

Coronav e-Church

EASTER

And so we come to the climax of Holy Week, and the core focus of our faith: the great event of Easter, with its 'resurrection' symbolism. We may not have lit Easter Fire at dawn this year, but we can still sense the promise of those flames – a promise that says the warmth, vitality and light of the Risen Christ will, as in previous times, be as powerful this year as ever, despite the overshadowing of virus. Lacking the Paschal Light, we can – in the quiet of our own homes – replicate its presence by using a candle of our own, so do feel free to create your own atmosphere as you follow this liturgy through.

As you reflect upon the words, we hope that they do indeed contain 'hope'. Hope that, despite all else that is going on at the moment, Christ's intervention into our lives will bring about a dimension of strength, resolve, and determination; a dimension beyond the range of any virus; a dimension whose characteristics provide shape and form for a life well-lived, a life focussed upon good, a life centred upon the valuable teachings of his earthly ministry. Such a rich inheritance should enable us to find all hope.

This short liturgy is designed to be used in your own homes – and we hope that it will be of use to you at this time. You can share it as a family around your kitchen-table as it is perfectly shaped to include a cup of coffee and your PJs! You can sit quietly by yourself, and ponder its words. However you use it, pause and remember the rest of our Church community at this time – and look forward to a time of celebration when we will indeed be together again ...

A LITURGY FOR EASTER follows ...

A LITURGY FOR EASTER

Alleluia! Christ is risen
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!
Exult, all creation around God's throne!
Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!
Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendour,
radiant in the brightness of your King!
Christ has conquered! Glory fills you!
Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!
The risen Saviour shines upon you!
Let our lives resound with joy,
echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

(from the "Exsultet")

The Easter Anthems

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us:
so let us celebrate the feast,
not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:
death has no more dominion over him.

In dying he died to sin once for all:
in living he lives to God.

See yourselves therefore as dead to sin:
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christ has been raised from the dead:
the first fruits of those who sleep.

For as by man came death:
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;
for as in Adam all die:
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

A Word of Scripture

MATTHEW 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women,

"Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples,

'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.'

This is my message for you."

So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said,

"Greetings!"

And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them,

"Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

A Song of the New Creation

'I am the Lord, your Holy One,
the Creator of Israel, your King.'

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,

'Remember not the former things,
nor consider the things of old.

Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people.

The people whom I formed for myself,
that they might declare my praise.'

A Quiet Moment ...

*... as you offer your own thoughts and prayers.
You may wish to focus upon our daily e-Prayer
or use the List version as a sort-of Litany
followed by ...*

Death is swallowed up in victory:
Christ is risen from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

The trumpet will sound
and the dead shall be raised.

We shall not all sleep,
but we shall be changed.

Death is swallowed up in victory;
where, O death, is your sting?

Alternatively, you may wish to reflect upon these adapted words from the "Exsultet":

Rejoice, for this is the Passover of that true Lamb of God,
by whose blood the homes of all the faithful
are hallowed and protected.

This is the time when of old you saved our fathers,
delivering the people of Israel from their slavery,
and leading them dry-shod through the sea.

This is the time when Jesus Christ vanquished hell
and rose triumphant from the grave.

This is the time when all who believe in him are freed from sin
and restored to grace and holiness.

Most blessed of all times,
when wickedness is put to flight
and sin is washed away,
lost innocence regained,
and mourning turned to joy.

Life truly blessed,
when heaven is wedded to earth
and all creation reconciled to God!

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as 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 evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen

A Prayer for Easter

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

May the risen Christ grant us the joy of eternal life.

Let us indeed bless the Risen Lord!

ALLELUIA!