

Christ Church, Ipswich

Sunday 20th April 2025

Easter Sunday All-age Worship

Happy Easter! I hope you are well. It is wonderful to be able to share with you on this most special of days within the Christian year and as we worship together today, I pray that you will know the renewing, hope-filled presence of God as we celebrate and reflect on the resurrection of Jesus.

Let us join together in praising God this Easter Sunday:

Call to worship

Christ is risen!

Alleluia!

The Lord is risen!

He is risen indeed!

The Lord Jesus Christ is risen indeed!

And so we worship together this day
remembering once more the Good News of Easter,
rejoicing once more in the victory of Jesus
over sin and evil, darkness and death,
celebrating once more the triumphant message of the Resurrection:

New hope! New joy! New life!

The Lord is risen!

He is risen indeed!

A gathering prayer

Risen Lord,
in the stillness and wonder of this moment,
we hardly dare to believe that you are indeed alive!
Yet our hearts are filling with faith, hope and love,
and our souls are beginning to believe!
Wonderful Lord, we fall on our knees with thanksgiving. **Amen.**

A prayer of approach

God of resurrection, ever renewing, ever reviving,
we adore you for your life-giving presence.
Son of Man, newly risen, sorrow made joy,
we adore you for your sacrificial living and dying.
Holy Spirit, breezing among us this Easter morn,
we adore you for breathing new life into us.
Amen.

R&S 250**The strife is o'er, the battle done**

1 The strife is o'er, the battle done;
 now is the Victor's triumph won;
 O let the song of praise be sung:
Alleluia!

2 Death's mightiest powers have done their
 worst,
 but Christ their legions has dispersed;
 let shouts of praise and joy outburst:
Alleluia!

3 On the third day he rose again
 glorious in majesty to reign;
 O let us swell the joyful strain:
Alleluia!

4 He broke the ancient chains of hell;
 the bars from heaven's high portals fell;
 let hymns of praise his triumph tell:
Alleluia!

5 Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee,
 from death's dread sting thy servants free,
 that we may live, and sing to thee:
Alleluia!

Latin, 17th cent.
 tr. Francis Pott (1832-1909) altd.*

A prayer of adoration

Loving God,
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
 We praise you this morning for all that you are, and all that you have done.
 We thank you for coming to us in Jesus Christ,
 and for Jesus's willingness to journey to the Cross for us.
 We cannot fully comprehend your suffering or sacrifice,
 but we give thanks for amazing grace, and we celebrate his glorious resurrection.
 Through Jesus, we can be in no doubt of your love for us.
 Through Jesus, we receive your forgiveness and mercy.
 Through Jesus, there is victory over sin and death.
 Through Jesus, we are adopted into your family.
 Through Jesus, we can be filled with your transforming Spirit.
 Through Jesus, there is hope. Amen.

A prayer of confession

Among all the emotion and celebration,
 we come before you now,
 quietly trusting our lives to you.
 When we don't fully understand what
 is happening,
 when we hesitate to act:
 lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray.
Bless us with your forgiveness.
 When we don't trust you, O God,
 when fear overtakes us.

When we take refuge in the tomb,
 and don't want to come out.
 Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray.
Bless us with your forgiveness.

When we don't take in
 the true importance of your resurrection.
 When we don't live as an Easter people,
 remembering that we have a faith to proclaim.
 Lighten our darkness, Lord, we pray.
Bless us with your forgiveness. Amen.

Assurance of forgiveness

Risen Christ, wipe away our fears and our tears. Cleanse us, renew us, refresh us, release us from all that we have confessed and let us walk with you our resurrection God, knowing that our sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

A prayer of praise

Lord God, we thank you for today's experience of your amazing resurrection. We want to take our response into our everyday. We have to get out there, and live. In the fear, in the joy, in the rollercoaster moments, as well as when the path runs smoothly – wherever you call us, whatever you ask us to do, we trust you, Lord. You are always with us – thanks be to God. **Amen.**

Family Time The super cool story of Jesus - Video

Easter Egg Hunt in the sanctuary for our children

All-age Prayer

Heavenly Father,
 thank you for the fun and happiness of Easter.
 Thank you for food and treats.
 Thank you for laughter and friendship.
 Thank you for eggs and excitement.
 Thank, above all, that Jesus is alive,
 and that we can celebrate that today! Amen.

Action Song As the sun rises on a new day

*As the sun rises on a new day,
 May our hearts say, 'God is good to us.'*
*As the sun rises on a new day,
 May our songs say, 'You are faithful God.'*

*As the sun rises on a new day,
 May our hearts say, 'God is good to us.'*
*As the sun rises on a new day,
 May our songs say, 'We are grateful Lord.'*

1 Your loving kindness is new every morning,
 Through every season and change.
 Nothing can hinder the love you have for me,
 Nothing will stop me from singing your praise!
As the sun rises on a new day...

