



5th April 2026

Easter Sunday

of the Resurrection of the Lord

SUNRISE SERVICE

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

**Welcome to St Thomas the Apostle Church, Hanwell
for our Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord**

*We hope you enjoy your time with us. Do join us for refreshments in the Church Hall afterwards.
Please do take this Service Booklet away with you for your own prayers & reflections this coming week.*

The Gathering

The People gather at the Bandstand, facing East. A candle or small fire is lit. A simple chant is sung:

All: “Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!”

In the darkness of the tomb a new light shines; Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

This is the day the Lord has made.

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Opening Prayer

Let us pray.

**All: O God, who on this day
overcame death through your only Son
and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that we, who celebrate with joy
the day of the Lord’s resurrection,
may be raised from the death of sin by your life-
giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Hymn: Be thou my vision.

¹ Be thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart;
Be all else but naught to me,
save that thou art;
Be thou my best thought
in the day and the night,
Both waking or sleeping,
thy presence my light.

⁴ Riches I heed not,
nor vain, empty praise
Be thou mine inheritance,
now and always
Be thou and Thou only
the first in my heart
O high King of heaven,
my treasure Thou art.

² Be thou my wisdom,
be thou my true word
Be thou ever with me,
and I with Thee, Lord
Be thou my great Father,
and I Thy true son
Be thou in me dwelling
and I with Thee one.

³ Be thou my breastplate,
my sword for the fight;
Be thou my whole armour,
be thou my true might;
Be thou my soul’s shelter,
be thou my strong tower,
O raise Thou me heavenward,
great power of my power.

⁵ High King of heaven,
thou heaven’s bright sun
O grant me its joys,
after victory is won;
Great Heart of my own heart,
whatever befall,
Still be thou my vision,
O Ruler of all.

The First Reading: Isaiah 55.1-11.

¹ Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm
(Psalm 42 1-7)

All R: My soul is thirsty for the living God.

As a deer longs for the running brooks:

All: so longs my! soul for! you O! God.

My soul is thirsty for God thirsty for the living God:

All: when shall I! come and see his face?

My tears have been my food day and night:

All: while they ask me all day long Where now! is your God?'

All R: My soul is thirsty for the living God.

As I pour out my soul by myself I remember this:

All: how I went to the house of the Mighty One! into the temple • of God.

To the shouts and songs of • thanks giving:

All: a multitude keeping high festival.

All R: My soul is thirsty for the living God.

Why are you so full of heaviness • my soul:

All: and why • so un quiet • with in me?

O put your trust in God:

All: for I will praise him yet who is my de liver er and my God.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.**

All R: My soul is thirsty for the living God.

The Second Reading: Romans 6.3-11.

³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptised into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

Cantor: "Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die." (John 11.25,26)

All: Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

✠✠✠ Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. (*John 20.1-18*)

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ 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. ² 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.' ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes. ¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² 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. ¹³ 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.' ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' 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.' ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ 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."' ¹⁸ 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Reflection *is given.*

The Affirmation of Faith

All: We believe in God, who creates and sustains the universe.

We believe in Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, who lives among us still.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who brings new life and hope.

We believe that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Amen.

Hymn: I danced in the morning.

¹ 'I danced in the morning
when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon
and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven
and I danced on the earth:
At Bethlehem I had My birth.

² 'I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
But they would not dance
and they wouldn't follow Me.
I danced for the fishermen,
for James and John -
They came with Me
and the dance went on.

⁴ 'I danced on a Friday
when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance
with the devil on your back.
They buried My body
and they thought I'd gone,
But I am the dance, and I still go on.

Refrain:

*'Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the dance,' said He,
'And I'll lead you all,
wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all
in the dance,' said He.*

³ 'I danced on the Sabbath
and I cured the lame;
The holy people said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
and they hung Me on high,
And they left Me there on a cross to die.

⁵ 'They cut Me down
and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die.
I'll live in you
if you'll live in Me;
I am the Lord of the dance', said He.

Prayers of Intercession

In the light of the risen Christ, let us pray.

Risen Christ.

All: Bring light to our world.

