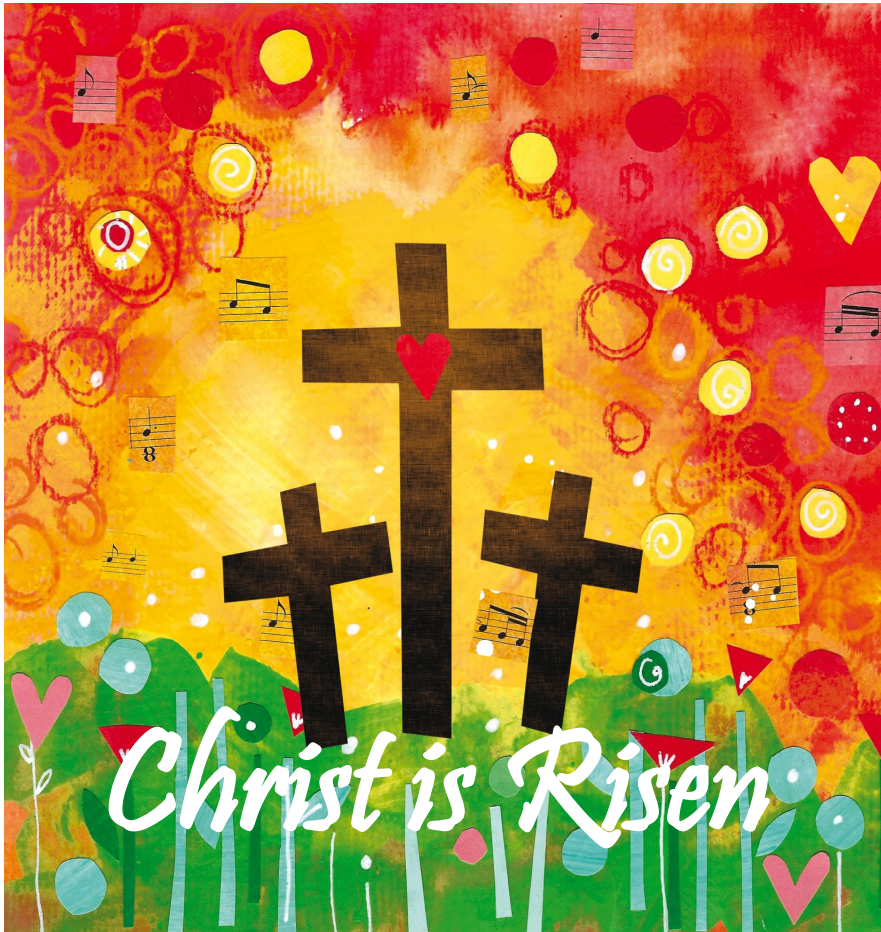


## HAPPY EASTER!

*You are warmly invited to stay for coffee following this Service.  
Please take home a newsletter and this Order of Service.*

*There will be an Easter Egg Hunt in the church grounds  
immediately following this Service.*

*During Easter Week and the Season of Easter you might like to place flowers  
on the large cross outside Church - perhaps in memory of a loved one.*



**THE PARISH EUCHARIST**  
with Easter Ceremonies

**EASTER DAY 2024**

## Welcome to this Service.

Whether this is your first time in St John's, or you are a regular member of the congregation, you are most welcome.

Today we rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the awesome power of God. As we hear his word and proclaim all that God has done, we can be confident that we shall share his victory over death and know eternal life in him.

During our Service today we shall be renewing our commitment to Christ by affirming our baptismal promises. We will glory in the light of Christ which no darkness can quench.

The posture directions in this order of service are optional. Please stand, sit, or kneel as you prefer. We hope you will be able to join in with everything that is in **bold** type, and all the Hymns.

A collection is received during the service. UK tax payers are asked to complete a GiftAid envelope to enhance the value of their giving.

