



Easter Sunday Dawn Service

¶ *The Gathering Prayer*

Loving God, we gather before the Dawn. We have been mourning and weeping believing that you have been taken from us. Instead, you will meet us in the garden of new life. Here, in this sacred place, we will discover that you are alive, that sin and death cannot defeat you. Our tears of sorrow will turn to tears of joy as we experience your presence among us. 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.

Chant (949)

Wait for the Lord,
whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord:
keep watch, take heart!

Taizé Community, based on Scripture

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Gospel Reading

John 20:1-18

Early 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 round 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.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

¶ *Meditation*

Prayer

Jesus Christ, Lord of the morning,
rising with the sun of the new day.
In the garden still damp with early-morning dew
we find an empty tomb –
you are not here!
You stand beside us risen and glorified.
You have destroyed death.
You have broken the chains of oppression.
You have gone before us into the darkest places
and have made them holy.
Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and for ever,
yours is the victory.
In this place, as earth begins to wake,
we welcome you,
Jesus Christ our guest.
Be with us this day and for evermore
Amen
Risen Lord, open our eyes.
Give us a glimpse of your resurrection glory.
Take away our spirit of heaviness.
Clothe us with a garment of praise.

Hope has been renewed; joy has been rekindled.

Death has been defeated; eternity beckons.

Hallelujah! The Lord is risen.

We celebrate the miracle of Christ's resurrection.

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:

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God, now set loose from the grave,
what happens now?

May your new dawn footprints take us back into
and not away from the world.

Now you are risen,
may we go back to Galilee
and believe again, trust again,
and follow you again,
knowing what we know now.

Where the touch of love is felt
Christ is risen!

Where children laugh and play
Christ is risen!

Where the hungry celebrate with feasting
Christ is risen!

Where the voiceless shout and sing
Christ is risen!

Where enemies are reconciled
Christ is risen!

Where neighbourhoods flourish
Christ is risen!

Where compassion is earthed
Christ is risen!

Where generosity overflows
Christ is risen!

Where trust takes root
Christ is risen!

Where hope blossoms
Christ is risen!

Where love bears fruit
Christ is risen!

Where life comes anew
Christ is risen!

Now you are set loose from the grave,
before we forget,
and slip back into our normal ways: our routines that
save us from being transformed; our habits that save
us from thinking about recreation;

our patterns that save us from stretching our faith;
may we go back to where we have been,
and begin again,
with this new trust resurrection brings,
the new colours we see,
and the new confidence we hold,
and lead us into every future
that resurrection brings,
that we may go with you, and say,

**You are risen in us,
and we will be the community
that bears witness to you alive
into the world. Amen.**

*The Paschal (Easter) candle is lit, it is held up high and
these words are spoken.*

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

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

With the risen life of Christ within us,
We go in the peace of Christ.

Alleluia, alleluia

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia

