

St Andrews and St Peters

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Services for at Home

Please use these service at home, at this time when we can not be together in person we can be together in faith.

I ask you to join with me in these prayers.

Maundy Thursday as you have your evening meal.

Good Friday when you can I aim to use it in the morning

Easter Sunday Morning or Evening which would be your worship time.

I will be leading a service Via Facebook on Easter Sunday different to this one, I invite you to join me at 10.30am if you are able.

Please continue to light a candle on a Sunday at 7pm either in your window for others to see, or in the house.

At this time I ask you to stop and pray for the situation as a world we find ourselves in a please pray for a swift end to this pandemic.

## Maundy Thursday - A Family Meal at the Table.

### **The festival of lights**

*The mother lights the candles. All stand. Mother's Prayer:*

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe,  
Who has cleaned us by Your commandments  
and commanded us to kindle the festival lights.  
Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe,  
Who has kept us alive and sustained us and brought us to this season.  
May our home be blessed, O God, by the Light of Your presence,  
shining upon us in blessing and bringing us peace. Amen.

### ***The Cup of Thanksgiving - Blessing of the Feast***

*Each has their own drink (wine for adults) Father's Prayer:*

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe,  
Who has chosen us, in love has given us,  
O Lord our God, seasons for gladness,  
holy-days, and times for rejoicing, this day reminds us of our freedom  
from those who wish to do us harm, may we give thanks for what we have  
rather than moan about the things we don't have. Amen

**Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the Universe,  
Who dose create the fruit of the vine.**

*All drink, (whole glass of wine for adults).*

*The drinks are refilled:*

*A member of the household reads this story:*

The Syrians pursued our fathers who went down into Egypt and settled there in a very small number, and grew into a nation great and strong and of an infinite multitude. And the Egyptians afflicted us and persecuted us, and placed us in slavery. And we cried to the Lord God of our fathers, who heard us, and looked down upon our sorrow and distress. And He brought us out of Egypt with a strong hand, and a stretched-out arm, with great terror, with signs and wonders.

*All drink, (whole glass of wine for adults).*

**A MEAL IS ENJOYED**

*At the end of the meal all drinks are refilled*

*Father:*

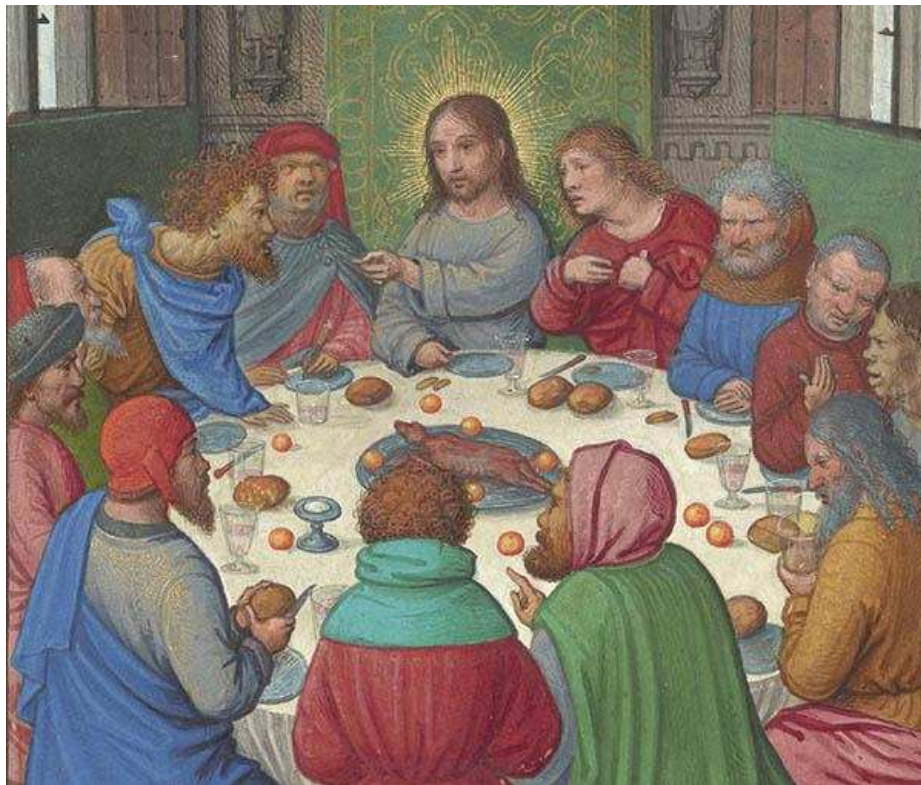
The Lord bless us and keep us:

The Lord make His face to shine upon us and have mercy on us!