## Outside Cross

During the 50 days of Easter you might like to place flowers on the large cross outside church - perhaps in memory of a loved one.

## Easter Egg Hunt:

If you would like to join the Easter Egg Hunt, please gather near the pulpit, after the service.

## Junior Church:

There is no Junior Church today but the Children's Room is available throughout the service.

*Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England,*  
material from which is included in this service, is © The Archbishops' Council 2000.  
CCL Licence number 74516.

## The Blessing

The God of peace  
who brought about from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
that great shepherd of the sheep,  
through the blood of the eternal covenant,  
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,  
working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

*All remain standing to sing*

## The Hymn

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;  
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;  
let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
for her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its sting:

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;  
life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conquerors through thy deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:

*Maccabaeus 120 NEH*

## The Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

Thanks be to God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

## The Voluntary

*Please remain standing until the choir and ministers have departed.*

*The Junior Choir sings*

### **Sing out an Easter song**

*Sing out an Easter song,  
tell everyone that the Lord is risen.  
Sing out a joyful song,  
tell everybody that he's alive.*

Jesus Christ, Son of God, gave his life upon a cross.  
But the power of death was not enough to hold him down.  
Taken down from public view, he was placed inside a tomb.  
But the power of love broke through and raised him back to life!  
He returned to his friends, showed himself alive again.  
What a day it must have been to have him back again!

*Mark & Helen Johnson  
© Out of the Ark*

*All sit or remain seated for*

### **The Prayer after Communion**

**Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

*All sit for*

### **The Notices**

*All stand to say*

### **The Easter Acclamation**

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

*All sing*

### **The Hallelujah Chorus**

Hallelujah: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth, Hallelujah!  
The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord  
and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.  
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, Hallelujah!

*George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)  
from Messiah*

*The Service begins outside the glass West Doors. Please gather on the Green facing the church.*

## **The Easter Ceremonies**

*The president says:*

Brothers and sisters in Christ,  
this is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life.  
Throughout the world Christians celebrate the awesome power of God.  
As we hear his word and proclaim all that God has done,  
we can be confident that we shall share his victory over death  
and live with him for ever.

### **The New Fire**

*The new fire is lit and blessed:*

Eternal God,  
who made this day to shine with the brightness of your one true light:  
sanctify this new fire and inflame us with new hope;  
purify our minds by this Easter celebration  
and bring us to the feast of eternal light,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Marking the Candle**

*The president marks the Paschal Candle with the letters A and Ω and the figures 2-0-2-4:*

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end,  
Alpha and Omega: all time belongs to him, and all ages;  
to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever.

**Amen.**

*As grains of incense are inserted into the Candle the president says:*

By his holy and glorious wounds  
may Christ our Lord guard us and keep us.

**Amen.**

*The Paschal Candle is lit. The president says:*

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,  
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

**Amen.**

The light of Christ.

♪ **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Easter Proclamation**

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

As we enter church the Light of Christ is shared and candles are lit.  
Please move to seats, then remain standing, as we sing

### The Hymn

Jesus Christ is risen to-day, *Alleluia*, Hymns of praise then let us sing, *Alleluia*,  
our triumphant holy day, *Alleluia*, unto Christ, our heavenly King, *Alleluia*,  
who did once, upon the cross, *Alleluia*, who endured the Cross and grave, *Alleluia*,  
suffer to redeem our loss. *Alleluia*. sinners to redeem and save. *Alleluia*.

*A Musical interlude may be played.*

But the pains that he endured, *Alleluia*,  
our salvation have procured, *Alleluia*;  
now above the sky he's King, *Alleluia*,  
where the angels ever sing. *Alleluia*.

