

**EASTER DAY****ST PETERS ANGLICAN CHURCH BUNDOORA****Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2026****Fr. Stephen Monsiegnur****Readings:**<sup>1</sup> Acts 10:34-43 / Psalm 118:1-2,14-24 / Colossians 3:1-4 / Matthew 28:1-10**Theme:** *"The Risen Christ Goes Ahead of Us"*

---

**Acts 10:34-43**

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

**Psalm 118:1-2,14-24***A Song of Victory*

<sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever!

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel say,  
"His steadfast love endures forever."

<sup>14</sup> The Lord is my strength and my might;  
he has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:  
"The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;

<sup>16</sup> the right hand of the Lord is exalted;  
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly."

<sup>17</sup> I shall not die, but I shall live  
and recount the deeds of the Lord.

<sup>18</sup> The Lord has punished me severely,  
but he did not give me over to death.

<sup>19</sup> Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the Lord.

<sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the Lord;  
the righteous shall enter through it.

---

<sup>1</sup> Holy Bible, New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. (2021).

<sup>21</sup> I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup> This is the Lord's doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup> This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

### **Colossians 3:1-4**

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup> for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

### **Matthew 28:1-10**

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And 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. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> 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." <sup>8</sup> So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

## **SERMON**

*"Jesus is risen from the dead, alleluia."*

On this Easter morning, we proclaim not an idea or a memory but a living reality: Christ is risen, and his resurrection reshapes everything—our identity, our hope, and our calling. The question before us is profound: How do we know the risen Lord in our lives, where will we see him, and how do we make him known?

Peter's proclamation in Acts 10 grounds us in the heart of the Easter message. He declares that "God raised him on the third day" and that the risen Jesus is the one "ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead"<sup>2</sup>. The resurrection is God's public vindication of Jesus' life and ministry. It confirms that everything Jesus said and did—*his mercy, his justice, his welcome of the outcast*—reveals the very heart of God. To

---

<sup>2</sup> Acts 10:40, 42

know the risen Lord, then, is to recognise him in the same places he walked before: among the hungry, the forgotten, the hopeful, and the hurting.

The psalmist gives voice to Easter joy: “The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation”<sup>3</sup>. This is the day the Lord has made—not simply another sunrise, but the dawn of God’s new creation. The psalm’s movement from distress to deliverance mirrors the journey from Good Friday to Easter morning. We know the risen Christ whenever we experience that movement in our own lives: when despair gives way to courage, when forgiveness breaks open hardened hearts, when communities choose reconciliation over resentment.

Paul’s words to the Colossians take us deeper. “You have been raised with Christ,” he writes; therefore, “seek the things that are above”<sup>4</sup>. Resurrection is not only Christ’s story—it becomes ours. Our lives are now “hidden with Christ in God”<sup>5</sup>. To know the risen Lord is to live from this hidden centre, to let our priorities, relationships, and decisions be shaped by the life that cannot die. Easter calls us to lift our gaze, to imagine our lives not as small, anxious projects but as part of God’s vast, renewing work.

And then Matthew brings us to the garden at dawn. The women come in grief, but the angel announces, “He is not here; for he has been raised”<sup>6</sup>. The risen Christ meets them on the road, saying, “Do not be afraid”<sup>7</sup>. Notice where Jesus sends them: “He is going ahead of you to Galilee”<sup>8</sup>. The risen Lord is always ahead of us—already at work in our neighbourhoods, our workplaces, our families, our communities. We meet him when we dare to follow him into places of need, hope, and transformation.

So, how do we make him known? By living Easter-shaped lives—lives marked by courage, mercy, truth, and joy. Lives that witness to a hope stronger than death. Lives that say, in word and deed, “Christ is risen indeed.”

Let us pray,

Risen Christ, go before us with courage and joy. Open our eyes to recognise you, our hearts to trust you, and our lives to proclaim your hope. Send us forth as witnesses to your resurrection life, now and always. Amen.

---

<sup>3</sup> Ps 118:14

<sup>4</sup> Col 3:1

<sup>5</sup> Col 3:3

<sup>6</sup> Matt 28:6

<sup>7</sup> Matt 28:10

<sup>8</sup> Matt 28:7