

A HOME LITURGY FOR EASTER DAY (12 APRIL 2020)



Hymn: Jesus Christ is risen today

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!

But the pain which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation hath procured, Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love, Alleluia!
Praise Him, all you heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia

As you prepare an area for today's service, you may wish to create a prayer space with a cross, a candle to be lit, and some flowers and greenery.

Christ is risen, Alleluia! We come this morning to hear and celebrate the Resurrection story. Our story, the story of Jesus who suffered and who died, but is now risen. We rejoice because this life is shared with all of us – we have been raised with Christ.

Opening Prayer:

Loving God,
We celebrate your saving work
through our ancestors in faith,
the Resurrection of your Son,

and in our own lives today.
Give us the courage to confront the darkness of this world,
knowing that the Risen Christ brings light and life to all.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

When our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life,
the Church invites believers throughout the world
to come together in celebration and prayer.
This is the Passover of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.
We remember his death and celebrate resurrection
confident that we shall share his victory
and live with him for ever in God.

Light the candle

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning - he who
gives his light to all creation,
and lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Christ is risen. Alleluia.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

God our creator,
the Rock of our salvation,
has given us new birth by water and the Spirit,
and forgiven our sins
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
May God keep us faithful to our calling
now and for ever. **Amen.**

Let us pray
Brightness of God's glory,
whom death could not conquer nor the tomb imprison:
as you have shared our frailty in human flesh,
help us to share your immortality in the Spirit;
let no shadow of the grave terrify us,
and no fear of darkness turn our hearts from you.
Reveal yourself to us this day and all our days,
as the First and the Last, the Living One,
our immortal Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

The Readings

Acts 10.34-43

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ 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. ³⁹ 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; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ 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. ⁴² 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. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

Psalm 118.1-2, 118.14-24

¹ O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good:
his mercy endures for ever.
² Let Israel now proclaim:
that his mercy endures for ever.
¹⁴ The Lord is my strength and my song:
and has become my salvation.
¹⁵ The sounds of joy and deliverance:
are in the tents of the righteous.
¹⁶ The right hand of the Lord does mighty things:
the right hand of the Lord raises up.
¹⁷ I shall not die but live:
and proclaim the works of the Lord.
¹⁸ The Lord has disciplined me hard:
but he has not given me over to death.
¹⁹ Open me the gates of righteousness:
and I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.
²⁰ This is the gate of the Lord:
the righteous shall enter it.
²¹ I will praise you, for you answered me:
and have become my salvation.
²² The stone that the builders rejected:
has become the head of the corner.
²³ This is the Lord's doing:
and it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the Lord has made:
let us rejoice and be glad in it

Colossians 3.1-4

¹ So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Matthew 28.1-10

¹ After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² 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. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ 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.' ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

Sermon (Please see end of booklet)

Intercessory prayers

Rejoicing in the mighty acts of God who has delivered his people from sin and death through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, let us lift our voice and pray:

For a world filled with violence and hostility, that the joy of resurrection may be made known. We pray for love in response to hatred, for trust in place of suspicion, and for reconciliation where there are tensions and conflict. We pray especially for all the places of the world affected by Coronavirus.

For the church as we celebrate Christ's resurrection. We pray for all Christian communities that they may experience a renewed spirit of commitment and faith. Wherever there is religious persecution, darkness or despair, may the golden dawn of the resurrection transform all things.

For our local communities – our schools, businesses and homes. May the light of Easter illumine the shadows of our relationships so that the love which conquers death may bind us together in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding.

For those who are ill, those who are lost, those who are weary or sick in body or mind. We pray for those who are frightened or who are without faith to sustain them. We pray for all whose lives are touched by the Coronavirus pandemic. Give your Easter peace to all who are in need that they may find life and wholeness in your saving strength.

We remember those who have died, those whose faith sustained them in life. May we too rediscover the hope which makes us fully alive and attuned to the power of your risen Son.

Lord of life fill us with your love

Faithful God,
you have promised to hear the prayers
of all who ask in Jesus' name.
In your mercy, accept our prayers.
Give us what we have asked in faith,
according to your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour taught us we are confident 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 forever.
Amen.**

Concluding Prayer:

Eternal God and Father,
by whose power we are created,
and by whose love we are redeemed:
Guide and strengthen us by your Spirit,
that we may give ourselves to your service,
and live this day in love to one another
and to you;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God, who redeemed us through the resurrection of Christ, and has brought us out of slavery into everlasting freedom, give us joy and peace in faith and bring us to our eternal inheritance. **Amen**

Hymn: Thine be the glory

Thine be the glory,
Risen, conqu'ring 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.
Thine be the glory.....

No more we doubt Thee,
Glorious Prince of life;
Life is naught 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.
Thine is the glory.