

# Sunday 26 April

## Opening Hymn

**Alleluia! sing to Jesus, His the sceptre, His the throne;  
alleluia! His the triumph, His the victory alone.  
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion  
thunder like a mighty flood;  
Jesus out of every nation hath redeemed us by His blood.**

**Alleluia! not as orphans are we left in sorrow now;  
alleluia! He is near us, faith believes, nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received Him  
when the forty days were o'er,  
shall our hearts forget His promise,  
'I am with you evermore'?**

**Alleluia! bread of heaven! Thou on earth our food,  
our stay;  
Alleluia! here the sinful flee to Thee from day to day.  
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's Redeemer,  
plead for me,  
where the songs of all the sinless  
sweep across the crystal sea.**

**Alleluia, King eternal, thee the Lord of lords we own;  
Alleluia, born of Mary, earth thy footstool,  
heaven thy throne:  
thou within the veil has entered,  
robed in flesh, our great High Priest;  
thou on earth both Priest and Victim  
in the eucharistic feast.**

*William Chatterton Dix (1837–98) altd.*

## Collect

Risen Christ,  
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:  
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life  
and fill us with your peace,  
to the glory of God the Father.

## Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them:

‘Therefore, let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.’

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what should we do?’ Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.’ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

*Acts 2.14a,36–41*

**All:** This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Hymn

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of His word;  
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!  
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;  
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by.  
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of His word!  
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and for evermore!**

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## Gospel Reading

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Luke.

**All:      Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying,

‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!’ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

*Luke 24.13-35*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Hymn

**How deep the Father's love for us,  
how vast beyond all measure,  
that He should give His only Son  
to make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss –  
the Father turns His face away,  
as wounds which mar the Chosen One  
bring many sons to glory.**

**Behold the man upon a cross,  
my sin upon His shoulders;  
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there  
until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life –  
I know that it is finished.**

**I will not boast in anything,  
no gifts, no power, no wisdom;  
but I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer;  
but this I know with all my heart –  
His wounds have paid my ransom.**

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## Post-Communion Prayer

Living God,  
your Son made himself known to his disciples  
in the breaking of bread:  
open the eyes of our faith,  
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

## Final Hymn

**Lord, the light of Your love is shining,  
in the midst of the darkness, shining:  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us;  
set us free by the truth You now bring us –  
shine on me, shine on me.**

*Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;  
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and  
mercy;  
send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light!*

**Lord, I come to Your awesome presence,  
from the shadows into Your radiance;  
by Your blood I may enter Your brightness:  
search me, try me, consume all my darkness –  
shine on me, shine on me.**

**As we gaze on Your kingly brightness  
so our faces display Your likeness,  
ever changing from glory to glory:  
mirrored here, may our lives tell Your story –  
shine on me, shine on me.**

Graham Kendrick  
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