

# An Easter Service

April 12 • The Sunday of the Resurrection

(adapted from the *Book of Alternative Services*, pages 322-336)

*If you are praying with one or more others, the service can be divided between the plain and bold text. If you are praying by yourself, you can say all of the prayers aloud or silently. During Easter, it is fitting that a lighted candle placed near where you will be praying.*

## Preparation

Dear friends in Christ, on this most holy day, 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 proclaiming the mystery of faith; we are confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever in God.

*The collect of the day may be said. This is the collect for Easter:*

Lord of life and power,  
through the mighty resurrection of your Son,  
you have overcome the old order of sin and death  
and have made all things new in him.  
May we, being dead to sin  
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,  
reign with him in glory,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit is alive,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## Reading

*An Easter Gospel is read. Mark 16.1-8 is appropriate for Easter:*

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

*Following the reading you may contemplate in silence, or discuss the scripture passage with others, or read a related work of literature.*

# The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Through the paschal mystery we have been buried with Christ in baptism, so that we may rise with him to a new life. Now that our Lenten observance is ended, let us renew the promises we made in baptism, when we rejected Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy catholic Church.

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

**I do.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again  
to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain, and renew the life of the earth?

**I will, with God's help.**

*The Renewal of Baptismal Vows concludes with the following:*

God the creator, the rock of our salvation, has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ. May he keep us faithful to our calling, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **Intercessions**

*Prayers may be offered for the church, those in authority, the world, those in need, and the departed. You may use the following litany alone or with others:*

In joy and hope let us pray to the Father.

That our risen Saviour may fill us and all we love with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection ...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter ...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That God may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love ...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That he may provide for those who lack food, work or shelter ...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That by his power war and famine may cease through all the world ...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick, the weak and the dying, to comfort and strengthen them ...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That, according to his promises, all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be raised on the last day ...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people, so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection ...

we pray to the Father.

**Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father,

you have delivered us from the power of darkness

and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:

grant that, as his death has recalled us to life,

so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy;

through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**He has given us new life and hope.**

**He has raised Jesus from the dead.**

God has claimed us as his own.

**He has brought us out of darkness.**

**He has made us light to the world.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**