations sunk in night
ye have shed the Gospel light;
sin and error flee away;
truth reveals the promised day.
- 3 Not by warrior's spear and sword,
not by art of human word,
preaching but the Cross of shame,
rebel hearts for Christ ye tame.
- *4 Earth, that long in sin and pain
groaned in Satan's deadly chain,
now to serve its God is free
in the law of liberty.
- 5 Distant lands with one acclaim
tell the honour of your name,
who, wherever man has trod,
teach the mysteries of God.
- 6 Glory to the Three in One
while eternal ages run,
who from deepest shades of night
called us to his glorious light.

Jean-Baptiste de Santeul
Translator: H. W. Baker;
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
H J GAUNTLETT

Reading

Mark 16:15-20

And he said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.'

So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.

Sermon

In this second week after Easter, we have been shown many people reacting to Jesus, and to the message that God speaks through him. After the resurrection, the apostles reacted with great enthusiasm. A disciple from Cyprus, Joseph Barnabas, became a source of encouragement for his community. And an early Christian Martyr, George, was prepared to give his life for his faith. In today's passage from the Gospel of Mark, just before he returns to his father, Jesus sends out his followers to spread this good news everywhere.

How would you have reacted? Cautiously, enthusiastically, encouragingly, with a desire to give your whole life to God?

'Proclaim the good news to the whole creation'.

God's word promises that the whole world will flourish if we listen to him.

What might that mean, practically, in your own situation?

The signs that show that you are a follower of Christ probably aren't the fact that you handle deadly snakes or drink poison unharmed. But what are the signs that mark you out as a disciple? Particularly at the moment in our situation of social distancing and lockdown?

Even after he has returned to his Father, we're told, 'The Lord worked with them'. Have you sometimes had the experience of the Spirit of Jesus working in and through you?

Notice what exactly it is that Jesus tells the disciples to do, and how they respond.

Spend some time in prayer and ask God for the gifts that you need to proclaim the good news by your life or thank him for the gifts that God *has* already given you.

The Creed

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

**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.**

**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.**

Prayers

Prayers of Intercession

Silence

Lord, your word is a lantern to our feet
Shine your light upon our path.

Gracious God,
we thank you for our inheritance of faith, f
or all who have passed on the good news of Jesus Christ
through each generation.

We give thanks for the Gospels,
the words of inspiration and revelation open to us
through Mark's writing.

We pray for those who dedicate themselves
to studying the Scriptures and translating them
so that they may be accessible to all.
Enlighten our hearts with the good news of your kingdom.

We thank you for the great Cathedrals of Saint Mark in Venice and Alexandria;
and, for the churches of this diocese with St Mark as Patron,
especially St Mark in the North End of Portsmouth.

Give all your people the courage of lions
to live as you have taught us.

Silence

Lord, your word is a lantern to our feet
Shine your light upon our path.

O God, help us to trust you,
help us to know that you are with us,
help us to believe that nothing can separate us
from your love revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Silence

Lord, your word is a lantern to our feet
Shine your light upon our path.

We pray for the church,
for all involved in missionary work at home and overseas.

We pray for Justin our Archbishop, Christopher our Bishop,
Gavin Archdeacon, David our area Dean and all our brothers and sisters in Christ in the area: Our
Lady Queen of the Apostles, the local Methodist Circuit and King's Church.

We pray for all who give spiritual counsel
and teach us in our faith,
for those who teach children in church
and all who lead activities for young people.

We pray for our local schools
and for their support for all young people working with them – at home or in the institution.

Give to your Church such passion for your gospel
that we may find ways to communicate afresh
the saving message of your self-giving love.

Silence

Lord, your word is a lantern to our feet
Shine your light upon our path.

We pray for all who hold political office
and direct our common life,
especially our government and its advisers in this time of pandemic.

We pray for the truth in word and truth in deed.

Empower us
and all people for goodwill with whom we can work
to shape a society in which peace and justice are honoured and upheld.

We pray for all who are persecuted for their principles by unjust regimes.

May we choose life in all its fullness.

Silence

Lord, your word is a lantern to our feet

Shine your light upon our path.

