

## Welcome and notices.

### Call to worship

‘But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.’ (Philippians 3:20-21).

### Song: Sing to God new songs of worship

<https://youtu.be/RW3Eg3cbDqI>

Sing to God new songs of worship  
All His deeds are marvelous;  
He has brought salvation to us  
With His hand and holy arm:  
He has shown to all the nations  
Righteousness and saving power;  
He recalled His truth and mercy  
To His people Israel.

Sing to God new songs of worship:  
Earth has seen His victory;  
Let the lands of earth be joyful  
Praising Him with thankfulness:  
Sound upon the harp His praises,  
Play to Him with melody;  
Let the trumpets sound His triumph,  
Show your joy to God the King!

Sing to God new songs of worship:  
Let the sea now make a noise;  
All on earth and in the waters  
Sound your praises to the Lord:  
Let the hills be joyful together,  
Let the rivers clap their hands,  
For with righteousness and justice  
He will come to judge the earth.

### Opening prayer

God our source and guide and goal: you have made us in your image and set us in a world full of beauty; you dwell in unapproachable light, yet you have come among us, full of grace and truth. You have revealed yourself in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Help us by your Spirit to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Confession

The Bible tells us that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3.23). If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins (1 John 1.8-9). Let us confess our sins and seek God’s forgiveness.

**Almighty God, we confess before you our own sin, the sin of the Church and the sin of the world, in which we share. We have not loved you with our whole being; we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive us when we turn to you; release us from the burdens of the past, and remake us in your image and likeness through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation (2 Cor: 5.17). Through him your sins are forgiven. **Amen. Thanks be to God.**

### Offertory

**Almighty God, out of the fulness of your gifts we bring before you this bread and wine, our gifts and our lives. Blessed be your holy name forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 35 – 50 (NIV)**

**The Resurrection Body**

35 But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?” 36 How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. 38 But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. 39 Not all flesh is the same: People have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. 40 There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendour of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendour of the earthly bodies is another. 41 The sun has one kind of splendour, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendour.

42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 43 it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.

If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 So it is written: “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. 46 The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. 47 The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. 48 As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. 49 And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.

50 I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Reflection: We shall bear the likeness of the man from heaven. (Mike Acaster)**

Taken from 1 Corinthians 15: 35 – 49.

How are you with change! Some people positively welcome change, others don't like change from the routine. Perhaps it depends on if it is a change for the better or for the worse!

Our theme is the resurrection gospel and today we are looking at our resurrection bodies, what will they be like, what's the evidence to support those views. The clue is in the title for today which is that *“We shall bear the likeness of the man from heaven”* (see v 49), what are the implications in that simple verse.

What examples of resurrection bodies do we have to draw on? Well only one really Jesus, he is to be the model, because as Paul says in v 48 and 49, and here I am using the Living Bible as I think the paraphrasing makes the intent clear, *48 Every human being has a body just like Adam's, made of dust, but all who become Christ's will have the same kind of body as his—a body from heaven. 49 Just as each of us now has a body like Adam's, so we shall someday have a body like Christ's.*

Or again in Paul's letter to Philippians he says in chapter 3 v 21 *“The Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.”*

So, if our resurrection body is to be based on Christ's resurrection body what can we learn about his resurrection body and what ours will become.

*It is a physical body.*

Christ was able to eat, to do things, to be touched, he clearly had a physical body. When he met with the disciples on the shores of lake Galilee, he cooked breakfast and ate with them. He had a physical body otherwise he would not have been able to gather firewood, build a fire, cook breakfast. In Luke 24: v 42-42 we read, *"42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate it in their presence."* Whilst he was able to eat his resurrection body does not need to eat in the way ours do. His body nevertheless was real and substantial but not limited to that state.

His body could be touched and felt as we see if we look at Matthew 29:9, *9 Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. (NIV)*

Or in Luke 24: 39, *39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." (NIV)*. His resurrection body had substance it was not just an ethereal body not just an image.

*It is recognisably us.*

Christ was, eventually recognised by his disciples. His resurrection body must have resemble aspects of his old body. He even challenged the doubting Thomas to put his finger in the nail holes and in his side that was pierced by the spear. Jesus wasn't afraid to be touched as we read in John 20: 26 – 27, *"26 Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you."*

*27 Then he focused his attention on Thomas. "Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don't be unbelieving. Believe."*

*28 Thomas said, "My Master! My God!"*

Again, this speaks to Christ being recognisable as the person they knew and having a physical body that could be touched.

