

## Cooma Anglican Sunday 5 April 2025 HC 3 + Baptism + First Communion

### Hymn: TIS 370 Christ the Lord is risen today

1 Christ the Lord is risen today: Hallelujah!  
Let the whole creation say: Hallelujah!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high: Hallelujah!  
Sing now, heaven, and earth reply: Hallelujah!

2 Love's redeeming work is done; Hallelujah!  
fought the fight, the battle won; Hallelujah!  
vain the stone, the watch the seal: Hallelujah!  
Christ has burst the gates of hell. Hallelujah!

3 Lives again our glorious king; Hallelujah!  
where, O death, is now your sting? Hallelujah!  
Once he died our souls to save; Hallelujah!  
where your victory, O grave? Hallelujah!

4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Hallelujah!  
following our exalted Head; Hallelujah!  
made like him, like him we rise; Hallelujah!  
ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Hallelujah!

### Easter Acclamation

Jesus is risen! **He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

### Sentence of Scripture

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her. John 20:18

### Prayer of the Day

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, honour and thanksgiving, now and for all eternity. **Amen**

### Baptism Introduction

This morning we welcome Peter Michael Palen and his parents, his sponsors, for Peter's baptism. Edmund James Palen, Peter's brother, will also receive his first communion.

There is one Body and one Spirit; **there is one hope in God's call to us.**

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, **one God and Father of all.**

Baptism is the gift of our Lord Jesus Christ. When he had risen from the dead, he commanded his followers to go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

We have come together today to obey that command.

Baptism with water signifies the cleansing from sin that Jesus' death makes possible, and the new life that God gives us through the Holy Spirit. In baptism, the promises of God are

visibly signed and sealed for us. We are joined to Christ, and made members of his body, the Church universal.

Children are baptised in response to God's all-embracing love. Parents and godparents who have responded to that love come now to bring their children for baptism. Before this congregation they must express their own trust and commitment to the promises of God, and their intention to bring up their children in the faith and practice of the Church. In due time these children should make their own response to God, and be prepared for confirmation.

In confirmation those who have been previously baptised come to confirm their baptismal promises and join with the other candidates to receive the laying on of the bishop's hand with prayer. We pray that those who are baptised and confirmed will be empowered by the Holy Spirit for the ministry and service to which God shall call them.

So we welcome you, Peter Michael Palen, with your parents as sponsors. We give thanks for you, and pray that you may know God's love and faithfulness for ever.

Now, let us affirm our trust in God's mercy, and confess our need of forgiveness.

Lord God, you created this world, and made us in your own image. Forgive us when we turn away from you.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy**

Lord God, through your Son you overcame evil and death. Rescue us from slavery to sin. Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord God, by your Spirit, you restore us to fellowship with you and with one another. Breathe your love and freedom into our lives.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you your sins, and keep you in life eternal. **Amen.**

Peter will be baptised later in the service.

### **The Ministry of the Word**

#### **Jonah 1:17 - 2:6**

<sup>17</sup> Now the LORD provided a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. <sup>1</sup> From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. <sup>2</sup> He said: "In my distress I called to the LORD, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry. <sup>3</sup> You hurled me into the depths, into the very heart of the seas, and the currents swirled about me; all your waves and breakers swept over me.

<sup>4</sup> I said, 'I have been banished from your sight; yet I will look again toward your holy temple.'

<sup>5</sup> The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. <sup>6</sup> To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you, LORD my God, brought my life up from the pit.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

#### **Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24**

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> **Let Israel say: "His love endures forever."**

<sup>3</sup> Let the house of Aaron say: “His love endures forever.”

<sup>4</sup> **Let those who fear the LORD say: “His love endures forever.”**

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

<sup>15</sup> **Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: “The LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!**

<sup>16</sup> The LORD’s right hand is lifted high; the LORD’s right hand has done mighty things!”

<sup>17</sup> **I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.**

<sup>18</sup> The LORD has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death.

<sup>19</sup> **Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter.

