**Easter Sunday Celebration 31.03.24**

**Welcome**

Alleluia, Christ is risen: **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**Opening Sentences**

O Lord open our lips **and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Pause for reflection as you offer the day to God.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and for ever. **Amen**.

**Song – See What a Morning**

One with the Father Ancient of Days

Through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty

Honour and blessing glory and praise

To the King crowned with pow’r and authority

And we are raised with Him

Death is dead love has won Christ has conquered

And we shall reign with Him

For He lives Christ is risen from the dead

See what a morning gloriously bright

With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem

Folded the grave-clothes tomb filled with light

As the angels announce Christ is risen

See God's salvation plan wrought in love

Borne in pain paid in sacrifice

Fulfilled in Christ the Man for He lives

Christ is risen from the dead

See Mary weeping where is He laid

As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb

Hears a voice speaking calling her name

It's the Master the Lord raised to life again

The voice that spans the years

Speaking life stirring hope bringing peace to us

Will sound till He appears

For He lives Christ is risen from the dead

**Old Testament Reading**

**Psalm 118: 14-24**

14The Lord is my strength and my might;  
    he has become my salvation.

15There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:  
‘The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;  
16 the right hand of the Lord is exalted;  
    the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.’  
17I shall not die, but I shall live,  
    and recount the deeds of the Lord.  
18The Lord has punished me severely,  
    but he did not give me over to death.

19Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
    that I may enter through them  
    and give thanks to the Lord.

20This is the gate of the Lord;  
    the righteous shall enter through it.

21I thank you that you have answered me  
    and have become my salvation.  
22The stone that the builders rejected  
    has become the chief cornerstone.  
23This is the Lord’s doing;  
    it is marvellous in our eyes.  
24This is the day that the Lord has made;  
    let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning is now**

**and ever shall be for ever. Amen**

**New Testament Reading**

**Mark 16: 1-8**

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. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But 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. But 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.’ So 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**

**Talk**

**Prayers**

*In our prayers we will pray for the world, the church, our local community, and for those who are in need.*

*At the end of each section we say:*

Lord in Your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

*And at the end:*

**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.**

**Notices**

**Blessing**

May Christ,

who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,

fill you with his new life;

and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Online Giving**

Everything we do in mission and ministry is made possible by the generous support of our church family. We encourage everyone who is a regular member of St Marys to join our planned giving scheme (standing order) as this helps us to plan and budget.

You can now make donations online as a one off or regular gifts, and every penny goes back into enabling our mission and ministry.

Details of how to give online or join the planned giving scheme can be found online @ [www.stmaryshanwell.org.uk/giving](http://www.stmaryshanwell.org.uk/giving)