



EASTER DAY

5 April 2026

(Mary at the empty tomb)

Dear friends. It is with great joy in Christ that I greet you as we celebrate the Resurrection this Sunday. Easter Day is a Principal Feast of the Church.

*Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end,
Alpha and Omega, all time belongs to him, and all ages;
to him be glory and power, through every age and for ever. Amen.*

In the name of the Father, +
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

HYMN

1 The day of resurrection!
Earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness,
the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal,
from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over,
with hymns of victory.

2 Our hearts be pure from evil,
that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal
of resurrection light;
and listening to his accents,
may hear, so calm and plain,
his own "All hail!" and, hearing,
may raise the victor strain.

3 Now let the heavens be joyful!
Let earth the song begin!
The round world keep high triumph,
and all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen
their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord hath risen,
our joy that hath no end.

In baptism we died with Christ,
so that as Christ was raised from the dead,
we might walk in newness of life.
Let us receive new life in him
as we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Introduction to confession

Like Mary at the empty tomb,
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Like the disciples behind locked doors,
we are afraid to be seen as your followers.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Like Thomas in the upper room,
we are slow to believe.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Absolution

May God in mercy forgive and heal us;
pardon and cleanse, +
and lead us into resurrection life.

Let us pray.

The Collect

Lord of all life and power,
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in him:
grant that we, being dead to sin
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,
may reign with him in glory;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be praise and honour, glory and might,
now and in all eternity.

Amen

**A Reading from The New Testament
Acts 10. 34-43**

Gentiles Hear the Good News

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 118

A Song of Victory

¹ O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

² Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

¹⁵ There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

“The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;

¹⁶ the right hand of the LORD is exalted;
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.”

¹⁷ I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.

¹⁸ The LORD has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.

¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

²¹ I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

²³ This is the LORD’s doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.

²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.



A reading from the New Testament

Col. 3. 1-4

Living as Those Made Alive in Christ

3 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. **3** For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. **4** When Christ, who is your^[a] life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

HYMN

1 Jesus lives! thy terrors now
Can, O Death, no more appal us;
Jesus lives! by this we know
Thou, O Grave, canst not enthrall
us. Alleluya!

3 Jesus lives! for us He died;
Then alone to Jesus living,
Pure in heart may we abide,
Glory to our Saviour giving.
Alleluya!

5 Jesus lives! to Him the Throne
Over all the world is given;
May we go where he has gone,
Rest and reign with Him in
heaven. Alleluya!

2 Jesus lives! henceforth is death
But the gate of Life immortal;
This shall calm our trembling
breath,
When we pass its gloomy portal.
Alleluya!

4 Jesus lives! our hearts know
well
Naught from us His love shall
sever;
Life, nor death, nor powers of
hell
Tear us from His keeping ever.
Alleluya!

**The Gospel
John 20 1-18**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,
and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'

Alleluia.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you O Lord

The Resurrection of Jesus

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 toward 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 around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ

JESUS LIVES! This is the first meaning of the Resurrection. He is not entombed on a Galilean hillside nor between the pages of a book nor in the experience of people holier than us, but is alive and accessible to us, if we will but seek after him.

The Resurrection of Christ from the dead, however elusive and mysterious, was a real event. It was not a resuscitation. Christ was raised in a new mode of being. But this resurrection left real traces in our world – an empty tomb, and a shroud.

What we read is fast moving and full of alarm. Breathless running – Mary runs, the disciples run – and Mary must have run back with them. It is not until all the running has stopped and a bewildered and miserable peace descends that the extraordinary happens and even then, it is not instant but gradual.

Twice Mary is asked why she weeps; first by angels and then by Christ.

Both times her focus is on the body of Jesus – she would ‘take him away’. How on earth could she manage that? These are the unthinking words of grief.

Confused by sorrow and anxiety she cannot see. In the light of the early dawn who else could be expected other than someone who cared for the grounds. “Why are you weeping?” Mary has come to her own fatalistic conclusions about what happened to Jesus “They have taken my Lord away, and I don’t know where they have put him”. It is from this hopelessness that she must be converted.

She does not recognise Christ by voice or face but only when he speaks her name.

Our commemoration of Easter is not merely a remembrance of past events. It is essentially an encounter with the Risen Christ who is alive in a dimension of God beyond time and space and yet becomes present amidst the community of believers, through the scriptures and the bread and wine in the Eucharist.

These are signs to us in which we, like Mary and the disciples, do not immediately see or recognise Jesus until.... until he calls our name or, like Thomas it is the sight of the wounds, or the two on the road to Emmaus it is as he breaks bread and eats with them, yet he had walked with them for hours. We fail to see Christ in the ordinary, yet he is always there.

Christians see Christ’s Resurrection as the expectation, the first fruits, the foretaste, of God’s ultimate purpose to raise the dead, transformed, to be with him in an entirely new way of being and knowing. It is a preview of the great future that awaits the whole of the created universe. God has given us our only sufficient pledge. What he will do for all in the end, and **out** of this world, he did at Easter for Jesus **in** this world as it were, by anticipation.

Obviously, all this is incredible if we do not believe in God. But if we do believe let us take our belief seriously and accept its implications. This present life is not all there is. The resurrection is a token, not only of present communication with a living Lord, but of future resurrection for us all. But we do not have to wait until we die to experience the power of resurrection. It is manifest already in changed lives, in astonishing human goodness in the face of intolerable evil, in human determination and courage and - in HOPE.

What then is left for us to do? We must look for signs of resurrection in people and in the ‘everyday’. Look for them in our distracted and suffering world and in ourselves. Not to let precious time slip through our fingers but focus on the moment we have. How will we live this day?

What difference would it make to hear Jesus call us by name? And yet he has. We would not celebrate Easter if we had not already responded to his call.

'Console thyself, thou wouldst not seek Me, hadst not already found Me' – Blaise Pascal

The Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Intercessions

Jesus, our exalted Lord, has been given all authority.
Let us seek his intercession that our prayers may be perfected
by his prayer.

Jesus Christ, great high priest,
living for ever to intercede for us,
pray for the Church, your broken body in the world ...
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, King of righteousness,
enthroned at the right hand of the majesty on high,
pray for the world, and make it subject to your gentle rule ...
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, Son of Man,
drawing humanity into the life of God,
pray for your sisters and brothers in need, distress, or sorrow ...
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus, pioneer of our salvation,
bringing us to glory through your death and resurrection,
surround with your saints and angels
those who have died trusting your promises ...
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things,
ascended far above the heavens and filling the universe,
pray for us who receive the gifts you give us for work in your service ...
Lord, hear us.

Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ,
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at your feet;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your
Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

In the compassion of God, we pray

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.

HYMN

1 Love's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won:
lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er,
lo, he sets in blood no more.

3 Lives again our glorious King;
where, O death, is now thy sting?
dying once, he all doth save;
where thy victory, O grave?

2 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened paradise.

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 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to thee by both be given:
thee we greet triumphant now;
hail, the Resurrection Thou!

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.

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

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

Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty, +
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

HYMN

This joyful Eastertide,
away with care and sorrow!
My Love, the Crucified,
hath sprung to life this morrow.

Refrain:

*Had Christ, that once was slain,
ne'er burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain;
but now is Christ arisen,
arisen, arisen, arisen.*

Death's flood hath lost its chill,
since Jesus crossed the river:
Lover of souls, from ill
my passing soul deliver,

Refrain:

My flesh in hope shall rest,
and for a season slumber,
till trump from east to west
shall wake the dead in number.

Refrain: