

## 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**

**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.**

*Unless otherwise referenced this service is taken from New Patterns for Worship. Compilation  
copyright © The Archbishops' Council 2002.*

**COLLECT**

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.

**FIRST READING**

(Alternative readings)

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

**Acts 2:14a. 36-41**

*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, "Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified." Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Or **Zephaniah 3:14-end**

**PSALM Psalm 116:1-3. 10-end**  
 (or 116:1-7)

**R** *Gracious is the Lord and righteous.*

I love the Lord,  
 for he has heard the voice of my  
 supplication;  
 because he inclined his ear to me  
 on the day I called to him.  
 The snares of death encompassed me;  
 the pains of hell took hold of me;  
 by grief and sorrow was I held. **R**

Then I called upon the name of the Lord:  
 "O Lord, I beg you, deliver my soul."  
 How shall I repay the Lord  
 for all the benefits he has given to me? **R**

I will lift up the cup of salvation  
 and call upon the name of the Lord.  
 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord  
 in the presence of all his people.  
 Precious in the sight of the Lord  
 is the death of his faithful servants. **R**

O Lord, I am your servant,  
 your servant, the child of your handmaid;  
 you have freed me from my bonds.  
 I will offer to you a sacrifice of thanksgiving  
 and call upon the name of the Lord. **R**

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord  
 in the presence of all his people,  
 In the courts of the house of the Lord,  
 in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.  
 Alleluia. **R**

**SECOND READING**

(Alternative readings)

Either **1 Peter 1:17-23**

*A reading from the first letter of Peter.*

If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Or **Acts 2:14a. 36-41** (as above)

**GOSPEL Luke 24:13-35**

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

On that same day, two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger

in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" Jesus asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see Jesus." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**POST COMMUNION**

Living God,  
 your Son made himself known to his  
 disciples  
 in the breaking of 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.



Gracious is the Lord and righ - teous.

