



Parramatta  
Mission

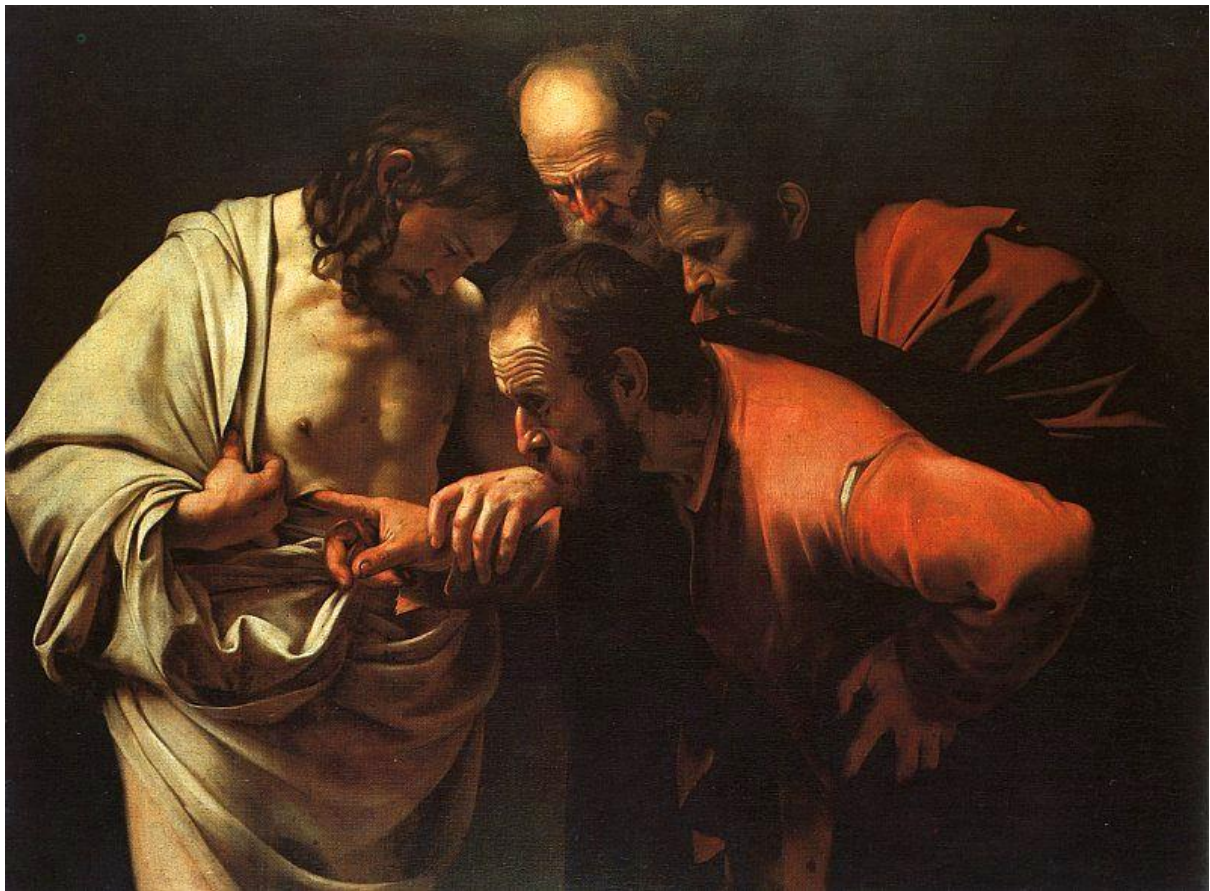


uniting  
church  
in Australia,  
Synod of NSW & ACT

Westmead 11 April 2021

Easter 2

**“We Are An Easter People”- Take 2.**



### **GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

Prelude: ‘Because you live, O Christ’ (organ only)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TDwHkkE1fUs>

Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed.**

**'Because you live O Christ'**. (read responsively)

1 Because you live, O Christ,  
the garden of the world has come to flower,  
the darkness of the tomb  
is flooded with your resurrection power.

*Refrain:*

**The stone has rolled away  
and death cannot imprison!  
O sing this Easter Day,  
for Jesus Christ has risen,  
has risen, has risen, has risen!**

2 Because you live, O Christ,  
the spirit bird of hope is freed for flying,  
our cages of despair  
no longer keep us closed and life-denying.

*Refrain:*

**The stone has rolled away  
and death cannot imprison!  
O sing this Easter Day,  
for Jesus Christ has risen,  
has risen, has risen, has risen!**

3 Because you live, O Christ,  
the rainbow of your peace will span creation,  
the colours of your love  
will draw all humankind to adoration.