We are not people of fear: we are people of courage.

We are not people who protect our own safety:

we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.

We are not people of greed:

we are people of generosity.

We are your people God,

giving and loving,

wherever we are, whatever it costs,

for as long as it takes, wherever you call us.

Silence

Lord, your word is a lantern to our feet

Shine your light upon our path.

Merciful Lord, the disciples left everything to follow you.

At the hour of your Son's arrest,

some left leaving everything to get away.

Forgive us when we deny your truth,

when we lack courage to stand up for what we believe.

Restore in us your image for the sake of your glory.

Silence

Lord, your word is a lantern to our feet

Shine your light upon our path.

We hold before you those who are ill

or in any kind of special need:

all those that we know and love struggling in this time of pandemic,

all those who are unwell in our benefice or among our families.

Silence

Lord, your word is a lantern to our feet

Shine your light upon our path.

Gracious God,

give skill, sympathy and resilience

to all who are caring for the sick,

and your wisdom to those searching for a cure for the Coronavirus disease.

Strengthen them with your Spirit,

that through their work many will be restored to health.

Silence

Lord, your word is a lantern to our feet

Shine your light upon our path.

We pray for all who are tormented physically or mentally,

all and feel the strain of caring for someone at home,

however willingly that care is given.

We pray for those coming to terms with the terminal or life-threatening illness --
either their own mortality or someone they love dearly.

May we all rejoice in the joy of your saving presence.

Silence

Lord, your word is a lantern to our feet

Shine your light upon our path.

Merciful God,
in this time of Pandemic we entrust to your tender care
those who are ill or in pain because of Covid-19,
knowing that whenever danger threatens
your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe.
Comfort and heal them
and restore them to health and strength.

Silence

Lord, your word is a lantern to our feet

Shine your light upon our path.

We commend to your goodness all who have died
and especially at this time John Foot;
those that we love but see no longer,
not least those in the year's mind.

May the light perpetual of the gospel rest on them
and fill our hearts with hope in our risen Lord.

Silence

Lord, your word is a lantern to our feet

Shine your light upon our path.

We rejoice and join our Alleluias
with those of the blessed Virgin Mary, St Mark,
St Andrew, St Peter and St Paul
and of the whole company of heaven
as we commend ourselves and all people
to your ever present love,
saying:

Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Hymn - Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New (385)

Jesus, Prince and Saviour

- 1 Jesus, Prince and Saviour,
Lord of life who died,
Christ, the friend of sinners,
mocked and crucified;
for a world's salvation
he his body gave,
lay at last death's victim
lifeless in the grave.

Refrain

*Lord of life triumphant,
risen now to reign!
King of endless ages,
Jesus lives again!*

- 2 In his power and Godhead
every victory won,
pain and passion ended,
all his purpose done:
Christ the Lord is risen!
sighs and sorrows past,
death's dark night is over,
morning comes at last!

Refrain

*Lord of life triumphant,
risen now to reign!
King of endless ages,
Jesus lives again!*

- 3 Resurrection morning,
sinners' bondage freed!
Christ the Lord is risen,
he is risen indeed!
Jesus, Prince and Saviour,
Lord of life who died,
Christ the King of glory
now is glorified!

Refrain

*Lord of life triumphant,
risen now to reign!
King of endless ages,
Jesus lives again!*

Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926
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ST GERTRUDE
Arthur Seymour Sullivan (1842-1900)

[Optional Spiritual Communion

Act of Spiritual Reception

In union, dear Father, with Christian people throughout the world and across the centuries gathered to make Eucharist, hearing your holy Word and receiving the Precious Body and Blood, I offer you praise and thanksgiving.

Even though I am exiled from tasting the Bread of Heaven and drinking the Cup of Life I pray that you will unite me with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us.

Come Lord Jesus, dwell in me and send your Holy Spirit that I may be filled with your presence.

O LORD and heavenly Father, we your humble servants entirely desire your fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching you to grant, that by the merits and death of your Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all your whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion. Amen.

† Conclusion

Blessing

God give us grace to follow his saints
in faith and hope and love;
and may the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.

Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

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Pray-As-You-Go

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