

# Sunday Prayers for Easter Day

4 April 2021

## *The Preparation of the Paschal Candle<sup>1</sup>*

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.**

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the awesome power of God. As we hear God's word and proclaim all that God has done, we can be confident that we shall share Jesus's victory over death and live with him for ever.

*A minister lights the Easter Candle, saying*

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,  
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

The light of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia, Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia, Alleluia!**

## *Thanksgiving for Baptism<sup>2</sup>*

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,  
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ,  
for these waters where you make us new,  
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us  
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,  
like rains to our thirsting earth,  
like streams that revive our souls,  
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.  
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.  
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.  
Cleanse our hearts.  
Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Renewal of Baptism<sup>3</sup>

Dear friends,  
through the paschal mystery  
we have been buried with Christ in baptism,  
so that we may rise with him to a new life.  
Now that our Lenten observance is ended,  
let us renew the promises we made in baptism,  
when we rejected Satan and all his works,  
and promised to serve God faithfully  
in God's holy catholic Church.

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil  
and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?  
**I do.**

Do you believe in God the Father?  
**I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?  
**I believe in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again  
to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,  
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin,  
repent and return to the Lord?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as  
yourself?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people,  
and respect the dignity of every human being?

**I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation,  
and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?

**I will, with God's help.**

God the creator, the rock of our salvation,  
has given us new birth by water and the Holy Spirit,  
and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins,  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.

May Jesus keep us faithful to our calling,  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## *The First Reading*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter began to speak to the Gentiles in Caesarea: ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.

You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 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.

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; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 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.

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. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

*Acts 10.34—43*

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Psalm

We give thanks to you, O Lord, for you are gracious, •  
and your love endures for ever.

**Let the house of Israel say, •  
“God’s love endures for ever.”**

The Lord is my strength and my song, •  
and has become my deliverer.

**There are shouts of joy and deliverance •  
in the tents of the righteous.**

The right hand of the Lord does mighty things; •  
The right hand of the Lord raises up;  
the right hand of the Lord does mighty things.

**I shall not die but live, •  
and proclaim what the Lord has done.**

The Lord indeed has punished me, •  
but did not give me over to death.

**Open to me the gates of the temple, •  
that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.**

This is the gate of the Lord, •  
through which the righteous shall enter.

**I will thank you because you have answered me, •  
and you have become my deliverer.**

The stone which the builders rejected •  
has become the chief cornerstone.

**This is the Lord’s doing, •  
and it is marvellous in our eyes.**

This is the day which the Lord has made, •  
**let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

*Psalm 118.1—2, 14—24*

**Glory to God,  
Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.  
Amen.**

## *The Resurrection Gospel*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Saint Mark.

**Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’

When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.’

So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

*Mark 16.1—8*

The gospel of Christ.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*The Reflection*

## *The Prayers of the People*

Versicle and Response:

**V** We sing your praises, Holy One;  
**R** Fill us with your risen life.

## *The Lord's Prayer*

As Jesus teaches us, so 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.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

**Our Father,  
who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass  
against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## *The Collect<sup>4</sup>*

God of mercy,  
we no longer look for Jesus among the dead,  
for he is alive and has become the Lord of life.  
Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ,  
and help us to grow as your people  
toward the fullness of eternal life with you,  
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## *The Blessing*

## *The Dismissal*

Alleluia, Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**The Lord is risen indeed Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia, Alleluia!  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

---

<sup>1</sup> *Common Praise: Times and Seasons*. Church of England. “The Easter Service”

<sup>2</sup> *Sundays and Seasons*. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

<sup>3</sup> *Book of Alternative Services*. Anglican Church of Canada.

<sup>4</sup> *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. ELCIC and ELCA.