<sup>21</sup> **I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup> The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

<sup>23</sup> **the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup> **The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.**

### **1 Corinthians 15.19-26 (NIV)**

<sup>19</sup> If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

<sup>20</sup> But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen

asleep. <sup>21</sup> For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also

through a man. <sup>22</sup> For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. <sup>23</sup> But each in

turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. <sup>24</sup> Then the end

will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all

dominion, authority and power. <sup>25</sup> For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under

his feet. <sup>26</sup> The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

### **John 20.1-20**

<sup>1</sup> Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. <sup>2</sup> So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

<sup>3</sup> So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, <sup>7</sup> as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. <sup>8</sup> Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. <sup>9</sup> (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

<sup>11</sup> Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb <sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

<sup>13</sup> They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” <sup>14</sup>

At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

<sup>17</sup> Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

<sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

This is the gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

## **Sermon - Finding out about the Resurrection**

### **The Presentation**

We welcome Peter who comes to be baptised.

I invite his parents to present him now.

**[Sponsors] We present Peter to be baptised.**

Will you accept the responsibilities placed upon you in bringing Peter for baptism?

**[Sponsors] I will.**

Are you willing to answer on behalf of Peter?

**[Sponsors] I am.**

By your own prayers and example, by your friendship and love, will you encourage Peter in the life and faith of the Christian community?

**[Sponsors] I will, with God's help.**

### **The Decision**

Before God and this congregation, you must affirm that you turn to Christ and reject all that is evil: Do you turn to Christ?

**[Sponsors] I turn to Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins?

**[Sponsors] I repent of my sins.**

Do you reject selfish living, and all that is false and unjust?

**[Sponsors] I reject them all.**

Do you renounce Satan and all evil?

**[Sponsors] I renounce all that is evil.**

Almighty God, deliver you from the powers of darkness, and lead you in the light of Christ to his everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

Will you each, by God's grace, strive to live as a disciple of Christ, loving God with your whole heart, and your neighbour as yourself, until your life's end?

**[Sponsors] I will, with God's help.**

You have heard Peter's sponsors respond to Christ on behalf of Peter.

Will you support them in this calling?

**[Congregation] We will.**

Let us pray

Grant, merciful God, that Peter may be so buried with Christ in baptism that the new nature may be raised up in him. May the fruit of your Spirit grow and flourish in him.

**Amen.**

Give to Peter's sponsors the desire to share with him what you have revealed in your holy gospel. **Amen.**

May she know Christ's forgiving love and continue in the fellowship and service of his Church. May he proclaim, by word and example, the good news of God in Christ. **Amen.**

We thank you for the ministry we have in your world and to each other in the household of faith. Hasten that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in Christ.

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

We give you thanks that at the beginning of creation your Holy Spirit moved upon the waters to bring forth light and life. With water you cleanse and replenish the earth; you nourish and sustain all living things.

**Thanks be to God.**

We give you thanks that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery into freedom, and brought them through the river Jordan to new life in the land of promise.

**Thanks be to God.**

We give you thanks for your Son Jesus Christ: for his baptism by John, for his anointing with the Holy Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

We give you thanks that through the deep waters of death Jesus delivered us from our sins and was raised to new life in triumph.

**Thanks be to God.**

We give you thanks for the grace of the Holy Spirit who forms us in the likeness of Christ and leads us to proclaim your kingdom.

**Thanks be to God.**

And now we give you thanks that you have called Peter to new birth in your Church through the waters of baptism. Pour out your Holy Spirit in blessing and sanctify this water so that those who are baptised in it may be made one with Christ in his death and resurrection. May they die to sin, rise to newness of life, and continue forever in Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we give you praise and honour in the unity of the Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Affirmation of Faith**

I ask everyone here who has faith in Christ to now to affirm as yours the faith of the Church.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in God the Son?

**I believe Jesus Christ, God's only Son, Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

This is the faith of the Church

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

### **The Baptism**

Peter Michael Palen, I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Peter, I sign you with the sign of the cross to show that you are marked as Christ's own forever. Live as a disciple of Christ: fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith.

**Confess Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, look for his coming in glory.**

God has brought you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

**Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father. [Present baptismal candle]**

God has called you into his Church.

**We therefore receive and welcome you as a member with us of the body of Christ, as a child of the one heavenly Father, and as an inheritor of the kingdom of God.**

In baptism, God has made us one in Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Peter's brother, Edmund James Palen, with his parents' support, has expressed a clear understanding of the gospel of Jesus's death and resurrection for his salvation to eternal life, and of his membership of Christ's body the church through faith in the gospel. He now asks to be received into communicant membership of this church. While he is not yet of an age suitable to formally confirm the promises made at his baptism, I have examined his faith and commitment and consider it appropriate that at this time that he publicly demonstrate his faith and membership of this church through participation in the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion. He will be presented to the Bishop for Confirmation when he is of suitable age.