May the Lord lift up His countenance upon us and give thee peace!

**Amen. Amen. Amen.**

*All drink, (whole glass of wine for adults).*



### ***Good Friday - First Station:***

They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I pray.' He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. And he said to them, 'I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.' And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. He said, 'Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.'

*Mark 14.32-36*

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you entered the garden of fear  
and faced the agony of your impending death:  
be with those who share that agony and face death unwillingly this day.  
You shared our fear and knew the weakness of our humanity:  
give strength and hope to the dispirited and despairing.  
To you, Jesus, who sweated blood, be honour and glory  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen

### ***Second Station:***

Immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; and with him there was a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, 'The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.' So when he came, he went up to him at once and said, 'Rabbi!' and kissed him. Then they laid hands on him and arrested him.

*Mark 14.43-46*

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were betrayed by the kiss of a friend:  
be with those who are betrayed and slandered and falsely accused.  
You knew the experience of having your love  
thrown back in your face for mere silver:  
be with families which are torn apart by mistrust or temptation.  
To you, Jesus, who offered your face to your betrayer,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever. Amen.

### ***Third Station:***

Now the chief priests and the whole council were looking for testimony against Jesus to put him to death; but they found none. For many gave false testimony against him, and their testimony did not agree. Some stood up and gave false testimony against him, saying, 'We heard him say, "I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands".' But even on this point their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, 'Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?' But he was silent and did not answer. Again the high priest asked him, 'Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?' Jesus said, 'I am; and "you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of the Power", and "coming with the clouds of heaven".' Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, 'Why do we still need witnesses? You have heard his blasphemy! What is your decision?' All of them condemned him as deserving death.

*Mark 14.55-64*

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were the victim of religious bigotry:  
be with those who are persecuted by small-minded authority.  
You faced the condemnation of fearful hearts:  
deepen the understanding of those who shut themselves off from the  
experience and wisdom of others.  
To you, Jesus, unjustly judged victim, be honour and glory with the  
Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen

#### ***Fourth Station:***

At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, 'Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times.' And he broke down and wept.

*Mark 14.72*

Prayer

Lord Jesus, as Peter betrayed you,  
you experienced the double agony of love rejected and friendship  
denied:  
be with those who know no friends and are rejected by society.  
You understood the fear within Peter:  
help us to understand the anxieties of those who fear for their future.  
To you, Jesus, who gazed with sadness at your lost friend,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

now and for ever. Amen

***Fifth Station:***

Pilate asked them, 'Why, what evil has he done?' But they shouted all the more, 'Crucify him!' So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas for them; and after flogging Jesus, he handed him over to be crucified.

*Mark 15.14,15*

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were condemned to death for political expediency: be with those who are imprisoned for the convenience of the powerful. You were the victim of unbridled injustice: change the minds and motivations of oppressors and exploiters to your way of peace. To you, Jesus, innocent though condemned, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen

***Sixth Station:***

And they clothed him in a purple cloak; and after twisting some thorns into a crown, they put it on him. And they began saluting him, 'Hail, King of the Jews!' They struck his head with a reed, spat upon him, and knelt down in homage to him.

*Mark 15.17-19*

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you faced the torment of barbaric punishment and mocking tongue: be with those who cry out in physical agony and emotional distress. You endured unbearable abuse: be with those who face torture and mockery in our world today. To you, Jesus, the King crowned with thorns, be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen

***Seventh Station:***

After mocking him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

*Mark 15.20*

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you carried the cross through the rough streets of Jerusalem:  
be with those who are loaded with burdens beyond their strength.  
You bore the weight of our sins when you carried the cross:  
help us to realize the extent and the cost of your love for us.  
To you, Jesus, bearing a cross not your own,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen

***Eighth Station:***

They compelled a passer-by, who was coming in from the country, to carry his cross; it was Simon of Cyrene, the father of Alexander and Rufus.

