

Praise & Worship
Celebrating
EASTER



Alleluia Christ has risen!

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 forever. **Amen**

Now is Christ risen, we are raised with him, our Morning Star who
dawns and never sets. May Christ Jesus our Saviour find us all united
in one faith, one hope, one Lord.

Creator, in the joy of Easter accept our sacrifice of thanks and praise.
For you alone are God, living and true: all glory, praise & power
belong to you with Jesus Christ who conquered death & with the
Spirit blest for evermore. Amen

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lives by our own strength,
and not by the power of the resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us. Lord hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing. In your mercy, forgive us. Lord hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven. In your mercy, forgive us. Lord hear us and help us.

The Collect

God of glory, by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Readings

Acts 10. 34-43

Psalms 118. 1-2, 14-24

John 20. 1-18

Some questions to ponder

What does the Easter story mean to you?

In these times, how do we, as Christians live out our faith?

How can we be Christ's hands and feet in the world?

Affirmation of Faith

I believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist.

I believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again.

I believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world

This is the faith of the Church. This is our faith.

I answer the call of God, my Creator. I trust in Christ Jesus as my Saviour. I seek new life from the Holy Spirit.

The Prayers

A time of private prayer concluding with The Lord's Prayer

Mary's Story

I saw angels this morning, in the garden.

Angels, asking me why I was crying – do angels understand sadness?

Do angels know what its like to lose someone you've loved, to not know where they've gone?

Through my tears, I saw a man standing there in the distance. I thought he was the gardener. I asked him if he's moved the body of Jesus and he spoke to me by name. He called me by name: 'Mary'. I turned to him...I answered him: 'Teacher'. Through the ache of my tears, I felt wonder and joy. I wanted that moment to last for ever, but he gave me a job to do. He sent me to tell the disciples what was happening.

I saw angels this morning...angels and Jesus.

Now I know something of their glory and joy.

A Reflection

Ever had a hard time finding Jesus, maybe these are good places to start.

Lord Jesus, we are always looking for you in the wrong places; among the good and respectable people, when we should know you are to be found with the poor and disreputable and outcast.

Lord Jesus, we are always looking for you in the wrong places, at a safe distance, but you come so close to us, nearer to us than breathing.

We look for you in churchy things, but we are more likely to find you among pots and pans or around kitchen tables...

We look for you in buildings, but you walked about in crowded streets and shorelines and mountains...

Even now, even at Easter, still we insist on trying to find you among the tombstones. But the angel said: 'why do you look for him among the dead? He is not here!'

Lord Jesus, help us to lay down the grave clothes, roll away the stone and come out into life.

We will find you among the living, ahead of us. Now there is nowhere we can go, no darkness we can enter, which is not God-encompassed.

The story and reflections is taken from Fire & Bread by Ruth Burgess

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Conclusion

The risen Christ came and stood among his
Disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Then they were glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

HAPPY EASTER!