

## 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

Let us come to the light of Christ,  
Confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Christ, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

**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 God,  
who through your only-begotten Son  
Jesus Christ  
have overcome death and opened to  
us the gate of everlasting life:  
grant that, as by your grace going  
before us you put into our minds  
good desires,  
so by your continual help  
we may bring them to good effect;  
through Jesus Christ our risen 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 7:55-end

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

Standing before the high priest and the council, Stephen, filled with the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Or **Genesis 8:1-19**

### PSALM Psalm 31:1-5. 15-16

**R** *Into your hands I commend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.*

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame;  
deliver me in your righteousness.  
Incline your ear to me;

make haste to deliver me.  
Be my strong rock, a fortress to save  
me, for you are my rock and my  
stronghold;  
guide me, and lead me for your  
name's sake. **R**

Take me out of the net  
that they have laid secretly for me,  
for you are my strength.  
Into your hands I commend my spirit,  
for you have redeemed me, O Lord  
God of truth. **R**

## SECOND READING

(Alternative readings)

### Either 1 Peter 2:2-10

*A reading from the first letter of Peter.*

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation – if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight. Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Or **Acts 7:55-end** (as above)

## GOSPEL John 14:1-14

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

## POST COMMUNION

Eternal God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way,  
the truth, and the life:  
grant us to walk in his way,  
to rejoice in his truth,  
and to share his risen life;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for  
ever.

