



*Chaplaincy of All Saints' Marseille  
with Aix-en-Provence  
and the Luberon*

*14<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
Third Sunday of Easter*

*Welcome to our online service. Below you will find readings, prayers and links to music for this Sunday. There is also a reflection by The Reverend Jamie Johnston, our Chaplain, published separately on the website, the text of which is included in the service.*

**The Gathering**

*The minister says*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*All*    **Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

*All*    **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**Hymn**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKVQ8JUZWJU>

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,  
your sweetest notes employ,  
the paschal victory to hymn  
in strains of holy joy.

How Judah's Lion burst his chains,  
and crushed the serpent's head;  
and brought with him, from death's domains  
the long-imprisoned dead.

From hell's devouring jaws the prey  
alone our Leader bore;  
his ransomed hosts pursue their way  
where he has gone before.

Triumphant in his glory now  
his sceptre ruleth all;  
earth, heaven and hell before him bow  
and at his footstool fall.

While joyful thus his praise we sing,  
his mercy we implore,  
into his palace bright to bring  
and keep us evermore.

All glory to the Father be,  
all glory to the Son,  
all glory, Holy Ghost to thee,  
while endless ages run. Alleluia! Amen.

*Words: St Fulbert of Chartres (d. 1028), tr. Robert Campbell (1814-68)*

*Tune: St Fulbert – H J Gauntlett (1805-76)*

## **Prayer of Preparation**

*All*    **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.**

## Prayers of Penitence

*The minister says*

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.

*1 Corinthians 5.7,8*

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life.  
Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins.  
Christ, have mercy.

*All* **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the living bread.  
Lord, have mercy.

*All* **Lord, have mercy.**

*The celebrant says*

May the God of love and power  
forgive you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.

*All* **Amen.**

## The Gloria

*All say:*

**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 Collect**

*The minister says*

Almighty Father,  
who in your great mercy gladdened  
the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord:  
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,  
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life  
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;  
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.

*All*    **Amen.**

## **The Ministry of the Word**

### **First Reading**

### **Acts 3.11-19**

While the man who had been healed clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's Portico, utterly astonished. When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, 'You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

‘And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.’

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

#### **Psalm 4**

- 1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness; \*  
you set me at liberty when I was in trouble;  
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
- 2 How long will you nobles dishonour my glory; \*  
how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood?
- 3 But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness; \*  
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.
- 4 Stand in awe, and sin not; \*  
commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still.
- 5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness \*  
and put your trust in the Lord.
- 6 There are many that say, ‘Who will show us any good?’ \*  
Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.
- 7 You have put gladness in my heart, \*  
more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.
- 8 In peace I will lie down and sleep, \*  
for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

#### **New Testament Reading**

#### **1 John 3.1-7**

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

This is the word of the Lord.

*All*    **Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OXlojQCipg4>

We have a gospel to proclaim,  
Good news for all throughout the earth;  
The gospel of a Saviour's name,  
We sing his glory, tell his worth.

Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,  
Not in a royal house or hall  
But in a stable dark and dim,  
The Word made flesh, a light for all.

Tell of his death at Calvary,  
Hated by those he came to save,  
In lonely suffering on the cross,  
For all he loved, his life he gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn,  
Empty the tomb, for he was free;  
He broke the power of death and hell  
That we might share his victory.

Tell of his reign at God's right hand,  
By all creation glorified,  
He sends his Spirit on his Church  
To live for him, the Lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name him King:  
Jesus is Lord of all the earth;  
This gospel message we proclaim,  
We sing his glory, tell his worth.

*Words: E J Burns (b 1938)*

*Tune: Fulda – from William Gardiner's Sacred Melodies (1815)*

*The minister says*

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said, 'All who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'

*John 6.40*

*All* **Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you

*All* **and also with you.**

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

*All* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you - that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All* **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Reflection**

There are three resurrection appearances in St Luke's Gospel. The first is on Easter morning, when the women who have come with Jesus from Galilee arrive at the tomb and find it empty. They see a vision of two men in dazzling clothes who tell them Jesus is risen. They go to tell the other disciples, who do not believe them. Peter goes to look at the empty tomb, then goes home.

