

## Service of the Word for Easter Sunday 2020

*You may like to use this service in your garden, if you have one.*



### **Welcoming the Easter Candle**

*Words of welcome*

*The Easter Candle is blessed*



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.**

*The Candle is marked with studs*

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

*The Candle is lit*

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

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ was raised gloriously from the dead, crushing the power of sin and destroying the sting of death. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the mighty power of God as Christ calls us out of darkness to share in his marvellous light. May we, and all Christ's people, shine as lights in the world to the glory of God the Father.

The light of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## ***Prayers at the Easter Garden***

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The angel said to the women, `Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. *Matt. 28. 5,6*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

To you be glory now and for ever.

In your great mercy you have given us a new birth  
into a living hope

through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

By your blessing, may we who have prepared this garden in celebration of his victory  
be strengthened in faith,

know the power of his presence,

and rejoice in the hope of eternal glory.

Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

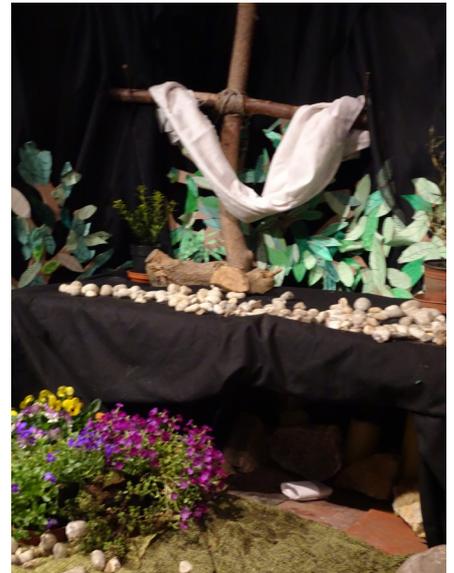
Risen Lord Jesus,  
as Mary Magdalen met you in the garden  
on the morning of your resurrection,  
so may we meet you today and every day:  
speak to us as you spoke to her;  
reveal yourself as the living Lord;  
renew our hope and kindle our joy;  
and send us to share the good news with others.

**Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*At home , why not light a candle each, let off party poppers and make a loud noise  
with whatever you can bang or shake!*



## ***Gloria in Excelsis***

*Please join in the Peruvian Gloria*

Glory to God , glory to God, glory to the Father

To God be glory for ever

Alleluia! Amen. **Alleluia! Amen! Alleluia! Amen.**

Glory to God , glory to God, Son of the Father

Glory to God , glory to God, glory to the Spirit

### ***Confession***

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.  
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil  
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name.  
Amen.**

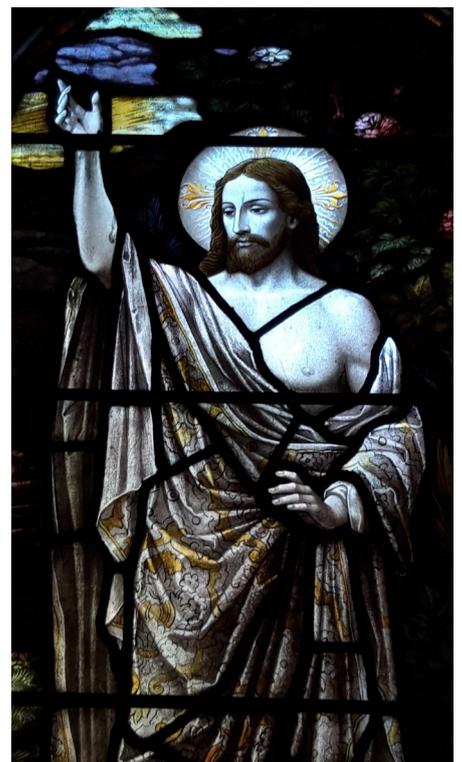
Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### ***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.**

**Hymn 147** Jesus Christ is risen today

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uGfu4XGmFw>



## ***The Liturgy of the Word***

First Reading Acts 10.34-43

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.'

**Hymn 136** Alleluia, give thanks

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2U1MuOCHon4>

Gospel Reading

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. **Alleluia.**

He has defeated the powers of death. **Alleluia.**

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing. **Alleluia.**

He has the words of eternal life. **Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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



## **Reflection**

### ***The Renewal of Baptismal Vows***

My brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,  
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 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.**

Almighty God,  
we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith  
with all who have been baptized into your name.  
Keep us faithful to our baptism,  
and so make us ready for that day  
when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

### ***Intercessions, concluding with The Lord's Prayer***

Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.**



**Hymn 160** Thine be the glory

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GaoV5w2Qfag>

***The Blessing***

God the Father,  
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,  
strengthen you to walk with him in his risen life,  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit  
be with you and remain with you always.

**Amen**

With the risen life of Christ within you,  
stay in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