*Refrain:*

**The stone has rolled away  
and death cannot imprison!  
O sing this Easter Day,  
for Jesus Christ has risen,  
has risen, has risen, has risen!**

**Call to worship:**

To the church of the risen Christ  
Grace and peace to you.  
**And also with you.**

**From Psalm 135:1-3**

Praise the Lord!  
Praise the name of the Lord;  
give praise, O servants of the Lord,  
<sup>2</sup> you that stand in the house of the Lord,  
in the courts of the house of our God.  
<sup>3</sup> Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good;  
sing to his name, for he is gracious.

**Hymn**

**'The strife is o'er, the battle done'**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9-FCgn-buw>

***Refrain:***

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**The strife is o'er, the battle done;  
Now is the victor's triumph won;  
O let the song of triumph be sung:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Death's mightiest powers have done their worst;  
And Jesus hath his foes dispersed;  
Let shouts of praise and joy outburst:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**On the third morn he rose again  
Glorious in majesty to reign  
O let us swell the joyful strain:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee,  
From death's dread sting thy servants free  
That we may live and sing to thee:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**An Easter Litany.**

We have surveyed the cross:  
It is marked by betrayal, false witness,  
Abuse, a crown of thorns, a title,  
A struggle to breathe,  
Wounds that lead to death:

**The word of the cross  
Is a folly, a scandal, a stumbling block.**

We have seen where they laid  
The cross-bound Christ, in a guarded  
Sealed borrowed tomb,  
Christ lies lifeless.

**The word of the cross  
Is a folly, a scandal, a stumbling block.**

We have seen that  
The stone is rolled away,  
The body is gone,  
We can sing he arose in silence.

For some 'an idle tale', (Luke)  
For others a moment of doubt, (John)  
And for others again, fear (Mark).

**Christ is risen,  
He is risen indeed.**

## **Reading:**

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; <sup>7</sup>but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

<sup>8</sup>If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (1 John 1:5-10).

## **An Act of Confession and Trust in God**

In this season of the Christian year,  
In this time of pandemic  
And so much upheaval all around,  
We seek to rise to new life:

inSpire us God of new beginnings

**When we feel trapped  
By the past and the present:**

inSpire us God of a new creation

**When we feel hemmed in  
Rumour, gossip, complaint,  
Doubts and waves of tiredness.**

inSpire us lifegiving God  
Who raised Christ Jesus from the dead:

**When we feel cold and alone,  
Vulnerable and uncertain  
In tombs of buried hopes.**

## Silence

**Hymn: 'How often we, like Thomas'.**

(Lyrics: Edith Sinclair Downing; Tune: Salley Gardens)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wKn9WZXm8zU>

### **Words of assurance:**

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

<sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (John 20:19-23).

So, if anyone is in Christ.  
There is a new creation:  
Everything old has passed away;  
Behold, the new has come.

Hear then Christ's word of grace to us:  
Your sins are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Song: In Christ alone my hope is found**

(Stuart Townend)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ouGuG97I2RY>

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 and 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  
'Til 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 pow'r of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
'Til He returns or calls me home  
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand

## **The Peace**

The peace of the Christ be with you  
**And also with you**

**Learning Together:** Easter paintings, eggs and bunnies.  
(show attached file)

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### Bible Reading (1)

Acts 4:32-35

<sup>32</sup> Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. <sup>33</sup> With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup> There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. <sup>35</sup> They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

### Bible Reading (2)

John 20:24-31.

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin<sup>[a]</sup>), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may come to believe<sup>[b]</sup> that Jesus is the Messiah,<sup>[c]</sup> the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Song: "Oh Tom",

Jess Strantz

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJ3PXahirug>



I was there when they crucified our Lord  
The messiah, the one we had been waiting for  
I was confused and hurt  
And life has never been the same  
I'll remember those three days  
That he was gone  
Oh, I wish that he was here with me  
Oh, I wish that he was here with me  
Oh, I wish that he was here with me today

I heard the ruckus as the women came running down  
And Peter yelled out, "He is risen!"  
And I couldn't believe my ears  
So we gathered around and began to pray  
And I felt anxious and so afraid  
Could he really be here?

Could he be here with us?  
Could he be here with us?  
Could he be here with us today?

Well out of nowhere that sweet, lovin' voice that I know  
Said, "No need to fear, no need to be troubled.  
Won't you reach out your hands?"  
He said, "Look me over from head to toe.  
Does a ghost have muscle, skin, or bones?  
I am truly here."