*Easter Hymn 110 NEH*

### A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray:

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord,  
the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
to you be glory and praise for ever.  
From the deep waters of death you brought your people to new birth  
by raising your Son to life in triumph.  
Through him dark death has been destroyed  
and radiant life is everywhere restored.  
As you call us out of darkness into his marvellous light  
may our lives reflect his glory  
and our lips repeat the endless song of heaven:  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

*In praise of the Resurrection, the Junior Choir leads our singing of*

### Gloria in Excelsis

♪ **Gloria!** [*stamp, stamp*] **Gloria!** [*stamp, stamp*] **In excelsis Deo!**  
**Gloria!** [*stamp, stamp*] **Gloria!** [*stamp, stamp*] **In excelsis Deo!**

Lord God, heavenly King, peace you bring to us!  
We worship you, we give you thanks, we sing our song of praise!  
Jesus, Saviour of all, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
You take away our sins, O Lord, have mercy on us all!  
At the Father's right hand, Lord, receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One and you alone are Lord!  
Glory Father and Son, Glory Holy Spirit!  
To you we raise our hands up high! We glorify your name!

### The Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### Agnus Dei

♪ **Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**  
**Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.**  
**Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.** (*repeat all*)

### The Giving of Communion

*All are welcome to come to the Lord's table to receive Communion. If you do not wish to receive Communion please come forward and receive a blessing. Please indicate this by bringing this booklet with you.*

*During Communion the following are sung, seated:*

### The Hymn

Love's redeeming work is done; fought the fight, the battle won; lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er, lo, he sets in blood no more.	Lives again our glorious King; where, O death, is now thy sting? Dying once, he all doth save; where thy victory, O grave?
Vain the stone, the watch, the seal; Christ has burst the gates of hell; death in vain forbids his rise; Christ has opened Paradise.	Soar we now where Christ has led, following our exalted Head; made like him, like him we rise; ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!  
praise to thee by both be given:  
thee we greet triumphant now;  
hail, the Resurrection thou!

*Savannah 113 NEH*

### The Hymn

Give thanks with a grateful heart,  
give thanks to the Holy One,  
give thanks because he's given  
Jesus Christ, his Son. (*Repeat refrain*)  
*And now let the weak say, "I am strong!"  
Let the poor say, "I am rich"  
because of what the Lord has done for us.* (*Repeat All*)

*(Last time): Give thanks.*

*Give Thanks 639 AM*

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:

Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

♪ **Christ has died**  
**Christ is risen**  
**Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,  
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;  
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,  
and looking for his coming in glory,  
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
we bring before you this bread and this cup  
and we thank you for counting us worthy  
to stand in your presence and serve you.  
Send the Holy Spirit on your people, and gather into one in your kingdom  
all who share this one bread and one cup,  
so that we, in the company of all the saints,  
may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

♪ **Amen.**

*All sit or kneel to pray*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour taught us, so we are bold to pray:

**Our Father in heaven,**  
**hallowed be your name,**  
**your kingdom come,**  
**your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**  
**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**  
**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**  
**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours**  
**now and for ever. Amen.**

### **The Collect**

Lord of all life and power,  
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son  
overcame the old order of sin and death to make 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.  
**Amen.**

## **The Liturgy of The Word**

*All sit for*

### **The New Testament Reading**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.  
Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 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. 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; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 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. 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. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

This is the word of the Lord.

*Acts 10: 34–43*

**Thanks be to God.**

*The Gospel book is carried to the middle of the church as the choir sings*

### **Gospel Acclamation**

This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow!  
My Love, the Crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow.  
Had Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,  
our faith had been in vain: but now hath Christ arisen.

*arr. Charles Wood (1866–1926)*

*All stand and turn to face where the Gospel will be proclaimed.*

### **The Gospel**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

I am the first and the last says the Lord, and the living one.

I was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore.

**Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.

### ♪ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.' Then 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; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; 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. 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.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 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.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). 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." ' 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.

*St John 20: 1-18*

### ♪ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*All remain standing. The president leads*

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here.

### ♪ **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

### ♪ **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

### ♪ **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
almighty and eternal Father,  
and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts  
the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion

Jesus Christ, your risen Son,

has conquered the powers of death and hell

and restored in men and women the image of your glory.

