



**Easter Sunrise Service
St Mary's Church Shirehampton**

Welcome

We light our Easter fire.

The risen Lord says, "Do not be afraid. I am the first and the last. I am the Living One. I was dead but now I am alive for evermore, and I hold the keys of death and death's domain." (Rev. 1:17-18).

Opening prayer

Lord of life and conqueror of death,
we come before you this Easter morning.

You know our worries, our limitations, our fears.

We come as we are.

Speak to us as you spoke to Mary that first Easter morning;
for your glory's sake.

Amen.

Hymn - In Christ alone

In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought & storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All,
here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied –
For every sin on Him was laid;
Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory
sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine –
bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death,
this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home,
here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Confession

Lord, when we have doubted you.

Lord, forgive us

When we have disowned you.

Lord, forgive us

When we have denied you.

Lord, forgive us

When we have forgotten your victory.

Lord, forgive us

The Lord of Life declares,

“I forgive you, for I have come that you may have life, life in all its fulness.”

Thanks be to God. Amen.

THE RESSURECTION GOSPEL – Mark 16: 1 - 8

16 When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ ⁴When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.’ ⁸So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Reflection

Marking the Easter Candle

The minister holds the candles and mark the cross:

As the vertical of the cross is traced the president says
Christ, yesterday and today,

As the horizontal is traced the president says
the beginning and the end,

As the Alpha is traced
Alpha

As the Omega is traced
and Omega,

As the first number of the year (2) is traced the president says
all time belongs to him,

As the second number (0) is traced
and all ages;

As the third number (2) is traced
to him be glory and power,

As the fourth number (4) is traced
through every age and for ever.

Amen

The Five Wounds of Christ

As a stud is inserted at the top of the vertical the president says
By his holy

As a stud is inserted at the intersection
and glorious wounds

As a stud is inserted at the foot of the vertical
may Christ our Lord

As a stud is inserted at the left end of the horizontal
guard us

As a stud is inserted at the right end of the horizontal
and keep us. Amen

Blessing the Easter Candles

As the Easter Light is lit, we pray

Eternal God,
who made this most holy night
to shine with the brightness of your one true light,
set us aflame with the fire of your love,
and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia

We cheer and make glad sounds!

Let us affirm our faith together

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Amen.

Let us affirm our commitment together

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil and,
whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

With the help of God, I will

HYMN - THINE BE THE GLORY

Thine be the glory
risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away.
Kept the folded grave clothes
where Thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory
risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo, Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth,
death has lost its sting.

Thine be the glory...
No more we doubt Thee,
glorious Prince of life;
Life is naught without Thee:
aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conquerors,
through Thy deathless love;
Lead us in Thy triumph
to Thy home above.

Thine be the glory...

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia

Closing Prayer & Blessing

Lord Jesus, we rejoice in your mighty power which brings life out of death,

joy out of grief, hope out of despair.

May we truly live in the light of your resurrection

and know that you are alive now and always! Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father,

the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you

and all whom you love this Easter day and for evermore.

Amen.