

Easter Day 2020 10:30am

When warmth breaks through the cold and light comes to the dark places,

CHRIST IS RISEN!

When sadness turns to joy and fear turns to rejoicing

CHRIST IS RISEN!

When we take courage and share the good news

CHRIST IS RISEN!

When the shroud is left behind and the banner of Christ is unfurled

CHRIST IS RISEN!

Christ is risen!

HE IS RISEN INDEED! Alleluia!

1 'Christ, the Lord, is risen today!'

Alleluia!

All creation join to say:

Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high;

Alleluia!

Sing, you heavens, and earth reply:

Alleluia!

2 Love's redeeming work is done!

Fought the fight, the battle won:

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal:

Christ has burst the gates of hell;

3 Lives again our glorious King;

where, O death, is now your sting?

Once he died, our souls to save;

where's your victory, boasting grave?

4 Soar we now where Christ has led,

following our exalted Head;

made like him, like him we rise;

ours the cross, the grave, the skies:

5 King of glory! Soul of bliss!

Everlasting life is this

You to know, your power to prove

Thus to song, and thus to love:

Halleluia!
Jesus is risen!
He is risen indeed!

May this declaration
resound not only in our homes
but touch our lives
and forever be
the truth of which we speak.

Your love,
once sown within a garden,
tended for your own people,
neglected and rejected,
now spreads its sweet perfume
in this place
and wherever it is shown.

Halleluia!
Jesus is risen!
He is risen indeed!

John 20:1-18 New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised (NRSVA)

20 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. **2** So 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.' **3** Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. **4** The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. **5** He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. **6** Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, **7** and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. **8** Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; **9** for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. **10** Then the disciples returned to their homes.

11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; **12** and 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. **13** They 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.'

14 When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. **15** Jesus 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.' **16** Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). **17** Jesus 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.'" **18** Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

A thought for Easter Day

Jesus Christ, we greet you!

Your hands still have holes in them, your feet are wet from the dew; and with the memory of our names undimmed by three days of death you meet us, risen from the grave.

We fail to understand how; we puzzle at the reason why.

But you have come:

not to answer our questions, but to show us your face.

You are alive

and the world can rejoice again. Hallelujah!

Prayers of intercession

We greet you, risen Christ – our hope in times of despair.

We pray for those in despair today:

worried about future employment;

worried about where the next meal is coming from;

worried about a relative in isolation.

Turn their despair into resurrection hope.

We greet you, risen Christ – our peace in times of conflict.

We pray for those in conflict today:

for those in war zones in Yemen, Syria,

and other unknown places that never make the news; for those fleeing war,

seeking refuge in Greece

and throughout the world;

for those feeling unsafe in their own homes.

Turn their conflict into resurrection peace.

We greet you, risen Christ – our healing in times of trouble.
We pray for those in any kind of trouble today:
for those who are physically unwell;
for those struggling with their mental health;
for those facing their own mortality and those who care for them; for those who grieve.

Turn their trouble into your resurrection healing.

We thank you, Lord, that through your sacrifice, you have triumphed over death,
opening the way to new life for all.
And so we thank you
for all those who bring glimmers of new life: for all care workers;
for our emergency services;
for those willing to work to keep us fed;
for those whose creativity is bringing life
to vulnerable people and in remote places;
for all those who are willing to go the extra mile.

Your resurrection hope is all around us – even now.

Thanks be to you,

Risen, Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

1 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.*

2 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:

3 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)
translated by Richard Birch Hoyle (1875-1939)

Blessing

Hallelujah, God our Creator – ***all life stems from you!***
Hallelujah, God our Saviour – ***new life springs from your death!***
Hallelujah, God our Sustainer – ***life is continually renewed in you!***
Hallelujah, Father, Son and Holy Spirit!
Bless us today and always,
may your new life flow through us
into your world. ***Amen.***