



SERVICE ORDER

Easter Sunday
31 March 2024



WELCOME & OPENING SENTENCES

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

He has trampled down death by his death.

And through rising has given eternal life to us.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

INVOCATION

*In the name of the Father
and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.*

Amen.

HE IS RISEN

**He is risen, he is risen! Tell it with a joyful voice:
he has burst his three days' prison, let the whole wide world rejoice.
Death is conquered, we are free, Christ has won the victory.**

**Come with high and holy gladness, sing our Lord's triumphant song:
not one touch of twilight sadness dims his resurrection morn;
brightly dawns the radiant east, brighter far our Easter feast.**

**He is risen, he is risen! He has opened heaven's gate:
we are free from sin's dark prison, risen to a holier state;
soon a brighter Easter beam on our longing eyes shall stream.**

LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

On the day we celebrate Christ's great victory over the darkness of sin and death. His new life is our new life, and his resurrection is our resurrection. To symbolise the new beginning we have in him, we light our Paschal candle.

(The Paschal candle is lit)

Christ our light: **We thank you.**

Christ our light: **We adore you.**

Christ our light: **In faith we follow you. Shine upon us now and always. Amen.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Christ died and rose so that we could have God's forgiveness and receive new life as God's forever people. Let us embrace that new life by confessing our sins and receiving the grace God offers on account of the cross.

Father in heaven, your Son gave his life on the cross to redeem sinners. We confess this morning that we are just that. So often we have closed our hearts to your will. So often we have closed our ears to your Word. So often we have closed ourselves off from others, refusing to love them as you love us. Please forgive us for Jesus' sake. Roll away the stone that cuts us off from you and others. *(Pause for personal reflection.)*

Lord God,

thank you that has Jesus died for our sake and that his tomb is now open! Thank you for the grace and new life we have through him. Open us up to love and serve others with resurrection faith, joy and hope. Amen.

This is our Easter joy – Christ, who was crucified, has risen. He has defeated death and overcome sin for us. Everyone who trusts in Jesus Christ receives forgiveness of sins through his name. As a called and ordained servant of God's Word, I declare to you: as you have repented, so you are indeed forgiven. ALLELUIA! **AMEN.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

I invite you to exchange a sign of God's peace with one another using these traditional words that have been spoken by Easter Christians throughout the centuries: *He is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!*

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Jesus, who gave himself unto death for us:

Have mercy on us.

Jesus, who rose in glory on the third day:

Have mercy on us.

Jesus, King of glory, who ascended into heaven:

Have mercy on us.

Jesus, seated in glory at the right hand of the Father:

Have mercy on us.

Jesus, who opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers:

Have mercy on us.

GLORIA HYMN - I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES

**I know that my Redeemer lives; what comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead; he lives, my ever-living head.**

**He lives to bless me with his love, he lives to plead for me above,
he lives my hungry soul to feed, he lives to help in time of need.**

**He lives, my kind, wise, heavenly friend, he lives and loves me to the end;
he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing; he lives, my prophet, priest, and king.**

**He lives, and gives me daily breath; he lives, and I will conquer death;
he lives my new home to prepare, he lives to bring me safely there.**

**He lives, all glory to his name! He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
O the sweet joy this sentence gives: I know that my Redeemer lives!**

Samuel Medley (1738-1799)

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GREETINGS & PRAYER OF THE DAY

The risen Lord Jesus be with you:

And also with you.

Let us pray:

Almighty God, you have overcome sin and death through the death of your Son, and have brought forgiveness and eternal life through his resurrection. Help us to confidently believe this and to always praise you with our whole hearts. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and glorious Saviour. Amen.

BIBLE READING

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43 Summary of Jesus' life and ministry

³⁴Then Peter began to speak: 'I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism ³⁵but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. ³⁶You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached – ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. ³⁹'We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, ⁴⁰but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. ⁴¹He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen – by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

After the reading

This is the Word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 The good news of Christ's resurrection

15 Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. ²By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. ³For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to

the Twelve. ⁶After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, ⁸and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. ⁹For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them – yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. ¹¹Whether, then, it is I or they, this is what we preach, and this is what you believed.