2 Vaster than oceans is your love towards me,
 More than I'll ever contain.
 Goodness and mercy in every new morning,
 Love never-ending for all of my days.
As the sun rises on a new day...

3 All of creation will tell of your glory,
 Your love forever proclaimed.
 Songs rising up, we'll awaken the morning,
 Voices together declaring your praise!
As the sun rises on a new day...

Words and Music by Mark and Helen Johnson
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Easter Day Old Testament Reading: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

(OT page 519)

A Song of Victory

¹ O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
 his steadfast love endures for ever!
² Let Israel say,
 'His steadfast love endures for ever.'

¹⁴ The Lord is my strength and my might;
 he has become my salvation.
¹⁵ There are glad songs of victory in the tents of
 the righteous:
 'The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;
¹⁶ the right hand of the Lord is exalted;
 the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.'

¹⁷ I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the Lord.

¹⁸ The Lord has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.

²⁰ This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹ I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.

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

Choir Easter Anthem

Malawi Alleluia

(Bill Tamblyn)

Easter Day Gospel Reading:

Luke 24:1-12

(NT page 83)

The Resurrection of Jesus

24 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' ⁸ Then they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

BPW 251 I know that my Redeemer lives!

1 I know that my Redeemer lives!
What joy the blest assurance gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my everlasting Head!

2 He lives, to bless me with his love;
He lives, to plead for me above;
He lives, my hungry soul to feed;
He lives, to help in time of need.

3 He lives, and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives, my mansion to prepare;
He lives, to lead me safely there.

4 He lives, all glory to his name;
He lives, my Saviour, still the same;
What joy the blest assurance gives!
I know that my Redeemer lives!

Samuel Medley (1738-99)

Reflection

A moment for reflection as Stephen plays some music

BPW 256 Low in the grave he lay

1 Low in the grave he lay,
Jesus, my Saviour;
waiting the coming day,
Jesus, my Lord.

*Up from the grave he arose,
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
he arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives for ever with his saints to reign:
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

2 Vainly they watch his bed,
Jesus, my Saviour;
vainly they seal the dead,
Jesus, my Lord.

3 Death cannot keep his prey,
Jesus, my Saviour,
he tore the bars away,
Jesus, my Lord.

Robert Lowry (1826-99)

Our prayers of intercession

This Easter, we again celebrate that you, our God, sent your Son to save us. We celebrate that, despite all his suffering, he defeated death and took all the wrong of the world to the cross with him. We celebrate that the darkness of the sky when Jesus cried 'It is finished' was replaced by the light of hope. We celebrate that the tomb was empty, and with those followers who met the resurrected Christ, we celebrate that he lives again. Christ has been raised from the dead:

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

This Easter, we think of how much the gift of life and salvation we are offered means to us. We think of the joy and hope that you, our God offer us, and the purpose you give to our lives. We think of your Son Jesus who faced pain, torture and humiliation, and did it all for us. We think of how we can follow his example of care, love and service to others, and obey your call on our lives. We think of our calling to bring change and share his love at home, at school, at work, where we volunteer or wherever we are.

Christ has been raised from the dead:

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

This Easter, we look around the world at the pain and suffering that continues. We look to you, our God, to bring light into darkness and replace despair with hope. We look for talks and desires for ceasefires and ultimately for peace in Gaza, Ukraine and Sudan. We look for leaders to think of humanity and to value every life as equal and precious. We look for comfort for those who have lost homes, belongings, family, friends and hope as a result of war and conflict.

Christ has been raised from the dead:

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

This Easter, we pray for all those who are suffering in our own nation. We pray for those who have been injured in incidents and accidents on our roads and in our communities, and whose holidays have turned into times of sadness. We pray for those who face financial challenges and the fear of losing their jobs. We pray for those held in the grip of addiction and substance abuse, and those who are sliding back into reliance on drugs and alcohol. We pray for those facing tough decisions and all who are ill and in pain. We ask that you speak into peoples' lives and show them ways to cope and to thrive.

Christ has been raised from the dead:

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

This Easter, we reflect on the need for quiet and peace in our busy lives. We reflect on all that we do in our churches to serve our communities, and the need for rest. As we spend a few moments in peace and silence now, help us to reflect personally on all your goodness to us, and the many blessings we have.....

Help us to reflect on the times and moments when we have felt you close to us, and to seek those moments again. God, give us peace in our communities, churches, families, and lives.

Christ has been raised from the dead:

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

The Lord's Prayer

R&S 247 Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son

1 Thine be the glory, risen, conquering 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.*

2 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:

3 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:

Edmund Budry (1854-1932) Tr. R. Birch Hoyle (1875-1939)

A sending out prayer

Easter joy is to be shared,
to be grown, to be treasured.
As we go out into the world and a new week,
may that joy be our strength, our inspiration,
and our refuge in trouble. **Amen**

The Blessing

May the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be upon us and all those we love,
this day and always, Amen.

The Grace

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with us all evermore. Amen.**