

The Parish Churches of Maxton & Mertoun linked with Newtown linked with St Boswells
Reflections for 12th April 2020
Easter Sunday



Readings: Psalm 118: 14 – 24, Matthew 28: 1 - 10

Verse 1 of Psalm 118 says: “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.” and on this Easter Sunday Morning, we shout out verse 24: “This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it”. He is Risen, Hallelujah!

The sunrise on this morning of all mornings brings new life, new light, and new hope into the world.

Today is a day when you should feel like embracing the world. A day when life is brimming with love and hope that you can't avoid hugging everyone you meet. Although this Easter is different – please do not hug anyone physically unless you live with them and only if they let you, and if you are fortunate to be allowed out keep your distance too. But we remember and we celebrate that today is a special day – For Christ is Risen – He is risen indeed!

Prayer

Hallelujah, we cry out Lord our God, for indeed we celebrate that your Son, our Saviour rose this day. He defeated death, and ascended to your right hand, He lives, He lives. In our hearts, and in our presence, he walks with us, to guide us, to give us hope, to give us strength, and your Spirit is with us too, The Holy Trinity, the three in one. As we gather on this special day in our homes, we know Lord our Heavenly Father that we share in all that you give us, the many blessings and above all hope in knowing you love us and care for us. So today we come in our thanks and praise on this Easter Day as we join our voices in the prayer our risen Lord taught his friends, Our Father.... Amen

Reflection

One of my favourite Easter Hymns is “I serve a risen Saviour”. The verses tell us about how he serves in our world, but it is the chorus that I really love singing – “He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today, He walks with me, and talks with me, along life's narrow way. He lives, He lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.” Amazing words; full of cheer, promise and hope.

This morning's reading from Matthew's gospel tells us about the reaction of two women who were close to Jesus – both called Mary, who headed to the tomb, early in the morning after the Sabbath. I wonder which one of them woke first, and I wonder what they spoke about as they walked together. How did they react to the earthquake that they would have felt? Matthew tells us that the guards were frightened at the sight of the Angel, but not the two Mary's they kept going, they were on a mission. And as we read in our reading when they got there what they saw was the Angel who spoke to them. I think too that they would have been puzzled or even confused. In the gospel readings in Mark and Luke, the women come to the tomb with spices for to prepare Jesus' body in the proper way for burial,

as there had not been enough time before the Sabbath to do so. Matthew however does not give us any of this information; he simply implies that they came perhaps because they were mourning and were sad, to sit next to the tomb as a way of being close to him. What the women found and what they did however as Matthew says, brought hope to the disciples and to all who followed. It is this Hope that we have today. In all that is happening around our world today, in all the despair, in our isolation in our fear, hope is to the spirit what bread is to the body. Hope is the daily bread of the Spirit. The time between Good Friday and Easter Sunday was a time where the disciples and those who had been following Jesus, had found that their hope and been shattered. But as the women who came to the tomb on that Easter Sunday lost and hopeless found, hope was renewed, for Jesus was risen. Easter brings hope, and I finish with words from the prophet Isaiah: chapter 40: verse 31”but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

Prayer and Blessing:

Heavenly Lord, during the course of our lives, we experience many losses and disappointments. This brings home to us how fragile at times our hopes can be, how brittle our dreams. Lord, may the splendour of your resurrection scatter the shadows of death, and enable us to walk in radiant hope, towards the kingdom where there are no more shattered hopes or broken dreams. And Lord of all life and power, through the mighty Resurrection of your Son you have overcome the old order of sin and death and have made 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.