After the reading
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Mark 16:1-8 Christ has risen!

Before the reading
Glory be to You, O LORD.

16 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. ²Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb ³and they asked each other, 'Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?' ⁴But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. ⁶'Don't be alarmed,' he said. 'You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter, "He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" ⁸Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

After the reading
This is the gospel of the LORD.
Praise be to You, O Christ.

LET'S PRAISE THE LORD! - AT 486

**Let's praise the Lord! Worship and bow down.
Shout his name from mountains high, the king of all creation,
the King who reigns on high.**

**Let's praise the Lord! Kneel before his throne,
Lift our voice with songs of praise,
The Lord of our salvation, the Lord of all our Days,
Let's praise the Lord! Let's praise the Lord.**

**I will be your true and faithful, I will show you constant love.
I will make you mine forever, I will always love the unloved.**

**I will make the raindrops tumble, I will make the sun shine through.
I will answer you my people, I will keep my promise.
Let's praise the Lord!**

**Let's praise the Lord! Worship and bow down.
Shout his name from mountains high, the king of all creation,
the King who reigns on high.**

**Let's praise the Lord! Kneel before his throne,
Lift our voice with songs of praise,
The Lord of our salvation, the Lord of all our Days,
Let's praise the Lord! Let's praise the Lord.**

**I will be your loving shepherd, I will give you all you need.
I will lead you by still waters, I will keep you safe from all danger.**

**I will hold you, comfort, love you, I will bless you all your days.
I will be with you for ever, I will keep my promise.
Let's praise the Lord!**

**Let's praise the Lord! Worship and bow down.
Shout his name from mountains high,
the king of all creation, the King who reigns on high.**

**Let's praise the Lord! Kneel before his throne,
Lift our voice with songs of praise,
The Lord of our salvation, the Lord of all our Days,
Let's praise the Lord! Let's praise the Lord.**

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MESSAGE

At this point you may wish to watch the Sermon.
For Church YouTube Channel ([click here](#))
For LCA Worship Resources ([click here](#))

STATEMENT OF RESURRECTION FAITH

This is the gospel which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. He is the first and the last, the beginning and the end. He is our Lord and our God. Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again. Death no longer has no power over him. The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So let us also consider ourselves dead to sin, and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Christ is risen!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

AMAZING LOVE, LAYING DOWN YOUR GLORY

Amazing love, laying down Your glory,
You endured the cross instead of us; sacrificed Your own life,
bore the wrath of God. Jesus, You have paid the price for me,
made a way to set this sinner free.

Unto You, Lord, I bring my worship,
for You are good, Your love overwhelming.
Hope of the world, Your grace is extended,
offering life to all who accept it.

Amazing grace, no way I can earn it,
it's only by Your blood that I can come, trusting in Your mercy,
I'm at peace with God. Jesus, You have won the victory;
death has lost its power over me.

Unto You, Lord, I bring my worship,
for You are good, Your love overwhelming.
Hope of the world, Your grace is extended,
offering life to all who accept it.

Unto You, Lord, I bring my worship,
for You are good, Your love overwhelming.
Hope of the world, Your grace is extended,
offering life to all who accept it.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

**Everliving God, the resurrection of your Son fills us with hope and joy.
May our lives and our gifts help to bring your new life, hope and joy to others.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray that the results of Christ's resurrection may be seen in our lives and throughout the world.

Lord God, our loving heavenly Father, we thank and praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Your Son, our Passover Lamb, has taken away the sin of the world. Forgive us and all people. God of new life: **Hear our prayer.**

Your Son said, 'Peace be with you'. Bring your peace to the world and to our own country. God of new life: **Hear our prayer.**

Your Son appeared to Mary Magdalene when she was weeping. Comfort those who are sad, lonely, or grieving. God of new life: **Hear our prayer.**

Your Son met the women and asked them to tell the disciples about his resurrection. Guide Christians everywhere to witness to the resurrection in their lives. God of new life: **Hear our prayer.**

Your Son proclaimed himself to the two disciples from the Scriptures and made himself known to them in the breaking of the bread. Reveal him to us and all people through the teaching of your word and the celebration of your holy meal. God of new life: **Hear our prayer.**