The second appearance is on the road to Emmaus, when two disciples are walking away from Jerusalem talking about all that has happened. A stranger draws near to accompany them on the road. They tell him the story, right up to the events of that morning. The stranger reminds them that the prophets had foretold that the Messiah should suffer before entering into his glory. 'Then beginning with Moses and the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.' Their hearts burn within them, they invite the stranger to stay with them and share supper, at which point he takes bread, blesses it, breaks it and gives it to them. Their eyes are opened and they recognize him in the breaking of the bread. The two disciples immediately return to Jerusalem, where the others are assembled. It is then that our Gospel reading begins – the third resurrection appearance.

At this stage, the disciples are still bewildered at the unfolding of the events. There's a lovely phrase in our reading – 'whilst in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering'. For those who struggle with the whole notion of resurrection, they are comforting words. Luke gives us permission to find it difficult, at the same time as emphasizing the power of it. In our reading he places emphasis on the solidity of Jesus's resurrected body – 'Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see...' He asks them for something to eat and they give him a piece of broiled fish, which he eats in their presence.

You could preach a whole sermon about that fish. For no words in the resurrection stories are there by accident. A fish was the symbol of Christ in the early church. The Greek word for fish was *ichthys*, its letters spelling the words 'Jesus Christ the Son of God our Saviour'. It's a symbol that has stuck - you see it today on bumper stickers.

There's another level of meaning, which occurs three times in the Bible. The miracle of the feeding of the five thousand involved Jesus taking five loaves of bread and two fish. In Luke's resurrection accounts, the risen Christ becomes known first in the breaking of bread on the Emmaus Road, and later that evening in Jerusalem in the eating of the fish. Bread and fish are also the menu of the breakfast given by Jesus to the astonished apostles on the lake shore in John's Gospel. The feeding of the five thousand, seen in this light, becomes a foretaste of resurrection, the heavenly banquet.

The resurrection appearances in Luke also tell us that the risen Christ is to be found in word and sacrament – in the scriptures and the breaking of the bread. It's how we meet him still.

I heard a conversation with a theologian this week, who suggested that today's Gospel reading, whilst an excellent summary of resurrection teaching, is somehow lacking in drama. I suspect what's missing is any dialogue from the disciples with which we might identify. There is dialogue in the story of the road to Emmaus (captured vividly in Caravaggio's painting *Supper at Emmaus* in the National Gallery in London). There is dialogue in Mary Magdalene's recognition in the garden when Jesus calls her by name. And there is dialogue in Thomas's protest that he will not believe until he can see, followed by his affirmation 'My Lord and my God!'. The theologian pointed out that the question the Easter narratives ask, both of the



disciples and of us – and of those who do not come to church or trouble themselves with the Christian story – is: ‘so what?’ What difference does Easter make?

For Luke, the answer lies in the Acts of the Apostles (of which he was also the author), telling the story of the first followers of Christ in establishing the Church. But the ‘so what?’ question is one we all do well to reflect on during these weeks.

If I had to provide an answer to the question in three minutes, I think it would be something like this. I believe that it is granted us to see, in the mystery of the creation and the mystery that is other people and ourselves, glimpses of the unimaginable power of the Creator of all. If we move beyond the mystery of when, where and how the resurrection happened, if we reflect instead on what St Paul referred to as ‘the power of [Christ’s] risen life’, we become aware that there is no limit to God’s power to create and to redeem, to recreate and to affirm. For love involves affirming the one who is loved. God is love, and loves us beyond our imagining. Not even death can defeat God’s purposes. As one writer has put it, ‘He does not offer the miraculous gift of life only to snatch it back again. ... He doesn’t reveal himself in Jesus to prove what we already know – that life is unjust and death is cruel and sometimes violent. He comes to affirm that what he creates will not in the end be destroyed.’<sup>1</sup>