In preparation of Edmund's first communion, I will ask him to personally answer some questions.

Edmund James Palen, Have you turned to Christ?

**[Edmund] I turn to Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins?

**[Edmund] I repent of my sins.**

Do you reject selfishness, and all that is against God's word?

### [Edmund] I reject them all.

Almighty God, deliver you from the powers of darkness, and lead you in the light of Christ to his everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

Will you, by God's grace, strive to live as a disciple of Christ, loving God with your whole heart, and your neighbour as yourself, until your life's end?

### [Edmund] I will, with God's help.

God of wisdom and love, source of all good, by your Holy Spirit strengthen your servant Edmund, and guide him in your way of peace and love. We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever, **Amen**

Edmund, may the Holy Spirit direct and strengthen you as a member of this church, particularly as you obey Christ's commandment to remember him as you share in his spiritual body and blood in the Lord's Supper. May God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless, preserve and strengthen you. **Amen**

### The Prayers of the People

Let us pray for the world and the church

**Response:** Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us 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.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

### Scripture Sentence

We are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. 1 John 3:2-3

### The Confession

Knowing the goodness of God and our failure to respond with love and obedience, let us confess our sins, saying together:

**Heavenly Father, you have loved us with an everlasting love, but we have broken your holy laws and have left undone what we ought to have done.**

**We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.**

**For the sake of your Son who died for us, forgive us, cleanse us and change us.**

**By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. John 3:16

### Greeting of Peace

We are the body of Christ. **His Spirit is with us.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

## Hymn - TIS 361 The day of resurrection!

1 The day of resurrection!  
earth, tell it out abroad;  
the passover of gladness,  
the passover of God:  
from death to life eternal,  
from earth up to the sky,  
our Christ has brought us over  
with hymns of victory.

2 Our hearts be pure from evil,  
that we may see aright  
the Lord in rays eternal  
of resurrection light;  
and listening to his greeting  
may hear, so calm and strong,  
his own 'All hail' and, hearing,  
may raise the victors' song.

3 Now let the heavens be joyful  
and earth her song repeat,  
the whole world shout in triumph  
her living Lord to greet;  
let all things seen and unseen  
their notes of gladness blend,  
for Christ the Lord has risen,  
our joy that has no end.

## Thanksgiving for Offering

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have gifts to share.  
Accept and use our offerings for your glory and for the service of your kingdom.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you      **And also with you**  
Lift up your hearts.      **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.      **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Loving God, we thank you for this world of wonder and delight. You have given it to us to  
care for, so that all your creatures may enjoy its bounty.

**Lord our God, we give you thanks and praise.**

We thank you that when we turned away from you, you sent Jesus to live and work as one  
of us, and bring us back to you. He showed us how to love you and set us free to love and  
serve one another.

**Lord our God, we give you thanks and praise.**

We thank you that on the cross Jesus took away our sin, all that keeps us from each other  
and from you. He frees us from hate and fear, from all that destroys love and trust.

**Lord our God, we give you thanks and praise.**

And so with everyone who believes in you, with all the saints and angels, we rejoice and praise you, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

And now we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine; may we who receive them, as Jesus said, share his body and his blood. On the night he was betrayed, he took bread and gave you thanks. He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take and eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup and gave you thanks. He shared the cup with them and said, "This is my blood poured out so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

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

You have gathered us together to feed on Christ and to remember all he has done for us. Fill us with your Spirit that we may follow Jesus in all we do and say, working for justice and bringing your peace to this world that you have made. Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Holy Communion**

Come let us take this holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ in remembrance that he died for us, and feed on him in our hearts with thanksgiving.

### **After Communion**

Gracious God, thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the body and blood of our saviour Jesus Christ. Thank you for assuring us of your goodness and love, and that we are living members of Christ's body.