He has placed them once more in paradise

and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover,

earth and heaven resound with gladness,

while angels and archangels

and the powers of all creation

sing for ever the hymn of your glory:

### ♪ **Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;

grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,

and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,

took bread and gave you thanks;

he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;

do this in remembrance of me.

## The Liturgy of the Sacrament

*All stand. The president introduces*

### The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said,  
'Peace be with you!' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.

Alleluia! The peace of the risen Christ be always with you  
**and also with you. Alleluia!**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All remain standing to sing*

### The Hymn

Jesus lives! thy terrors now  
can, O Death, no more appal us;  
Jesus lives! by this we know  
thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us.  
*Alleluia!*

Jesus lives! henceforth is death  
but the gate of life immortal;  
this shall calm our trembling breath,  
when we pass its gloomy portal.

Jesus lives! our hearts know well  
nought from us his love shall sever;  
life, nor death, nor powers of hell  
tear us from his keeping ever.

Jesus lives! for us he died;  
then, alone to Jesus living,  
pure in heart may we abide,  
glory to our Saviour giving.

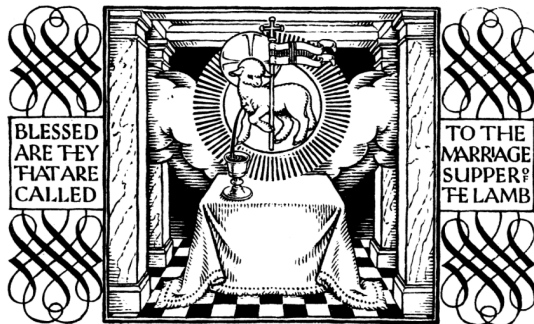
Jesus lives! to him the throne  
over all the world is given;  
may we go where he is gone,  
rest and reign with him in heaven.

*St Albinus 112 NEH*

### Preparation of the Table

Be present, be present, Lord Jesus Christ, our risen high priest;  
make yourself known in the breaking of bread.

**Amen.**



## The Sermon

### The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

*Music is played as the president moves to the Font.*

*Please stand and turn to face the Font. The president says:*

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead,  
we remember that through the paschal mystery  
we have died and been buried with him in baptism.

To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

**I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

**I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

**I repent of them.**

May almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit,  
and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins,  
keep us in eternal life by his grace,  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Amen.**

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

**I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

**I come to Christ.**

May almighty God, who has given us the desire to follow Christ,  
grant unto us the light of his risen presence,  
that strengthened by his grace, we may recommit ourselves  
to living his love with generosity and joy, imagination and courage,  
for the sake of his world, and in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

*Water is poured into the Font and is then blessed during*

### **The Prayer over the Water**

Praise God who made heaven and earth,  
**who keeps his promise for ever.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water  
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.

Through water you led the children of Israel

from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.

In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John  
and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ,  
to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.

In it we are buried with Christ in his death.

By it we share in his resurrection.

Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son,

we baptise into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
they may be cleansed from sin and born again.

Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith  
and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord;  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
be all honour and glory, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

### **The Profession of Faith**

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

I invite you to profess together the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
the source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in all the world?

**I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

*As the following is sung, the president sprinkles the congregation with holy water from the Font to remind us of our new birth into the new life of Christ through baptism.*

### **The 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 [*clap, clap*], shine on me [*clap, clap*].

*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 [*clap, clap*], shine on me [*clap, clap*].

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 [*clap, clap*], shine on me [*clap, clap*].

*Shine Jesus Shine 719 A&M*

*All sit for*

### **The Prayers of Intercession**

*Children are invited to gather at the back of church to carry candles representing our prayers.*

*The prayers may include these responses:*

Jesus, Lord of life,

Lord, in your mercy,

**In your mercy, hear us**

**hear our prayer**

*And at the end:*

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**