To be a Christian is to trust that God is able to recreate, to raise up, humanity in a new way that is unimaginable to us for now; that in Christ we are called into a relationship with God that not only goes to the depths of our being but also extends beyond our death. The reality of the Easter experience now is the same as it has always been. In Christ crucified and risen, God invites us to rethink who we are and what our destiny will be. We stand with one foot in time and one foot in eternity, as we live in God and God lives in us, setting us free from the prisons of our own making and raising us up to new life, to live as part of the new creation inaugurated on the first Easter Day. That is what we celebrate, today and every day. It does make a difference.

Amen.

*The Revd Jamie Johnston, Chaplain*

## **The Nicene Creed**

**All We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

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<sup>1</sup> Michael Mayne, *To Trust and to Love* (2010).

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Let us pray for the peace of Christ in the Church and the world and let us thank God for his goodness.

Eternal God, the refuge and help of all your children, we praise you for all you have given us, for all you have done for us, for all that you are to us. Give us gratitude as we remember your goodness and joy as we remember your love. Help us to use your gifts wisely, faithfully and generously, that we may always glorify you in our lives.

*All* Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Give grace to the Church to witness through faith to the message of salvation which the Apostles received by sight. As Christ ate with them in his risen body, may the sacrament of his body and blood bring life and healing to all who come.

Through the power of your Spirit, guide those who seek to make known your will in the ministry of your Church. Bless our Bishop Robert, our Archdeacon Peter, our chaplain Jamie and the ministry team in Marseille, Aix and the Luberon, that they may lead your people courageously and care for them lovingly.

Bless our work and service in this chaplaincy. Make us bold to proclaim Jesus Christ as our risen Lord. Help us to speak and act in ways that reflect your holiness and love to those around us.

Lord, in your mercy,  
*All* **hear our prayer.**

Look with compassion on a world where the innocent still suffer and authority is often unjust. Give wisdom to those who rule over others and lead them into the way of compassion and love.

We pray especially for the parts of the world at war with their neighbours and for the thousands of innocent people whose lives are being shattered. May those engaged in war and conflict recognise the wounds they inflict on others. May the presence of Christ among his people bring lasting peace.

Wherever the world is disfigured by poverty, greed, oppression, inequality, discrimination, may the new creation in Jesus Christ appear in justice and love, to the glory of your name.

Lord, in your mercy,  
*All* **hear our prayer.**

Grant that we shall know the presence of Christ in our families and among our friends. May he always be the unseen guest at our meals, so that we may welcome others in his name. In this community and in all that we do, make us witnesses of the grace that we have received.

Lord, in your mercy,  
*All* **hear our prayer.**

Your risen Son came to his disciples when all their hope was gone. Come, in their dark times, to all who suffer in body, soul and mind, that they may feel your Easter presence in their hearts.

From our own community we pray especially for Malcolm, Peter, Gabrielle, Eddie, Gerline, Doreen, Diane, Sam and Robert. We pray too at this time for King Charles, the Princess of Wales and Sarah, Duchess of York. Bless and strengthen those who share the strain of their illness.

In a moment of silence, we bring to you those known to us who are in special need of our prayers at this time.

Grant them all a quiet confidence in your love and power, and keep them in your peace.

Lord, in your mercy,  
*All* **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those whose hearts have been saddened by the death of someone close and dear to them. Give them faith to look beyond their distress to Jesus Christ, who conquered death and lives for evermore.

We give thanks for the departed who are lifted up with Christ to eternal glory. May we in our time rejoice with them in seeing him as he is, the living power of God.

Lord, in your mercy,  
*All* **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, your Son Jesus Christ stands among us, and we have seen the marks of your redeeming love. Guide us in the path of discipleship so that, as you have blessed us, we may be a blessing to others, bringing near the promise of the kingdom by our words and deeds.