Your Son strengthened the faith of Thomas by telling him to touch his hands and side. Reassure those whose who are troubled by doubts, and strengthen their faith in your goodness. God of new life: **Hear our prayer.**

Your Son conquered death by his death and won the victory by his resurrection. Be with those who are dying, and lead them to life with you forever. God of new life: **Hear our prayer.**

Heavenly Father, grant that all who now celebrate these joyful holy days here on earth may finally praise you forever, with all the angels and saints in heaven. We ask this through your risen Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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 forever. Amen.**

AN EASTER AFFIRMATION

The darkness of Good Friday is gone:
This day dawns brightly!
Christ is risen!
Hope is restored!
Christ is risen!
Death is conquered!
Come, let us open our hearts and spirits to the joyous Good News!
Let us celebrate the greatest victory of all.

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

IN CHRIST ALONE

**In Christ alone my heart is found, He is my light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, Firm through the fiercest drought & storm.**

**What heights of love, What depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, When strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in all; Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless Babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones he came to save.**

**'Til on that Cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied,
For every sin on him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**There in the ground his body lay Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious Day Up from the grave he rose again!**

**And as he stands in victory Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am his and he is mine, Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, No fear in death, This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.**

**No power of hell, no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from his hand;
'Til he returns or calls me home Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.**

**Stuart Townend & Keith Getty
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HYMNS AND SONGS

First reading: Isaiah 25:6-9

LHS

- 834 At the Lamb's high feast we sing G3
- 841 O welcome, all you noble saints of old GS
- 842 Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing G3
- 847 The Lamb's high banquet called to share (*tune 227*) G5

AT

- 77 O welcome all ye noble saints of old

TIS

- 516 Here, gracious Lord, we see you face to face (*holy communion*)
- 529 By your priestly power, O risen Lord (*holy communion*)
- 545 Shout for joy! the Lord has let us feast (*holy communion*)

Second reading Acts 10:34-43

LHS

- 16 Hail to the Lord's Anointed G6 (vv1,2,4,5)
- 90 Christ the Lord is risen again G8
- 232 Rise, Thou light of gentile nations* G4
- 761 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing G3
- 791 O love how deep, how broad, how high G5

AT

- 61 Hallelujah my Father
- 125 Man more than man
- 133 When Jesus came to earth from heaven
- 227 Allelu!

TIS

- 194 O love how deep, how broad, how high
- 275 Hail to the Lord's anointed
- 355 Man more than man
- 365 Christ the Lord is risen again
- 383 Joyful the morning when Jesus is risen
- 387 Christ is alive ! Let Christians sing

Gospel(a): John 20:1-18

LHS

From the Easter sections, especially the following:

- 88 Jesus Christ is risen today G5
- 89 Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands * G5
- 90 Christ the Lord is risen again G8
- 91 Christ the Lord is risen today G4

92 Christ the Lord is risen today G in STJ 11 (*alt tune 88, add alleluias, G5*)
96 Ere yet the dawn has filled the skies G8
97 The strife is o'er G5
101 Jesus lives! thy terrors now* G5
105 Good Christian men, rejoice and sing* G5
479 Jesus, my Redeemer, lives* G5
764 Now the green blade rises GS
766 The Son is up GS
768 We welcome glad Easter GS
770 Yours is the glory G6

AT

15 Love has come again
26 He is Lord
160 Resurrection shout
179 Come let us eat
263 Singing all praises (v 3)
312 Celebrate
346 Jesus is alive today
437 I have seen the Lord

TIS

361 The day of resurrection
362 Jesus Christ is risen today
364 Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands
365 Christ the Lord is risen again
366 Jesus, my Redeemer, lives
367 The strife is past, the battle done
368 This is the day the Lord has made
370 Christ the Lord is risen today
372 Jesus lives! your terrors now
375 Come let us with the Lord arise
379 He is risen, he is risen!
380 Yours be the glory
382 Now the green blade rises
388 Easter glory fills the sky (vv 1-4,7,8)
391 Come God's people, sing for joy (*baptism*)
660 Myrrh-bearing Mary