*It is a powerful body.*

While our resurrection body may be recognisably us it is also a new body. Indeed, Christ's is a miraculous body, one that has been raised from the dead. Not something earthly bodies can achieve of themselves. There may be some who say but certain plants and animals demonstrate resurrection but, in those cases, they are not really dead they are just in a quiescent state. It was also a powerful body. For example, Jesus could hide his true self from the disciples until he wanted to be revealed to them. It was powerful in that he could enter locked rooms and move from place to place in a way our physical bodies cannot. You'll find that in John 20: 26 Jesus enters a locked room.

*It is a glorious body.*

The resurrection body will be sinless. Sin and death the last enemy that Mark talked about last week have been defeated. We will be a perfect union of body and soul; our resurrection bodies will radiate that perfect state. It will be neither too old nor too young. It won't have ailments aches or pains it will work as its meant to, it will be perfect. Like Christ.

Our resurrection bodies will reflect the glory of our risen Lord, which is why Paul says we will be raised in glory v 43. A promise made way back in Daniel 12: 3, *"3 Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the*

*heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.”*

Or the glimpse of a heavenly body recorded at the transfiguration in Matthew 17:2, *“There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.”*

The definition of glory has elements of brightness and brilliance about it so why wouldn't our bodies shine reflecting God's glory.

*It is a spiritual body.*

It is interesting to note that Paul describes the natural or earthly body first, one that is based on the model of Adam. He then goes on to describe the spiritual body. This body will be one made for living in heaven and on earth. This comes from v 44 in today reading. In verse 50 Paul says, *“flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God”*, that's not to say we will only be spiritual we will have an actual body just as Christ did. One that can but does not need to eat to be sustained. It will be a spiritual body and more than that...

*It is a God given body.*

This is drawn from v 38 in that God gives a body to all creation. Thus, whatever sort of body our resurrection body is it is designed by God to suit the environment he has created for us in heaven or on earth. It won't grow old or wear out or become infirm or get sick, it won't be too young or too old, it will be perfect. These bodies will be heavenly. In Revelation 21 v 4 we read *‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’*

*It is an eternal body.*

While our current bodies are corruptible, they will fail, and we will die at some point. Our heavenly body will be incorruptible, it will not fail or perish, it won't be subject to infirmities or disabilities. We will live with Christ for eternity, in life everlasting as we read in John 6: 47. Or in John 3: 15 we read, *“that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”*

I think no matter how you view change generally this change to a resurrection body will be a wonderful change. One to look forward to but one to work towards now through accepting Christ in our lives and developing our relationship with him. If you haven't already let him into your life that's the place to start.

Just because our resurrection bodies will be so amazing is not to say this life is so bad, we don't need to rush through it to get to a better state, as the Gnostics thought. To get that wonderful resurrection body, we need to lay the foundations in this life by recognising Christ's sacrifice, the gift of salvation from the Father and accepting Christ as our personal saviour and following his teachings.

In our resurrection bodies, it will still be recognisably us, changed, improved, transformed. The old body dies so that the new can be raised up which is why Paul talks of seeds planted as dying so that a new crop recognisably the same plant only different can come into being.

I'll close with an illustration and an example. The illustration first taken from when Jan and I lived in Michigan about someone who was a businessman, not too successful but well respected as being fair and honest, a solid, respected pillar of the community whose old pick-up truck was stolen from a car park lot. Sometime later an anonymous caller said his

truck was back in the parking lot from which it had been stolen. When he got there, he almost did not recognise his battered old truck. The dings had been knocked out and the truck repainted. Inside he found a list of repairs and upgrades that had been done to the old truck. It was clearly identifiable as his old truck, but it also looked different to the old truck it was better than it had been, more powerful, shinier, in better condition all round. Recognisably the same truck and yet different. And that's exactly what our resurrection bodies will be like too. The same only different – only better!

And the example, there was a young lad in our old church in Stafford who had a life limiting condition (I can't recall exactly what), he was often unwell, had numerous emergency trips to the hospital. As he was dying, he said to his parents not to worry he would soon be with his saviour and he would have a new body, one that worked, and they would all be reunited one day. Even at the end he had calmness and the compassion to comfort his parents. He had the strength of faith to rely on the resurrection promise of his Lord and saviour. He passionately believed in re-birth and looked forward to a new working body. I pray that we all have that same compassion, certainty, and strength of faith when our time comes. **Amen**

### Prayers of Intercession

These are responsive prayers.

