

Easter Day 2020



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*...then bursting forth on glorious day
up from the grave he rose again...*

Alleluia, Christ is risen
He is risen indeed.

Sing O what a morning
<https://youtu.be/6xM-fpXayUg>

Opening Prayers

O risen Lord, who in your first appearance to Mary was mistaken for
the gardener:

*be present with us and show yourself to us in all our mistakes and
uncertainties.*

O risen Lord, who appeared to your dejected disciples on the road
to Emmaus, and opened to them the scriptures, so that their hearts
burned within them:

be present with us and set our hearts on fire with love for you.

O risen Lord, who gave to your distraught followers the assurance
of healing and forgiveness:

*be present with us and bring together all Christians in peace and
harmony.*

O risen Lord, who mindful of the needs of your disciples, prepared a
meal by the sea of Galilee:

*be present with us and make yourself known to us in all acts of
hospitality and sharing.*

O risen Lord, who in your final appearance on the Mount of
Olives, lifted hands of blessing on all people:

be present with us and fill us with your love for all people.

Amen
*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come;
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
and 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 forever,
Amen.*

First Reading: Luke Chapter 24:1-12 Good News Translation
(GNT)

The Resurrection

24Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, carrying the spices they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the entrance to the tomb, ³so they went in; but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴They stood there puzzled about this, when suddenly two men in bright shining clothes stood by them. ⁵Full of fear, the women bowed down to the ground, as the men said to them, "Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? ⁶He is not here; he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was in Galilee: ⁷'The Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and three days later rise to life.'"

⁸Then the women remembered his words, ⁹returned from the tomb, and told all these things to the eleven disciples and all the rest. ¹⁰The women were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James; they and the other women with them told these things to the apostles. ¹¹But the apostles thought that what the women said was nonsense, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; he bent down and saw the grave

cloths but nothing else. Then he went back home amazed at what had happened.^[a]

Read the passage again slowly and consider the following:

*How were the women feeling as they walked towards the tomb?
What would they be thinking when the tomb was empty?
They had been with Jesus, why did they not remember what He had said?
"He is not here; He has been raised" – what must it have felt like to hear these words?
What do these words mean to you today?*

Sing Beautiful Saviour

<https://youtu.be/RSm6fdZHI5Q>

Second reading Luke 24:13-34

The Walk to Emmaus

¹³On that same day two of Jesus' followers were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and they were talking to each other about all the things that had happened. ¹⁵As they talked and discussed, Jesus himself drew near and walked along with them; ¹⁶they saw him, but somehow did not recognize him. ¹⁷Jesus said to them, "What are you talking about to each other, as you walk along?"

They stood still, with sad faces. ¹⁸One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who doesn't know the things that have been happening there these last few days?"

¹⁹"What things?" he asked.

"The things that happened to Jesus of Nazareth," they answered. "This man was a prophet and was considered by God and by all the people to be powerful in everything he said and did. ²⁰Our chief priests and rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and he was crucified. ²¹And we had hoped that he would be the one who was going to set Israel free! Besides all that, this is now the third day since it happened. ²²Some of the women of our group surprised us; they went at dawn to the tomb, ²³but could not find his body. They came back saying they had seen a vision of angels who told them that he is alive. ²⁴Some of our group went to the

tomb and found it exactly as the women had said, but they did not see him."

²⁵Then Jesus said to them, "How foolish you are, how slow you are to believe everything the prophets said! ²⁶Was it not necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and then to enter his glory?" ²⁷And Jesus explained to them what was said about himself in all the Scriptures, beginning with the books of Moses and the writings of all the prophets.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther; ²⁹but they held him back, saying, "Stay with us; the day is almost over and it is getting dark." So, he went in to stay with them. ³⁰He sat down to eat with them, took the bread, and said the blessing; then he broke the bread and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Wasn't it like a fire burning in us when he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?"

³³They got up at once and went back to Jerusalem, where they found the eleven disciples gathered together with the others ³⁴and saying, "The Lord is risen indeed! He has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵The two then explained to them what had happened on the road, and how they had recognized the Lord when he broke the bread.

Read the passage again, perhaps imagine that you are with the 2 men and consider the following:

Can you imagine what you/they would have been saying to one another about the events that had happened?

They/you did not recognise Jesus even when He quoted the scriptures, Why?

Jesus was revealed to them in the breaking of bread, something we would normally do on Easter Day. What does Communion mean to you?

As we are unable to meet please use the next hymn as our Communion Service. Sing along or just reflect on the words and may it help us to know that though we are apart we are still together, Gods loving family.

Sing Behold the Lamb

<https://youtu.be/ACHPwx7EGQA>

Prayers of intercession:

Jesus has risen from the dead! Alleluia!
By his cross he has defeated the power of evil;
and through his resurrection we are set free. Alleluia!

Lord, without your resurrection
our faith would be empty
and without hope.
But you are alive,
and we rejoice and dance and wonder
in the mystery of your presence among us.

We pray for your church:
free us from the shackles of guilt and legalism,
and help us to proclaim the message of healing and forgiveness
for which you died.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Lord, your friends and disciples,
must have been utterly bereft at your death,
with all their hope and purpose broken.

So, we pray now
for those who are in darkness and pain today:
those facing the disappointment of broken hopes;
lives damaged by broken relationships and broken trust;
people with broken hearts;
bodies broken by torture;
and spirits broken by injustice;

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Risen Lord, surround with your presence and peace those who are
ill,
especially thinking of those with coronavirus, their families and
friends
and the hospital staff who are caring for so many in this difficult
time.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Risen Lord, we pray for your blessing on our families, our friends
and our congregation as we learn to live and worship a different
way.

*Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.
Amen.*

Sing in Christ Alone

<https://youtu.be/ouGuG97I2RY>

Blessing

May the God who shakes heaven and earth,
whom death could not contain,
who lives to disturb and heal us,
bless you with power to go forth
And proclaim the gospel. Amen.

May the peace of the Lord be with you, always.

https://youtu.be/7dTmdu_8yMM