*Mark 15.21*

**Prayer**

Lord Jesus, you were worn down by fatigue:  
be with those from whom life drains all energy.  
You needed the help of a passing stranger:  
give us the humility to receive aid from others.  
To you, Jesus, weighed down with exhaustion and in need of help,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever. Amen

***Ninth Station:***

A great number of the people followed him, and among them were women who were beating their breasts and wailing for him. But Jesus turned to them and said, 'Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For the days are surely coming when they will say, "Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bore, and the breasts that never nursed." Then they will begin to say to the mountains, "Fall on us"; and to the hills, "Cover us." For if they do this when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?'

*Luke 23.27-31*

**Prayer**

Lord Jesus, the women of Jerusalem wept for you:  
move us to tears at the plight of the broken in our world.  
You embraced the pain of Jerusalem, the 'city of peace':  
bless Jerusalem this day and lead it to the path of profound peace.  
To you, Jesus, the King of peace who wept for the city of peace,



be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever. Amen

***Tenth Station:***

And they crucified him, and divided his clothes among them, casting lots to decide what each should take.

*Mark 15.24*

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you bled in pain as the nails were driven into your flesh:  
transform through the mystery of your love the pain of those who suffer.

To you, Jesus, our crucified Lord,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen

***Eleventh Station:***

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

*Luke 23.39-43*

Prayer

Lord Jesus, even in your deepest agony you listened to the crucified thief:

hear us as we unburden to you our deepest fears.

You spoke words of love in your hour of death:

help us to speak words of life to a dying world.

To you, Jesus, who offer hope to the hopeless,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen

***Twelfth Station:***

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the



disciple took her into his own home.

*John 19.26,27*

Prayer

Lord Jesus, your mother and your dearest friend  
stayed with you to the bitter end yet even while racked with pain  
you ministered to them: be with all broken families today  
and care for those who long for companionship.  
You cared for your loved ones even in your death-throes:  
give us a love for one another that is stronger even than the fear of  
death.  
To you, Jesus, loving in the face of death,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and for  
ever. Amen

***Thirteenth Station:***

At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema  
sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken  
me?' When some of the bystanders heard it, they said, 'Listen, he is  
calling for Elijah.' And someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put  
it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink, saying, 'Wait, let us see  
whether Elijah will come to take him down.' Then Jesus gave a loud cry  
and breathed his last.

*Mark 15.34-37*

Prayer

Lord Jesus, you died on the cross  
and entered the bleakest of all circumstances:  
give courage to those who die at the hands of others.  
In death you entered into the darkest place of all:  
illumine our darkness with your glorious presence.  
To you, Jesus, your lifeless body hanging on the tree of shame,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever. Amen

***Fourteenth Station:***

Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it  
in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the  
rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

*Mark 15.46*

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, Lord of life, you became as nothing for us:  
be with those who feel worthless and as nothing in the world's eyes.  
You were laid in a cold, dark tomb and hidden from sight:  
be with all who suffer and die in secret,  
hidden from the eyes of the world.  
To you, Jesus, your rigid body imprisoned in a tomb,  
be honour and glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever. Amen





### ***Easter Sunday - Stations of Easter***

God of glory,  
by the raising of your Son  
you have broken the chains of death and hell:  
fill your Church with faith and hope;  
for a new day has dawned  
and the way to life stands open  
in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

#### ***First Station:***

##### ***The earthquake***

Suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord,  
descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.  
His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For  
fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

#### **Prayer**

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,  
for in your resurrection the power of love breaks open the earth

and frees life from death.

As the angel rolled away the stone from the prison of the tomb,  
so release those imprisoned by life's misfortunes.

To you, Lord Jesus,  
whose life brings surprises beyond our wildest expectations,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen

### ***Second Station:***

#### ***Mary Magdalene finds the empty tomb***

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.'

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,  
for the love which drew Mary Magdalene to your tomb  
to weep over your death.

As you broke into her grief with your death-shattering life,  
so reach into our broken hearts with your promise of hope.

