

## Easter Worship

*You might like to light a candle at the start of this act of worship, a reminder that Jesus is the Light of the World, and that he has overcome darkness and death.*



### ***Opening Acclamation***

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

***You might like to sing, or say, the following resurrection hymn:***

I cannot tell why he, whom angels worship,  
should set his love upon the sons of men,  
or why, as Shepherd, he should seek the wanderers,  
to bring them back, they know not how or when.  
But this I know, that he was born of Mary  
when Bethl'em's manger was his only home,  
and that he lived at Nazareth and laboured,  
and so the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is come.

I cannot tell how silently he suffered,  
as with his peace he graced this place of tears,  
or how his heart upon the cross was broken,  
the crown of pain to three and thirty years.  
But this I know, he heals the broken-hearted  
and stays our sin and calms our lurking fear  
and lifts the burden from the heavy laden;  
for still the Saviour, Saviour of the world is here.

I cannot tell how he will win the nations,  
how he will claim his earthly heritage,  
how satisfy the needs and aspirations  
of east and west, of sinner and of sage.  
But this I know, all flesh shall see his glory,  
and he shall reap the harvest he has sown,  
and some glad day his sun will shine in splendour  
when he the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is known.

I cannot tell how all the lands shall worship,  
when at his bidding every storm is stilled,  
or who can say how great the jubilation  
when every heart with love and joy is filled.  
But this I know, the skies will thrill with rapture,  
and myriad myriad human voices sing,  
and earth to heav'n, and heav'n to earth, will answer,  
'at last the Saviour, Saviour of the world, is King!'

### ***The Collect, or special prayer, for the second Sunday of Easter***

Risen Christ,  
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:  
open the doors of our hearts,  
that we may seek the good of others  
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,  
to the praise of God the Father. **Amen.**

## **New Testament Reading**

### **1 Peter 1.3–9**

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of your faith – being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God!**

### **Gospel Reading**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **John 20:19–31**

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Prayer**

Risen Lord Jesus,  
as Thomas encountered you in the locked room,  
so may we meet you today and every day:  
speak to us as you spoke to him,  
with compassion, love and challenge;  
reveal yourself afresh as our Lord and our God;  
renew our hope and inspire our faith;  
and equip and empower us to share this good news with others. **Amen.**

**You might like to sing or say the following hymn:**

1. Here is love, vast as the ocean,  
Loving-kindness as the flood,  
When the Prince of Life, our Ransom,  
Shed for us His precious blood.  
Who His love will not remember?  
Who can cease to sing His praise?  
He can never be forgotten,  
Throughout heav'n's eternal days.
2. On the mount of crucifixion,  
Fountains opened deep and wide;  
Through the floodgates of God's mercy  
Flowed a vast and gracious tide.  
Grace and love, like mighty rivers,  
Poured incessant from above,  
And heav'n's peace and perfect justice  
Kissed a guilty world in love.
3. Let me, all Thy love accepting,  
Love Thee, ever all my days;  
Let me seek Thy kingdom only,  
And my life be to Thy praise;  
Thou alone shalt be my glory,  
Nothing in the world I see;  
Thou hast cleansed and sanctified me,  
Thou Thyself hast set me free.
4. In Thy truth Thou dost direct me  
By Thy Spirit through Thy Word;  
And Thy grace my need is meeting,  
As I trust in Thee, my Lord.  
Of Thy fullness Thou art pouring  
Thy great love and pow'r on me,  
Without measure, full and boundless,  
Drawing out my heart to Thee.

*William Rees (v.3-4 attr. to William Williams)*

**The Creed**

Let us declare our faith  
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christ died for our sins  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he was buried;  
he was raised to life on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
afterwards he appeared to his followers,  
and to all the apostles:  
this we have received,  
and this we believe. Amen.**

**Intercessions**

*Please use this time for your own prayers, concluding with the following words:*

All our problems  
**we send to the cross of Christ.**

All our difficulties  
**we send to the cross of Christ.**

All our hopes  
**we set on the risen Christ.**

**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.**

*You might like to sing or say the following Easter hymn*

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.  
*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of life;  
Life is nought 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.

*Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

### **The Blessing**

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

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

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

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

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always. **Amen**

### **Prayers at this time of Coronavirus**

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy  
in this time of uncertainty and distress.  
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may rejoice in your comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

God of compassion,  
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.  
In their loneliness, be their consolation;  
in their anxiety, be their hope;  
in their darkness, be their light;  
through him who suffered alone on the cross,  
but reigns with you in glory,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gracious God,  
give skill, sympathy and resilience  
to all who are caring for the sick,  
and your wisdom to those searching for a cure.  
Strengthen them with your Spirit,  
that through their work many will be restored to  
health;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We are not people of fear: we are people of courage.  
We are not people who protect our own safety:  
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.  
We are not people of greed: we are people of  
generosity.  
We are your people God, giving and loving,  
wherever we are, whatever it costs  
For as long as it takes wherever you call us. **Amen**

