

God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life. **Amen.**

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God the Son, who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious
victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith. **Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the
risen Lord, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace. **Amen**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

With the power that raised Jesus from the dead at work within you,
keep you safe in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

NOTICES

There are many different services online, many of which are very professionally produced. Among them are ones from **Norwich Cathedral**
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRDplc368n8DrfB6kH7hYvw/videos>

BBC Services. There will be a service on BBC 1 at a main time on Sunday morning. Last week we were told it would begin at 11.00 but it had begun at 10.45. It says on the website it comes from Bangor today. Old news maybe?

Syd Clarke's funeral is at St Faith's crematorium on Tue 21 April at 1.15. There is a limit of 10 mourners allowed in the chapel.

Angie Twaite's funeral is to be held at Earlham cemetery, Tue 28 April at 1.15, in the part west of the ring road, at the Gypsy Lane end. Max 10 mourners.

Standing Orders. Thank you to those who signed a Standing Order for your giving following last week's sheet. Please fill one in if you are able - church finances are in a dire state! To find a form, go back to last Sunday's sheet or ring Andrew 425615

Boiler appeal. Thanks also to everyone who has donated to the boiler appeal.

Foodbank Donations may be left with Linda Hazel, at 1 Prior's Drive

Old Catton News. The parish magazine will not be published for May, since there is very little news to report. Advertisers will be offered reimbursement.

Flower Festival Sadly the Flower Festival has had to be cancelled. Thank you to everyone who has already been preparing for it.

Men's Breakfast The breakfast scheduled for April 25 is cancelled.

Easter eggs Some of you fetched palm crosses from the Lychgate last Sunday. This week there will be little Easter eggs if you get there early - around 9.00 am!

Wishing you all a very happy Easter

St Margaret's Old Catton



**Holy Communion for Easter Sunday
12 April 2020**

This service can also be found online at
<https://www.photosdg.com/stmsvcs>

If you click on the line above and copy it into your browser (eg Google) you will find a televised version of this service filmed by Derek Grasby in the Vicarage garden.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
and also with you.

Alleluia. Christ is risen
He is risen indeed. Alleluia

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The paschal Candle is marked.

Christ yesterday and today +

The beginning and the end

Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages; **ΑΩ 2020**
to him be glory and power,
through every age and for ever. Amen

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the awesome power of God. As we hear his word and proclaim all that God has done,

we can be confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever.



May the light of Christ, rising in glory
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

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.

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.

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection
of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might, now and in all eternity

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.

Revelation 1.17,18

Alleluia.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Father, as we bring this bread and wine,
and remember his death and resurrection,
send your Holy Spirit,
that we who share these gifts
may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Pour your Spirit on us
that we may love one another,
work for the healing of the earth,
and share the good news of Jesus,
as we wait for his coming in glory.
For honour and praise belong to you, Father,
with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit:
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Trusting in the compassion of God, let us pray with confidence
as our Saviour has taught us ...

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

God of Life, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son
to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection
have delivered us from the power of our enemy:
grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him
in the joy of his risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

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, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
almighty and eternal Father,
and in these days of Easter
to celebrate with joyful hearts
the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion
Jesus Christ, your risen Son,
has conquered the powers of death and hell
and restored in men and women the image of your glory.
He has placed them once more in paradise
and opened to them the gate of life eternal.
And so, in the joy of this Passover,
earth and heaven resound with gladness,
while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation
sing for ever the hymn of your glory.

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, on the night before he died,
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.
He took the bread, and thanked you.
He broke it, and gave it to them, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine.
He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you.
This is my blood,
the new promise of God's unfailing love.
Do this to remember me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

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At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Good Friday closes with the death of Jesus. And it's followed by a few words about the burial of Jesus, and in St Matthew's gospel, with the guard securing the tomb.

And after a tale of such grief and emotion, it seems strange to add in the trivial details. Did it really matter in the scheme of things where exactly he was buried, and was it important for St Matthew to record the guards?

Well it may not matter in the divine scheme of things, but for us simple humans, it *does* matter.

Matthew 27. 57-66 When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, 'Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, "After three days I will rise again." Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, "*He has been raised from the dead*", and the last deception would be worse than the first.' Pilate said to them, 'You have a guard of soldiers; go, make

it as secure as you can.' So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

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Joseph of Arimathea knew which the tomb was - it was his own. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there sitting opposite the tomb. They knew which it was, and within about 36 hours they were back there again - only within such a short space of time, it was all different. Nevertheless, they knew which the tomb was, in spite of the earthquake and the angel with the appearance of lightning.

By the time the gospels were written, a number of years after the events they describe, the Christian community knew it was important to assert the truth of the resurrection. It was important then, and it is now.

Obviously it was outside their normal experience - nobody had ever seen a dead man rise after he had died. And it's so far from our normal experience that in the age we live in we are used to being guided by things that are observed and measured, tested and subjected to scientific proof. And more than the other evangelists, Matthew records the chief priests colluding with the soldiers to cover it up and speak of grave robbery while they were asleep. In St Mark, the women coming to the tomb wondered how they would roll away the stone - it was obviously impossible.

The story of the empty tomb was important for the telling of the Easter story. The women were not mistaken - they knew where to go, they were not confused in their grief. And the suggestion of grave robbery was just farcical.

All the same, in the scheme of things, these were minor details. The real evidence for the resurrection of Jesus was what followed. He met his disciples. Despite some stories in which his appearance led them to question if it was really him, they were assured. They did know him to be alive. And they would risk their lives to assert it.

That is the surest evidence of the truth of the Easter story. It is not just that the tomb was empty but that the disciples, the women, the travellers to Emmaus, met him, spoke with him, ate with him, learned from him were inspired by him.

It's especially hard at the moment as we are confined to our homes, and unable to gather as a community, because the truth of the resurrection is known in the community of the faithful. Christ comes among us as we remember him. He comes to the disciples as they are gathered. We miss that company, we long to meet friends again and experience that living loving knowledge.

But we have to be patient. Christ knows the sufferings of this present time and he calls us to live in faith and hope and love, and we shall meet again in his loving presence. Alleluia. Amen

Let us pray.

Almighty and Eternal God

Whose goodness and grace overflowed when you raised Jesus from the dead, Let your goodness and grace continue to flow upon your people.

We pray for those, like the women of old, whose lives have been stricken by the death of Jesus.

Roll away the stone of despair and hopelessness
that the light of Jesus Christ may shine into the darkness
to bring joy and warmth again.

Roll away the stone
For those still stuck at Good Friday
those whose strength is failing through ill-health
whose spirits are flagging through self-isolation and loneliness.

Lord God roll away the stone
that we may better see the path stretching out before us
a path unused except for your footprints
etched out in the morning dew.

In the light and the glory of the resurrection
We pray for our world, our country and for all health workers,
for everyone who through dedication and commitment
risks their life and health for the sake of others.

Bless Elizabeth our Queen, Boris our Prime Minister and all the members of the government and all leaders that they act wisely with justice and mercy.

Bless our Church, its ministers and members that we may be true to our calling to follow the risen Christ and seek the Kingdom of God.

On this Easter Day hear now our own prayers as we remember before you those nearest and dearest to our own hearts, confident that you care and that you hear the earnest prayer of every heart....

We offer these prayers to you Lord God always mindful of the great company who compass you about, the ransomed and the redeemed of all the ages. As once they inspired us by their living, so may they continue so to do till the day of our own homecoming to you through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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