**Father, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice through Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.**

### **Notices**

#### **Hymn - TIS 360 Light's reddening dawn gleams through he sky**

1 Light's reddening dawn gleams through he sky;  
heaven thunders forth its victory: alleluia, alleluia!  
the glad earth shouts her triumph high  
and groaning hell makes wild reply:  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 while our Lord Christ, the mighty king,  
despoiling death of all its sting alleluia, alleluia!  
and trampling down the powers of night  
brings forth his ransomed souls to light.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

3 His tomb of late the threefold guard  
of watch and stone and seal had barred; alleluia, alleluia!  
but now in power and triumph high

he comes from death to victory.  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

4 The pains of hell are loosed at last;  
the days of mourning now are past;  
an angel robed in light has said,  
'The Lord has risen from the dead!'  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

5 From every weapon death can yield  
your own redeemed for ever shield: alleluia, alleluia!  
O Lord of all, with us abide  
in this our joyful Eastertide.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Part 2 -

6 That Eastertide with joy was bright,  
the sun shone out with fairer light, Alleluia, alleluia!  
when to their longing eyes restored  
the apostles saw their risen Lord.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

7 He showed to them his hands, his side,  
where yet the glorious wounds abide: alleluia, alleluia!  
the tokens true which made it plain  
their Lord indeed was risen again.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

8 Jesus, the king of gentleness,  
come now yourself our hearts possess, alleluia, alleluia!  
that we may give you all our days  
the tribute of our grateful praise.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

### **Blessing**

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## **Sermon - How did you find out about the resurrection - John 20:1-20**

How did you find out that Jesus rose from the dead? If you are like me, the first time you heard is buried in your early memories. I probably heard it from my parents, or possibly in Sunday School or during a church service, but I have no conscious memory. Our gospel reading today tells us about the first people who knew that Jesus had risen, Mary Magdalene and other women, as well as the apostles Peter and John. It was such a significant event for them, I'm sure they remembered all the details.

Mary Magdalene was one of a group of women in the group with Jesus, and Luke 8 tells us she was delivered of seven spirits. She was actually the first to see the risen Jesus, and it was quite significant that she was a woman. In the first century, women were not considered valid witnesses. The quality of witnesses wasn't important to the early Christians. They were certain that Jesus had indeed risen, and it was only many years later, that people began to doubt.

Mary went to the tomb in darkness with other women. They were scared of the authorities who had just arrested and executed their friend. They saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance, and she ran to Peter and John, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" At this point she didn't know Jesus had risen, she thought it more likely his body had been stolen.

The boys ran to the tomb, and saw that Jesus's body wasn't there, and left Mary outside the tomb crying. She saw two angels, and then she saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus, and thought it was a gardener. It was only when he called her Mary that she realised that it was Jesus, and that he must have risen from the dead.

So Mary Magdalene and the women were scared and unsure of themselves. But she was full of joy that Jesus had been raised, and desperate to share the news with the other disciples. They were trembling and bewildered, they were crying. She desperately wanted Jesus to be alive, wanted to be sure, but couldn't be until Jesus spoke to her that way.

The other disciples and to wait until evening. They were together in a locked room, because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Jesus himself came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" To help

them be absolutely sure, he showed them his hands and side. They were overjoyed when they saw him, and could be sure that he had risen, despite earlier having heard the women's story.

Just like these witnesses, we have all heard about Jesus's resurrection in different ways. When we heard about Jesus's resurrection, some of us were emotional, some were intellectual, and some of us accepted it without much thought because we were young and trusted our parents or Sunday School teachers who told us. Some come to believe following long periods of searching, of questioning, and for some, Jesus's resurrection is the first thing they hear when a friend tells them the gospel. Some hear it in a one on one conversation and for others it is a journey made with another or with a group.

My prayer is that you, like who the reading describes as the other disciple, the one who had reached the tomb first, that you saw and believed when you heard that Jesus was risen from the dead. My prayer is also that, unlike the disciples at that time who did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead, that you do understand not only that Jesus had to rise from the dead, that he did rise from the dead, and is still alive today, so that all who have heard, believed and repented, will be pure in God's sight, saved from death, and will be granted eternal life, walking with God in a perfect new body, just like Adam and Eve did in the garden of Eden, in the new heaven and earth, restored to the perfection it had when it was first created, with perfect harmony between God, mankind and all of his creation, with no more pain or tears.

Take the time after the service to share how you heard that Jesus was risen, how you came to believe in it, and your subsequent faith journey with your friends, or if you do not yet believe, ask others how it happened with them. In any case, share the joy there will be in the risen Christ, and in the eternal life that he has won for us through his death and undeniable resurrection.

Will you share in that joy today?