



Churches Together in Droitwich Spa

sonrise

**Sonrise Service
Easter Sunday**

Welcome and Introduction

We gather around the fire

Opening Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
Your steadfast love extends to the heavens
and your faithfulness never ceases.
Illuminate our hearts with your wisdom
and strengthen our lives with your word,
for you are the fountain of life;
in your light we see true light.

Heavenly Father,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant that, as his death has recalled us to life,
so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen

First Reading
The Resurrection of Jesus
John 20:1-10

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Psalm 136

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,

His love endures forever.

O give thanks to the God of gods,

His love endures forever.

O give thanks to the Lord of lords,

His love endures forever.

who alone does great wonders,

His love endures forever.

who by understanding made the heavens,

His love endures forever.

who spread out the earth on the waters,

His love endures forever.

who made the great lights,

His love endures forever.

the sun to rule over the day,

His love endures forever.

the moon and stars to rule over the night,

His love endures forever.

who struck Egypt through their firstborn,

His love endures forever.

and brought Israel out from among them,

His love endures forever.

with a strong hand and an outstretched arm,

His love endures forever.

who divided the Red Sea in two,

His love endures forever.

and made Israel pass through the midst of it,

His love endures forever.

but overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea,

His love endures forever.

who led his people through the wilderness,

His love endures forever.

who struck down great kings,

His love endures forever.

and killed famous kings,

His love endures forever.

Sihon, king of the Amorites,

His love endures forever.

and Og, king of Bashan,

His love endures forever.

and gave their land as a heritage,

His love endures forever.

a heritage to his servant Israel,

His love endures forever.

It is he who remembered us in our low estate,

His love endures forever.

and rescued us from our foes,

His love endures forever.

who gives food to all flesh,

His love endures forever.

O give thanks to the God of heaven,

His love endures forever.

Second Reading

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, **“Woman, why are you weeping?”** She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, **“Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?”** Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, **“Mary!”** She turned and said to him in Hebrew,* **“Rabbouni!”** (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, **“Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”**

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Lighting of Candles

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

Eternal God,
set us aflame with the fire of your love,
and bring us to the radiance of your heavenly glory.

We light candles from the fire

Salt and Light Matthew 5 v 13 -14

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. [15] No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. [16] In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven”.

The Peace

Prayers

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,
your love broke through.
Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep
for death to hold.
The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.

Amen

Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.

Amen

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.

Amen.

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.

Thine Be The Glory

Thine is 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 His church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.

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

No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of life!!
Life is nought without Thee; aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors,
through Thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home above.

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

Dismissal

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.'

John 11.25,26