Resurrected Lord

**Hear us and save us**

### Lord prayer

**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.**

### Song: Here is love

<https://youtu.be/FX6u6ULldmk>

Here is love vast as the ocean,  
Loving kindness as the flood,  
When the Prince of life, our ransom  
Shed for us His precious blood.  
Who His love will not remember?  
Who can cease to sing His praise?  
He can never be forgotten  
Throughout heaven's eternal days.

On the Mount of Crucifixion  
fountains opened deep and wide  
Through the floodgates of God's mercy  
flowed a vast and gracious tide  
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,  
poured incessant from above,  
And heaven's peace and perfect justice  
kissed a guilty world in love.

Here is love that conquered evil  
Christ, the firstborn from the grave  
Death has failed to be found equal  
To the life of him who saves  
In the valley of our darkness  
Dawned his everlasting light  
Perfect love in glorious radiance  
Has repelled death's hellish night.

That same love beyond all measure  
Mocked and slain by hateful men

Lives and reigns in resurrection  
And can never die again  
Here is love for all the ages  
Radiant sun of heav'n he stands  
Calling home his Father's children  
Holding forth his wounded hands

Here is love, vast as the heavens  
Countless as the stars above  
Are the souls that he has ransomed  
Precious daughters, treasured sons,  
We are called to feast forever  
On a love beyond our time  
Glorious Father, Son and Spirit  
Now with man are intertwined.

### The Peace

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,  
since as members of one body you were  
called to peace (Col. 3:15).

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

### Holy Communion

As we gather at this table, we remember that  
Jesus was born of Mary; he lived our common  
life on earth; he suffered and died for us; on  
the third day God raised him from the dead;  
and he is always present with us through the  
Holy Spirit.

In his presence, and in the company of all the  
people of God, past, present, and to come, we  
celebrate the Supper of the Lord. 'Listen! I am  
standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my  
voice and open the door, I will come in to you  
and eat with you, and you with me.'  
(Revelation 3: 20)

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.**

We give thanks to you, O God, that from the  
earth you cause the grain to come for the  
making of bread and that you cause the vine  
to yield fruit. We praise you for Christ, the  
bread of life and true vine, whose body was  
given for us, and whose blood was poured out  
for us.

By your Holy Spirit sanctify us and these your  
gifts of bread and wine, that the bread which  
we break may be the communion of the body  
of Christ, and the cup which we bless may be  
the communion of the blood of Christ. As we  
share the sufferings of Christ, so give us grace  
to know the power of his resurrection, that  
we may be made one and evermore abide in  
him, to your praise and glory; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord.

When Jesus had given thanks he broke the  
bread and said: 'Take, eat: this is my body  
which is for you. Do this in remembrance of  
me.' When Jesus had given thanks, he gave  
the cup to his disciples and said: 'Drink this,  
all of you; for 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.' **Amen.**

The Body of Christ broken for you.  
The Blood of Christ shed for you.



### Prayer after communion

**God of a love stronger than death, you have given us new birth into a living hope through the gift of your Son. God with us, like a mother you have fed us with yourself & strengthened us for the journey ahead. Now may the love which bids us welcome at this table gather all your children into one, in your eternal presence. Amen.**

### Song: Name of all majesty

<https://youtu.be/OUeNwAVMHEA>

Name of all majesty,  
Fathomless mystery,  
King of the ages  
By angels adored;  
Power and authority,  
Splendour and dignity,  
Bow to His mastery –  
Jesus is Lord!

Child of our destiny,  
God from eternity,  
Love of the Father  
On sinners outpoured;  
See now what God has done,  
Sending His only Son,  
Christ the beloved One –  
Jesus is Lord!

Saviour of Calvary,  
Costliest victory,  
Darkness defeated  
And Eden restored;  
Born as a man to die,  
Nailed to a cross on high,  
Cold in the grave to lie –  
Jesus is Lord!

Source of all sovereignty,  
Light, immortality,  
Life everlasting  
And heaven assured;  
So with the ransomed, we  
Praise Him eternally,  
Christ in His majesty –  
Jesus is Lord!

### Closing prayer and blessing

Lord, we give ourselves to you; and we ask that our daily living may be part of the life of your kingdom, and that our love may be your love reaching out into the life of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you and all whom you love, now and for evermore. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**