

Smethwick Old Church



A Service of the Word for the Easter Season

Opening Words

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Greeting

Welcome in the name of Christ.

God's grace, mercy and peace be with you.

and also with you

Opening Prayer

Faithful one, whose word is life:

come with saving power

to free our praise,

inspire our prayer

and shape our lives

for the kingdom of your Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers of Confession

Risen Christ,

we come to you in sorrow for the ways in which we
have separated ourselves from your love.

When our faith
stands at the grave,
grieving for a stone that's rolled away,
forgive us.

When our faith
is short of understanding
though the truth is there to see,
forgive us.

When our faith,
beset by doubt, sees
no further than an empty tomb today,
forgive us.

Bring to mind
the cry of Mary,
'I have seen the Lord!'
and grant us faith to believe!
(written by John Birch, and posted on Faith and Worship)

We hear God's forgiveness

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 Collect

The Word of God in Scripture

First Reading

Second Reading

Gospel Reading

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life.
Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

Alleluia.

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

At the end of the reading we respond:

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ. Alleluia.

Reflection

Prayers

This response is used between biddings

Risen Christ

Hear our prayer.

Ending with the words

Keep us

under in the circle of your love

in this time of uncertainty and distress.

May we know the comfort of your presence

knowing that nothing can separate us from your love

in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so 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.

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.**

The Peace

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
And also with you

*Let us Greet those close, and those who are at a distance from us, with the words
'Peace be you;*

Hymn

Easter Praise

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.
Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
He has given us new life and hope.
He has raised Jesus from the dead.
God has claimed us as his own.
He has brought us out of darkness.
He has made us light to the world.
Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Blessing

Closing

He is not here. He is risen.
Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

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COLLECT

Almighty Father,
you have given your only Son to die for our
sins
and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice
and wickedness
that we may always serve you
in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ
our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

(Alternative readings)

The reading from Acts must be used as
either the first or second reading.

Acts 2:14a. 22-32

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter, standing
with the eleven, raised his voice and
addressed the crowd, "You that are
Israelites, listen to what I have to say:
Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you
by God with deeds of power, wonders,
and signs that God did through him
among you, as you yourselves know –
this man, handed over to you according
to the definite plan and foreknowledge
of God, you crucified and killed by the
hands of those outside the law. But God
raised him up, having freed him from
death, because it was impossible for him
to be held in its power. For David says
concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always
before me, for he is at my right hand so
that I will not be shaken; therefore my
heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover my flesh will live in hope. For
you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or
let your Holy One experience corruption.
You have made known to me the ways
of life; you will make me full of gladness
with your presence.' Fellow Israelites, I
may say to you confidently of our ancestor
David that he both died and was buried,
and his tomb is with us to this day. Since
he was a prophet, he knew that God
had sworn with an oath to him that he
would put one of his descendants on his
throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of
the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,
'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did
his flesh experience corruption.' This Jesus
God raised up, and of that all of us are
witnesses."

Or **Exodus 14:10-end; 15:20-21**

PSALM Psalm 16

R *The Lord is at my right hand; I shall
not fall.*

Preserve me, O God, for in you have I
taken refuge;
I have said to the Lord, "You are my lord,
all my good depends on you."
All my delight is upon the godly that are in
the land,
upon those who are noble in heart. **R**

Though the idols are legion
that many run after,
their drink offerings of blood I will not
offer,
neither make mention of their names upon
my lips.

The Lord himself is my portion and my cup;
in your hands alone is my fortune. **R**

My share has fallen in a fair land;
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
I will bless the Lord who has given me
counsel,
and in the night watches he instructs my
heart. **R**

I have set the Lord always before me;
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.
Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit
rejoices;
my flesh also shall rest secure. **R**

For you will not abandon my soul to Death,
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.
You will show me the path of life;
in your presence is the fullness of joy
and in your right hand are pleasures for
evermore. **R**

SECOND READING

(Alternative readings)

Either **1 Peter 1:3-9**

A reading from the first letter of Peter

Blessed be the God and Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he
has given us a new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ
from the dead, and into an inheritance
that is imperishable, undefiled, and
unfading, kept in heaven for you, who
are being protected by the power of
God through faith for a salvation ready
to be revealed in the last time. In this you
rejoice, even if now for a little while you
have had to suffer various trials, so that
the genuineness of your faith – being
more precious than gold that, though
perishable, is tested by fire – may be
found to result in praise and glory and
honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.
Although you have not seen him, you love
him; and even though you do not see him

now, you believe in him and rejoice with
an indescribable and glorious joy, for you
are receiving the outcome of your faith,
the salvation of your souls.

Or **Acts 2:14a. 22-32** (as above)

GOSPEL John 20:19-end

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.*

When it was evening on the first day of the
week, and the doors of the house where
the disciples had met were locked for fear
of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among
them and said, "Peace be with you." After
he said this, he showed them his hands
and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced
when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to
them again, "Peace be with you. As the
Father has sent me, so I send you." When
he had said this, he breathed on them and
said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.
If you forgive the sins of any, they are
forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any,
they are retained." But Thomas (who was
called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not
with them when Jesus came. So the other
disciples told him, "We have seen the
Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see
the mark of the nails in his hands, and put
my finger in the mark of the nails and my
hand in his side, I will not believe." A week
later his disciples were again in the house,
and Thomas was with them. Although the
doors were shut, Jesus came and stood
among them and said, "Peace be with
you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your
finger here and see my hands. Reach out
your hand and put it in my side. Do not
doubt but believe." Thomas answered
him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to
him, "Have you believed because you have
seen me? Blessed are those who have not
seen and yet have come to believe." Now
Jesus did many other signs in the presence
of his disciples, which are not written in
this book. But these are written so that
you may come to believe that Jesus is the
Messiah, the Son of God, and that through
believing you may have life in his name.

POST COMMUNION

Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal
life

and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.



The Lord is at my right hand; I shall not fall.