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**Easter Sunday**

## ¶ *The Service of Light*

*The ministers go in silence to the main entrance, one of them carrying the unlit Easter Candle. All the lights in the building are switched off.*

*This acclamation may be used*

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 Easter Candle is marked at this point.*

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the awesome power of God. As we hear his word and proclaim all that God has done, we can be confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever.

*A minister lights the Easter Candle, saying*

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

*The minister carrying the Candle raises it and says or sings*

The light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The procession moves further into the building and then stops. The versicle and response are repeated.*

*When the minister carrying the Candle arrives at the front of the church it is placed on a stand in the midst of the building, and all other candles in the church are now lit.*

**The Exultet**

**Priest/Deacon sings**

Exult and sing! O shining angel choirs!

Exult and dance, bright stars and blazing suns!

The first born of creation, Jesus Christ,  
is ris'n in radiant splendour from the dead.

**All sing:**

**Rejoice, O awesome night of our rebirth!**

**Rejoice, O mother moon, that marks the months!**

**For from your fullness comes, at last, the day  
when sin and death are robbed of all their power.**

Priest/Deacon:

Arise then, sleepers, Christ enlightens you!  
Arise from doubt and sadness, sin and death!  
With joyful hearts and spirits set aflame,  
draw near to sing this Easter Candle's praise!

**All:**

**We lift our hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
We praise you, God, for all your works of light!  
We bless you for that burst of fire and flame  
through which you first created all that is.**

Priest/Deacon

We bless you for the light invisible:  
the fire of faith, the Spirit's grace and truth,  
that light, the source of life, that stirs the heart,  
and shines for ever on the face of Christ.

**All:**

**This is the day, most blessed of all days.  
You led your people through the foaming sea,  
in love you led them with a cloud by day  
and as a flaming shaft of fire by night.**

Priest/Deacon:

O day that gave us back what we had lost!

O day that made our sin a happy fault!

Beyond our deepest dreams this day, O God  
your hand reached out to raise us up in Christ!

**All:**

**Now is Christ risen, we are raised with him,  
our Morning Star who dawns and never sets.**

**May Jesus Christ our Saviour find us all  
united in one faith, one hope, one Lord.**

*The president says*

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*The church lights are switched on.*

**Hymn (205)**

*(during which our flowers are added to the cross)*

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia,  
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia,  
who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia,  
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia.

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia,  
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia,  
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia,  
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia.

But the pains which He endured, Alleluia,  
our salvation have procured; Alleluia,  
now above the sky He's King, Alleluia,  
where the angels ever sing Alleluia.

*v. 1: 'Surrexit hodie (14th century) trans. anon. as in Lyra  
Davidica, (1708) vs. 2-3 from J. Arnold's Compleat Psalmody  
(1749)*

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us; you are seated at the  
right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,**

**you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **The Collect**

Let us pray that we may walk the risen life of 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.**

### **¶ *The Liturgy of the Word***

#### **Reading**

First Reading

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

## Hymn (197)

This joyful Eastertide,  
away with sin and sorrow.  
My Love, the Crucified,  
hath sprung to life this morrow:

*Had Christ, that once was slain,  
ne'er burst His three-day prison,  
our faith had been in vain:  
but now hath Christ arisen,  
arisen, arisen, arisen.*

My flesh in hope shall rest,  
and for a season slumber:  
till trump from east to west  
shall wake the dead in number:

Death's flood hath lost its chill,  
since Jesus crossed the river:  
Lover of souls, from ill  
my passing soul deliver:

*George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934)*

Second Reading:

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**



## **Gospel Reading**

*We stand to greet the Gospel*

## **Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the first and the last, says the Lord,  
and the living one; I was dead, and behold  
I am alive for evermore.

Alleluia.

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

## **Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows**

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we remember that through the paschal mystery we have died and been buried with him in baptism.

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

...Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

**I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

**I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

**I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

**I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth  
and the life?

**I come to Christ.**

### **Prayer over the Water**

*The president stands before the water of baptism and  
says*

Praise God who made heaven and earth,  
**who keeps his promise for ever.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptized in  
the river Jordan, we thank you for the gift of water  
to cleanse us and revive us.

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea  
you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the  
Promised Land.

We thank you that through the deep waters of death  
you brought your Son, and raised him to life in  
triumph.

Bless this water, that your servants who are washed  
in it may be made one with Christ in his death and in  
his resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from  
all sin.

Send your Holy Spirit upon them, bring them to new birth in the household of faith and raise them with Christ to full and eternal life; for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

*The president says*

May God, who has given you the desire to follow Christ,  
give you the strength to continue in the Way.

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church...

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our  
Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,**

**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,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in 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. Amen.**

*Whether or not there have been baptisms, the waters  
of baptism are sprinkled over the people.*

*Then the president prays*

Almighty God,

we thank you for our fellowship in the  
household of faith with all who have been baptised in  
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.**

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that  
you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring  
forth the fruit of the Spirit. **Amen.**

**¶ Prayers of Intercession**

## ¶ *The Liturgy of the Sacrament*

### **The Peace**

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.'

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace and the following words are used:*

'Christ is risen.' **He is risen indeed.**

### **Preparation of the Table**

#### **Taking of the Bread and Wine**

### **Hymn (215)**

My Jesus, my Saviour,  
Lord, there is none like you.  
All of my days I want to praise  
the wonders of your mighty love.

My comfort, my shelter,  
tower of refuge and strength,  
let ev'ry breath, all that I am,

never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord  
all the earth, let us sing  
power and majesty,  
praise to the King.  
Mountains bow down  
and the seas will roar  
at the sound of your name.

I sing for joy  
at the work of your hands.  
Forever I'll love you,  
forever I'll stand.  
Nothing compares to the promise  
I have in you.

*Darlene Zschech (1965)*

*The gifts of the people may be gathered and presented.  
The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.*

Be present, be present,  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
our risen high priest;  
make yourself known in the breaking of bread.

**Amen.**

## **The Eucharistic Prayer**

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 indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,

almighty and eternal Father,

and on this morning of our redemption

to celebrate with joyful hearts

the memory of your wonderful works.

For by the mystery of his passion

Jesus Christ, your risen Son,

has conquered the powers of death and hell

and restored in men and women the image of your  
glory.

He has placed them once more in paradise

and opened to them the gate of life eternal.

And so, in the joy of this Passover,

earth and heaven resound with gladness,

while angels and archangels and the powers of all  
creation

sing for ever the hymn of your glory...



**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**+ Blessed is he who comes in the name of  
the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command,  
send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper  
with his friends and, taking bread, he praised you.

He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body  
which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup  
of wine.

Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
Drink this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did, in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation, we proclaim his death and resurrection until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms and bring us with St Matthew and all the saints to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin  
against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from all  
evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours.**

**Now, and for ever. Amen.**

**We break this bread**

**to share in the body of Christ.**

**Though we are many, we are one body,**

**because we all share in one bread.**

## **The Agnus Dei**

**Jesus, Lamb of God,**

**have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,**

**have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,**

**grant us peace.**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed  
for us.

Therefore, let us keep the feast. **Alleluia**

## **The Distribution of Communion**

*The choir sing 'Sing choirs of Heaven' by Richard Shephard.*

### **Hymn (422)**

Now the green blade rises  
from the buried grain,  
wheat that in the dark earth  
many days has lain;  
love lives again,  
that with the dead has been:  
Love is come again,  
like wheat that springs up green.

In the grave they laid Him,  
Love whom men had slain,  
thinking that He never  
would awake again,  
laid in the earth  
like grain that sleeps unseen:  
Love is come again,  
like wheat that springs up green.

Forth He came at Easter,  
like the risen grain,  
He that for the three days  
in the grave had lain;  
back from the dead  
my risen Lord is seen:  
Love is come again,  
like wheat that springs up green.

When our hearts are wintry,  
grieving or in pain,  
then your touch can call us  
back to life again;  
fields of our hearts  
that dead and bare have been:  
Love is come again,  
like wheat that springs up green.

*John MacLeod Campbell Crum (1872-1958)*

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## **Post Communion**

God of Life,  
who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son  
to the death of the cross, and by his glorious  
resurrection have delivered us from the power of our  
enemy: grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may  
evermore live with him in the joy of his risen life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

## **The Notices**

### **Final Hymn (218)**

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.*

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:

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:

*Edmond Budry (1854-1932) trans. Richard Hoyle (1875-1939)*  
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## ¶ The Dismissal

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

## **The Blessing**

God the Father, by whose love Christ was raised from the dead, open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.

**Amen.**

God the Son, who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

**Amen.**

God the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord, empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

**Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty, + the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**



## ¶ **Conclusion**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

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

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

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