

## A service near Dawn on Easter Sunday 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,  
on this most holy morning,  
when our Lord Jesus Christ passed  
from death to life,  
the Church invites her children throughout  
the world to come together in prayer.  
This is the Passover of the Lord.  
We remember his death and resurrection  
by hearing his word and celebrating his mysteries,  
confident that we shall share his victory over death  
and live with him for ever in God.



Eternal God,  
who made this most holy day  
to shine with the brightness  
of your one true light:  
set us aflame with the fire of your love,  
and bring us to the radiance  
of your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### The Easter candle

*A 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 it*

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

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

*Light your own candles (with matches is fine!)*

### The Exsultet

Rejoice, heavenly powers!  
Sing, choirs of angels!  
O Universe, dance around God's throne!  
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!  
Sound the victorious trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in glory,  
revealing the splendour of your creation,  
radiant in the brightness  
of your triumphant King!  
Christ has conquered!  
Now his life and glory fill you!  
Darkness vanishes for ever!  
Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!  
The risen Saviour,  
our Lord of life, shines upon you!  
Let all God's people sing and shout for joy.

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is right and good that with hearts  
and minds and voices  
we should praise you, Father almighty,  
the unseen God,  
through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who has saved us by his death,  
paid the price of Adam's sin,  
and reconciled us once again to you.

**Glory to you for ever.**

For this is the Passover feast,  
when Christ, the true Lamb of God, is slain  
whose blood consecrates the homes of all the faithful.

**Glory to you for ever.**

This is the day when  
you first saved our ancestors,  
freeing Israel from her slavery  
and leading her safely through the sea.

**Glory to you for ever.**

This is the day when  
Jesus Christ vanquished hell,  
broke the chains of death  
and rose triumphant from the grave.

**Glory to you for ever.**

This is the day when  
all who believe in him are freed from sin,  
restored to grace and holiness,  
and share the victory of Christ.

**Glory to you for ever.**

This is the day  
that gave us back what we had lost;  
beyond our deepest dreams  
you made even our sin a happy fault.

**Glory to you for ever.**

Most blessed of all days!  
Evil and hatred are put to flight  
and sin is washed away,  
lost innocence regained,  
and mourning turned to joy.

**Glory to you for ever.**

Day truly blessed, when hatred is cast out,  
peace and justice find a home,  
and heaven is joined to earth  
and all creation reconciled to you.

**Glory to you for ever.**

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
in this our Easter joy  
accept our sacrifice of praise,  
your Church's solemn offering.  
Grant that this Easter Candle  
may make our darkness light.  
For Christ the morning star has risen in glory;  
Christ is risen from the dead  
and his flame of love still burns within us!  
Christ sheds his peaceful light on all the world!  
Christ lives and reigns for ever and ever!

**Amen.**

### **The Easter Acclamation**

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

*We make a joyful noise with bells, cymbals and other instruments – whatever you have to hand*

### **The Collect**

Let us pray that we may reign with the risen Christ in glory.

*Silence is kept.*

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.**

This is the night of new beginnings.  
This is the night when heaven meets earth.  
This is the night filled with God's glory,  
promise of our new birth!  
*Christ be our light!*  
*Shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.*  
*Christ be our light!*  
*Shine in your church gathered today.*

This is the night Christ our redeemer  
rose from the grave triumphant and free,  
leaving the tomb of evil and darkness,  
empty for all to see.

Into this world morning is breaking.  
All of God's people, lift up your voice.  
Cry out with joy, tell out the story,  
all of the earth rejoice.

### The Easter Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. 2So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' 3Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. 4The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. 6Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, 7and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. 8Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; 9for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10Then the disciples returned to their homes.

11But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; 12and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. 13They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' 14When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' 16Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' which means Teacher. 17Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' 18Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

*At the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Risen Lord Jesus,  
As Mary Magdalene 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.

**Hymn**

***Alleluia, Alleluia***  
***Give thanks to the risen Lord***  
***Alleluia, alleluia, give praise to His name***

**Jesus is Lord of all the earth**  
**He is the King of creation.**

**Spread the good news o'er all the earth**  
**Jesus has died and has risen.**

**The peace**

Stay at home in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ,**  
**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**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**

*We raise a glass to say:*

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