To you, Lord Jesus,  
reaching into the deepest tombs of our despair,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen

### ***Third Station:***

#### ***The disciples run to the empty tomb***

Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards 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.

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,  
for in you our God reveals the awesome power of love that is  
stronger even than death. As in your dying you destroyed death,

so in your rising may we be raised above  
the trials and torments of this world's woe. To you, Lord Jesus,  
the fullness of your life revealed in an empty tomb,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen

***Fourth Station:***

***The angel appears to the women***

The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

**Prayer**

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,  
for your resurrection overturns our expectations of life  
and even your closest friends could not see truth before them.  
As the angel helped them to grasp your triumph  
and overcome their fear,  
so help us to see your hand at work  
through the events that overtake us.  
To you, Lord Jesus,  
whose ways astonish beyond our imagining,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen

***Fifth Station:***

***Jesus meets the women***

Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

**Prayer**

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,  
for your simple word of greeting made the hearts of the women  
leap with joy. Speak your word of love to those whose hearts are  
broken,  
that they too may hear your loving, beckoning call.

To you, Lord Jesus, whose call summons us to life in all its fullness,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen

***Sixth Station:***

***The road to Emmaus***

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.

**Prayer**

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,  
for you are with us, even when our eyes are closed to your  
companionship.

Walk this day alongside the disconsolate and the despairing,  
open their eyes to your gentle illumination,  
and let their hearts burn within them at your invisible presence.  
To you, Lord Jesus, walking by our side,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen

***Seventh Station:***

***Jesus appears to the disciples***

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,  
for in your birth you were proclaimed the Prince of Peace,  
and in your resurrection you breathe into your people  
peace beyond this world's understanding.

Be present, Lord, this day with those whose lives are disfigured by  
conflict  
and those whose hearts know no peace. To you, Lord Jesus,  
true bringer of the peace of heaven, be honour and glory, now and for  
ever. Amen

### ***Eighth Station:***

#### ***Jesus promises the Spirit***

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I  
was still with you - that everything written about me in the law of  
Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened  
their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it  
is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on  
the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be  
proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are  
witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my  
Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed  
with power from on high.'

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,  
for you promised that the same power  
that was at work when you were raised from the dead  
would also be alive in us. Show your power to those who are powerless;  
reveal your love to those who feel unlovely  
and through your Spirit enable all your people  
to be witnesses of your amazing grace. To you, Lord Jesus,  
daily renewing your people and your creation,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen

### ***Ninth Station:***

#### ***Jesus commissions the disciples***

Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent  
me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said  
to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they



are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,  
for as you were sent by the Father, so you send us.

Equip your Church with the gifts to fulfil our calling  
that we may love as you loved, serve as you served,  
and willingly follow wherever you lead. To you, Lord Jesus, gifting your  
people,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen

### ***Tenth Station:***

#### ***Jesus breathes the Spirit in the upper room***

When Jesus had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,  
'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are  
forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,  
for you breathed new life into your astonished disciples.

As you turned unutterable grief into unshakeable joy,  
so renew and refresh your turbulent world and establish now your reign  
of peace.

To you, Lord Jesus, transforming the pain of death into the fullness of  
life,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen

### ***Eleventh Station:***

#### ***Jesus reveals himself to Thomas***

Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them  
when Jesus came. 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.' 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.' 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.' Thomas answered him,  
'My Lord and my God!' 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.'

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,  
for you come to us even in our doubting.

Through the sovereign work of your Spirit, and the loving hands of your  
people,

continue to reveal yourself where doubt is stronger than faith.

To you, Lord, whose resurrection body bears the murderous marks of  
the cross,

be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen

***Twelfth Station:***

***Jesus appears at the lakeside***

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish  
on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you  
have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net  
ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and  
though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them,  
'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him,  
'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took  
the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish.

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,  
for at the lakeside you showed concern for the daily needs of your  
disciples.

As you guided them to fill their nets with fish,

so guide all who are hungry till their hunger is satisfied in you.