Petitions may include:

- *For the Church worldwide.*
- *For peace in the world.*
- *For those in need, suffering, or grieving.*
- *For renewal of faith and hope.*

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence as the risen Christ has taught us:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

As the sun rises:

The light shines in the darkness.

All: And the darkness has not overcome it!

Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn - Morning Has Broken

¹ Morning has broken
like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken
like the first bird.
Praise for the singing!
Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing
fresh from the Word!

² Sweet the rain's new fall
sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall
on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness
of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness
where God's feet pass.

³ Mine is the sunlight!
Mine is the morning
born of the one light
Eden saw play!
Praise with elation,
praise every morning,
God's recreation
of the new day!

May the risen Christ, who brings us from death to life, fill you with new hope and joy; and the blessing of God almighty, ☩ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

Parish Prayers of Intercession

The Church: We pray for the Church throughout the world, and for our partners in mission and friendship: for ✠ Bishop George Dawson-Ahmoah and the Churches of Nkoranza; for ✠ Pfr. Jens Oehme and the people of the L utherkirche in Chemnitz; and for ✠ Revd Canon Clement Francis and the people of Christ the King, Carriacou. May our fellowship in the Gospel bear witness to Christ’s love.

We pray for the Church of England: For ✠ Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury; ✠ Emma, Acting Bishop of London; ✠ Lusa, Bishop of Willesden; and ✠ Catherine, Archdeacon of Northolt; and for ✠ St Paul’s Cathedral, our Diocesan Mother church.

Our Parish and Community: We give thanks for this Parish of St Thomas the Apostle: for ✠ Julia our Priest, for our Churchwardens and PCC; and for all who are called to serve in the life and ministry of the Church. We give thanks for Rowland, our Pastoral Assistant and Youth Intern, and for Nilesch Patel, preparing for Ordination and joining us as Curate. Strengthen our fellowship, deepen our faith, and guide us in love, service, and truth.

We pray for our community in Hanwell: For our schools - Ealing Fields, Elthorne, Oaklands, St Mark’s, and New Level Academy - for all who teach and learn within them; for all who live and work in our Parish, and for the communities and friendships formed within our Parish Hall. May Christ dwell in our homes and hearts and be known among us.

The World: We pray for the nations of the world, especially those torn by conflict and fear: People of Gaza and Palestine, the Gulf and Middle East, Lebanon, Yemen, Iran, Iraq, India and Pakistan, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Syria, Sudan, the D.R. of Congo, and Ukraine. Grant justice to those in authority, and peace to all peoples.

The Sick and Those in Need: We pray for the sick, the housebound, all who are in hospital or in care, and all who are in need of healing. We remember especially: John Ball, Paul Ball, Caroline Baxter, The Brooks Family, Ivan Carter, Noel Chardon, Jenny Cornwell, Patrick Dennerly, Daphne Dorival, Leo & Estriana Douglas, Merfyn Edwards, Geraldine, Celia Griffith, Darren Hancock, Alison Johns, Ian King, Jaxon Prentice, Nick Lunn, Jane Marland, Arda & Joe Metcalf, Dermot Molloy, Stuart Minty, Izzy Neale, Nicholas Robinson, Sarah, Julia Schumman; Gill Shaw, Keith & Sara Spillett, Colin Spooner, and Leslie Stanton. Comfort all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, and give them hope and healing.

Those preparing for Marriage: especially; Geraint Jones and Gabrielle Brockis, to be married at St Thomas’ on Saturday 23rd May: that their life together may be blessed with love, faithfulness, and joy.

Those preparing for Confirmation: especially; Benedict & Tobias Howson, Leo Hewlett and Oliver Allen to be confirmed at St Thomas on 20th September.

The Departed: We commend to your mercy all who have died.

Those whose year’s mind falls at this time: especially; Brenda Eliza Noel, Crispin Robinson, Peter Gilbert, Francis Alan Caird, John Elliott, Anna Bean, John Clarke, Dorothy Mavis Freeth, Richard John Francis Tiddy, June Tiddy, Jeff Bries, John Britto Noel and Ellen Hutcheson.

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The Parish Office is open Tuesday to Thursday, 11.00am–4.00pm, and is closed on Mondays and Fridays.