

Smethwick Old Church



A Service of the Word for the Easter Season

Opening Words

In the darkest valley,
at the banquet table;
in the hard work of life,
at the moments of quiet
in our day-to-day reality,
at times set aside—
like this time, now—
for worship, for listening, for paying attention;
with every step we take:
goodness and mercy follow us;
our cups overflow.

(written by Joanna Harader and posted on Spacious Faith.)

Greeting

Welcome in the name of Christ.
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you.
and also with you

Prayer of preparation

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts be 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 Confession

We praise you,
O God, for giving shape and meaning
to the ancient image of yourself as shepherd
through the person of Jesus Christ.

In him, your compassion has been eternally revealed,
giving your rod and staff the human face of love.

**Jesus, good shepherd,
help us to take the time and make the space
to hear your call to us.**

For the times when we fail to reach out
when we are going through difficult times and
find ourselves overwhelmed by life.

Forgive us.

**Jesus, good shepherd,
help us to take the time and make the space
to hear your call to us.**

For the times when we fail to see
the green pastures and still waters
you set before us

Forgive us.

**Jesus, good shepherd,
help us to take the time and make the space
to hear your call to us.**

For the times when we struggle to reveal
your love, compassion and comfort
to those around us who find themselves
in a dark valley

Forgive us.

Amen.

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.

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: The King of love my Shepherd is

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 God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the
resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of
righteousness,
that we may seek those things
which are above,
where he 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 2:42-end

*A reading from the Acts of the
Apostles.*

Many were baptized and were
added to the community. They
devoted themselves to the
apostles' teaching and fellowship,
to the breaking of bread and the
prayers. Awe came upon everyone,
because many wonders and signs
were being done by the apostles.
All who believed were together
and had all things in common; they
would sell their possessions and
goods and distribute the proceeds
to all, as any had need. Day by day,
as they spent much time together
in the temple, they broke bread at
home and ate their food with glad
and generous hearts, praising God
and having the goodwill of all the
people. And day by day the Lord
added to their number those who
were being saved.

Or **Genesis 7**

PSALM Psalm 23

R *I will dwell in the house of the
Lord for ever.*

The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green
pastures
and leads me beside still waters. **R**

He shall refresh my soul
and guide me in the paths of
righteousness for his name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they
comfort me. **R**
You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who
trouble me;
you have anointed my head with
oil and my cup shall be full.
Surely goodness and loving mercy
shall follow me all the days of my
life,
and I will dwell in the house of the
Lord for ever. **R**

SECOND READING

(Alternative readings)
Either **1 Peter 2:19-end**
*A reading from the first letter of
Peter.*

Brothers and sisters: It is to your
credit if, being aware of God,
you endure pain while suffering
unjustly. If you endure when you
are beaten for doing wrong, what
credit is that? But if you endure
when you do right and suffer for
it, you have God's approval. For to
this you have been called, because
Christ also suffered for you, leaving
you an example, so that you should
follow in his steps. "He committed
no sin, and no deceit was found in
his mouth." When he was abused,
he did not return abuse; when
he suffered, he did not threaten;
but he entrusted himself to the
one who judges justly. He himself
bore our sins in his body on the
cross, so that, free from sins, we
might live for righteousness; by his
wounds you have been healed. For
you were going astray like sheep,
but now you have returned to the
shepherd and guardian of your
souls.

Or **Acts 2:42-end** (as above)

GOSPEL John 10:1-10

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

Jesus said to the Pharisees: "Very
truly, I tell you, anyone who does
not enter the sheepfold by the
gate but climbs in by another
way is a thief and a bandit. The
one who enters by the gate is
the shepherd of the sheep. The
gatekeeper opens the gate for
him, and the sheep hear his voice.
He calls his own sheep by name
and leads them out. When he has
brought out all his own, he goes
ahead of them, and the sheep
follow him because they know
his voice. They will not follow a
stranger, but they will run from
him because they do not know the
voice of strangers." Jesus used
this figure of speech with them,
but they did not understand what
he was saying to them. So again
Jesus said to them, "Very truly,
I tell you, I am the gate for the
sheep. All who came before me
are thieves and bandits; but the
sheep did not listen to them. I am
the gate. Whoever enters by me
will be saved, and will come in and
go out and find pasture. The thief
comes only to steal and kill and
destroy. I came that they may have
life, and have it abundantly."

POST COMMUNION

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to
be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down
his life and rise again:
keep us always under his
protection,
and give us grace to follow in his
steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Organ)

I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ev - er.