To you, Lord Jesus, sharing with us the food of faith,

be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen

***Thirteenth Station:***

***Jesus confronts Peter***

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon,  
son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes,  
Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A  
second time he said to him, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me?' He  
said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him,  
'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon, son of John, do  
you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do  
you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know  
that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell  
you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go

wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory, for even in the glorious victory of the resurrection you understood the failure of Peter who denied you. As you restored him to relationship with you, remember all who feel downcast and worthless in this world's eyes and give them a sense of purpose and value. To you, Lord Jesus, loving us despite our denial, be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen

***Fourteenth Station:***

***Jesus and the beloved disciple***

Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, 'Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?' When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, 'Lord, what about him?' Jesus said to him, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!' So the rumour spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?'

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory, for your single-minded commitment to your Father's will. May we be free from distractions of envy or self, that we might walk the way of the cross and know the power of your risen life. To you, Lord Jesus, treading boldly on the path of suffering, be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen

***Fifteenth Station:***

***Jesus appears to over five hundred at once***

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas,

then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died.

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,  
for your resurrection is a revelation to the whole world.  
As you revealed yourself powerfully to so many,  
reveal yourself now as the hope for our world.  
To you, Lord Jesus, going beyond the limits of our understanding,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen

***Sixteenth Station:***

***Jesus commissions the disciples on the mountain***

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

**Prayer**

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,  
for you took the risk of passing your mission to frail disciples.  
As you commissioned them to go into all the world,  
so may all the world come to you, the King of nations.  
To you, Lord Jesus, with us to the end of the age,  
be honour and glory, now and for ever. Amen

A message for Easter.....

When we find ourselves not in Church for Easter Sunday and indeed not receiving communion on Easter itself, like Christians throughout the world we may feel a little lost, as it has not happened in our lifetime. That doesn't mean we should leave ourselves feeling the same woe as we feel on Good Friday and on Holy Saturday. The fact still stands that Jesus rose, he defeated death and conquered the grave in order that even when our life is woeful we are able to realise and encapsulate the promise of his kingdom being present in our lives on earth and in heaven.

It is very much on our minds given our current situation, which predicts that the virus will get worse before it gets better, that we talk of death, Christ's death and indeed our own, as if we take into our reality the risen life of Christ and that we are to follow into his glory with him then that means our mortal death first.

We seldom talk about it and most of us are ill prepared, but it comes to us all, young and old, just like this virus has shown us, death is indiscriminate in whom it comes for. So where we find ourselves now is in un-chartered territory, much like the women at the tomb, much like the disciples of Jesus. They did not know when Jesus died when he would come back or if he would come back, they didn't at that point understand all that Jesus had taught them about his resurrection in three days. They didn't understand what he had told them when they had supper together, they didn't understand when he said he would rebuild the temple in three days that he was talking about himself. They were very much feeling alone and isolated, they had no one to turn too except each other, and were scared of being arrested and meeting the same fate of Jesus on the cross. So they locked the door and stayed inside, only the women going on that first Easter Sunday morning to prepare properly Jesus' body for burial. A task that was part the Jewish ceremony of death, but one I am sure that they did not look forward to.

It is strange to find that at this Easter we are locked inside our own homes, we are longing for the day we can go out in safety and greet each other once more.

Like the disciples on that first Good Friday, not knowing how long the time would be before they could go back out into the world, we too feel that now, we don't know if it is weeks or months. The unknown is more anxious than the known, if they had understood Jesus and known he would

rise in three days, then they would have waited with excitement rather than fear. So it should be for us, we can look at this time and be anxious or we can wait with excitement for the segregation in our society to be lifted.

We know that there will come a time when this happens and that our isolation, as terrible as it is, becomes a memory and a historic point in our lives as well as society.

A point when we can come together and just maybe we will be grateful for it! Being apart proves that our souls cry out for human contact, a part of our being that God created to give us value for each other.

I find it interesting that in the Live Services that have been streamed there are many people who are not regular church goers who wouldn't say that they were, but have watched the short services. This trauma that we see in the land has ignited within us a sense of humanity, and sense of faith that may not have noticed existed. For some there is still greed and self indulgence, but for many there is sacrifice, love, kindness, all qualities of Christ, which many people have and wear proudly with and without a faith in Christ. May Christ bless you this Easter, may He keep you safe from all harm, and may He rekindle in your hearts the true meaning of resurrected life and fill you with an excitement to be his people in this world, both now and when our restrictions have been lifted.