He is here with us  
He is here with us  
I reached out and touched his side

He is alive tonight  
He conquered the grave  
He is here with us today

He is here with us  
I reached out and I touched  
His hands, his side  
And now I know

He is alive  
He is alive



Edward Knippers (American, 1946–), *Christ and Thomas*, 1998. Oil on panel, 6 × 8 ft.

**Sermon:**            **'We are an Easter People' – Take 2.**



**Hymn: Christ has risen while earth slumbers**  
(Lyrics: John Bell)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HgTDemu84MU>

Christ has risen while earth slumbers,  
Christ has risen where hope died,  
as he said and as he promised,  
as we doubted and denied.  
Let the moon embrace the blessing;  
let the sun sustain the cheer;  
let the world confirm the rumour.  
Christ is risen, God is here!

Christ has risen for the people  
whom he loved and died to save;  
Christ has risen for the women  
bringing flowers to grace his grave  
Christ has risen for disciples  
huddled in an upstairs room.  
He whose word inspired creation  
is not silenced by the tomb.

Christ has risen and forever  
lives to challenge and to change  
all whose lives are messed or mangled,

all who find religion strange.  
Christ is risen. Christ is present  
making us what he has been –  
evidence of transformation  
in which God is known and seen.

## **Offering Prayer**

## **Notices**

## **Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray for the well-being of the world:

Cross-bound Christ, we pray in your name,  
For all those who live in lands where  
    Who they are and their rights  
    Are betrayed and dealt with falsely.

We pray for those parts of the world  
    Where the innocent suffer;  
    Where the wounds of battle  
    Mark homes, hospitals and schools.

Where the land itself groans.

### **Jesus Christ is risen, He is risen indeed.**

In the name of the risen Christ,  
Let us work and pray for hope, for peace,  
For what is right and just.

Let us pray for the future of the church:

Cross-bound Christ, we pray in your name,  
For all those churches which have in these times  
Of pandemics and much change  
    Lost their voice;  
    Become fearful of their future;  
    Lost sight of being an Easter people.

We pray for the life of our own congregations  
For Westmead  
175 and Welsey Apartments  
For Leigh Fijian  
Bula Feeding Ministry  
For Leigh Memorial  
For the Korean Faith Community.  
For Meals Plus

We pray this morning for:  
Manas and Nita at Wahroonga  
Amelia at Eastwood  
Keith and Julie  
Christine at Penrith

**Jesus Christ is risen, He is risen indeed.**

In the name of the risen Christ,  
Let us work and pray for hope, for peace,  
For what is right and just.

Cross-bound Christ, we pray in your name,  
For friends, for family, strangers  
Who are deeply troubled,  
Not well, in aged care,  
Especially for those who cannot receive visits yet;  
And those who mourn.

We pray for those who are lonely through lockdowns  
And through circumstance,  
For those who long for the warmth and intimacy  
Of touch once more.

We pray for those who live and elsewhere

**Jesus Christ is risen, He is risen indeed.**

In the name of the risen Christ,  
Let us work and pray for hope, for peace,  
For what is right and just.

Cross-bound Christ, we pray in your name,  
For ourselves. We do so in a time of silence  
Knowing that your spirit seeks us out  
And intercedes for us.

**Jesus Christ is risen, He is risen indeed.**

May we be an Easter people  
In name and spirit

In the name of the cross-bound, risen Christ,  
Who taught us how to 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.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.

### **SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

Hymn      TiS 362:      'Jesus Christ is risen today'  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=laZqLPmhNAc>

Jesus Christ is risen today, *Alleluia*,  
our triumphant holy day; *alleluia*,  
who did once upon the cross; *alleluia*,  
suffer to redeem our loss; *alleluia!*

Hymns of praise then let us sing; *Alleluia*,  
unto Christ our heavenly king; *alleluia*,

who endured the cross and grave; *alleluia*,  
sinners to redeem and save: *alleluia!*

But the pains that he endured; *Alleluia*,  
our salvation has procured; *alleluia*,  
now above the sky he's King; *alleluia*,  
where the angels ever sing: *alleluia!*

Sing we to our God above; *Alleluia*,  
Praise eternal as His love; *Alleluia*,  
Praise Him all ye heavenly host; *Alleluia*,  
Father, Son and Holy Ghost: *Alleluia!*

**Benediction:**

May the love of God  
The creator in whose image  
We are made:  
Surround and support you  
All your days.

May the peace of  
The cross-bound and risen Christ  
The beloved Son:  
Be with you  
Through all the ups and downs of life.

May the Spirit of God,  
The life giver,  
Raise you to new hope:  
Now and always, **Amen.**