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

## **The Peace**

*The minister says*

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 peace of the Lord be always with you  
*All* **and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## Hymn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= bgG-Q5oHZM>

Love's redeeming work is done,  
fought the fight, the battle won.  
Lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er!  
Lo, he sets in blood no more!

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal!  
Christ has burst the gates of hell;  
death in vain forbids him rise;  
Christ has opened paradise.

Lives again our victorious King;  
where, O death, is now thy sting?  
Dying once, he all doth save;  
where thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now where Christ has led,  
following out exalted Head;  
made like him, like him we rise,  
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!  
Praise to thee by both be given:  
thee we greet triumphant now;  
hail, the Resurrection thou!

*Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

*Tune: Savannah – from Herrnhut collection, c 1740*

## Preparation of the Table

*The celebrant says*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation.  
In your loving care you spread before us the table of life  
and give us the cup of salvation to drink.  
Keep us always in the fold of our Saviour and our Shepherd,  
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*All* **Blessed be God for ever.**

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here.

*All* **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

*All* **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*All* **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.

*All* **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.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
and according to your holy will,  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

*All* **Dying you destroyed our death,  
rising you restored our life:  
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people  
and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever.

*All* **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
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.**

**Notre Père, qui es aux cieux,  
que ton nom soit sanctifié,  
que ton règne vienne,  
que ta volonté soit faite,  
sur la terre comme au ciel.  
Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce jour.  
Pardonne-nous nos offenses,  
comme nous pardonnons aussi à ceux qui nous ont offensés;  
et ne nous laisse pas entrer en tentation,  
mais délivre-nous du mal.  
Car c'est à toi qu'appartiennent le règne, la puissance et la gloire,  
pour les siècles des siècles. Amen.**

*The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread, saying:*

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

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



*All*    **Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*All*    **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

### **An Act of Spiritual Communion**

*As circumstances are such that we cannot share in the Eucharist in person, we make an Act of Spiritual Communion, in which we express our faith in Christ and in his presence in the Eucharist, and we ask him to unite himself with us.*

Heavenly Father, in union 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 of our Lord Jesus Christ, we offer you praise and thanksgiving. Even though we cannot at this time receive Communion, we pray that you will unite us with all the baptised and with your Son who gave his life for us.

Come, Lord Jesus, into our hearts, dwell in us in the fullness of your strength, and send your Holy Spirit that we may be filled with your presence. Amen.

### **Music**

O Christ, Redeemer, Risen Lord

*Music*        *Sam van Wye (1880-1956)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R1Biok-12S0>

O Christ, Redeemer, risen Lord,  
The world rejoices in one accord:  
Christ, the true Lamb, is ris'n on high!

He lives that we no more may die.  
Alleluia!

O risen Christ, our one true Light,  
To you be honour, glory and might!  
Alleluia!

In vain did death forbid him rise  
For Christ has opened paradise!  
Alleluia!

O praise to you, O risen King,  
All heav'n and earth your praise sing!  
From sin and sorrow set us free  
That we may live eternally.  
Alleluia!

### **Prayer after Communion**

Living God,  
your Son made himself known to his disciples  
in the breaking of the bread:  
open the eyes of our faith,  
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*All* **Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

### **Hymn**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbVN3TXqxQs>

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;  
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,  
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me;  
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;  
They came with me and the dance went on.

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame:  
The holy people said it was a shame.  
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,  
And they left me there on a cross to die.

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;  
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.  
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;  
But I am the dance and I still go on.

They cut me down and I leapt up high;  
I am the life that'll never, never die;  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me:  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

*Words: Sydney Carter (1915-2004)  
Tune: adapted from a traditional Shaker melody*

## **Blessing**

*The celebrant says*

God the Father,  
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,  
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

*All* **Amen.**

Let us go in peace, to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

Picture: Appearance of risen Christ while the apostles are at table, Duccio di Buoninsegna (c. 1255-1319), Museo dell'Opera Metropolitana del Duomo, Siena

## **Offertory**

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