



17th April, 2022 - EASTER SUNDAY

IT'S EASTER! LET'S CELEBRATE!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Be glad and rejoice in what God is creating - a new heaven and a new earth.

The promise of joy and gladness for all people.

The promise of Eden restored, where every living creature lives in harmony.

Promises fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who died to defeat evil, and rose to give us life.

So let us be glad and rejoice in what God has created in us - new life - the life of the risen Christ.

Alleluia! Amen!

PRAYER FOR FIRST PEOPLES

In this place, many people have gone before us
who have honoured God
by caring for the Land,
in the ways they have lived
and in the stories they have shared.

We give thanks
for the nations and people,
who have held as sacred
the duty of protecting the Land
and living in harmony with it.

May God honour and bless them
– now and to eternity. (2017 A. Koh-Butler)

SYMBOLS OF THE RESURRECTION

THE SHROUD: Two people carry a plain white communion cloth and spread it on the bare communion table with these words:


This reminds us of the cloth in which they wrapped the body of Jesus.

On Easter morning it was found empty, lying in the tomb where Christ's body had been placed. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

THE FRAGRANT OIL:

A jar filled with fragrant oil is placed it on the communion table with these words:



This fragrance reminds us that very early on Easter Day some women came to the tomb to prepare Jesus' body for proper burial. The women were the first to hear of Jesus' resurrection. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

THE STONE:

A stone (as large as possible) is placed on, or in front of, the table with these words:

This stone reminds us that on the resurrection morning, the stone which sealed the tomb was rolled away. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

THE BREAD:

A large wholemeal loaf (home baked if possible) and plates with bread ready for communion are placed on the table with these words:

This bread reminds us that on the first Easter evening, Jesus walked and talked with two of his followers on the road to Emmaus. It was not until he broke bread with them that they recognised who he was.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

THE WINE:

The chalice and communion trays are placed on the table with these words:

This wine, representing Christ's blood, helps us to remember that Jesus died for us. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

THE CROSS:

A rough hewn cross is placed against the front of the table with these words:

The cross you see is an empty cross. Jesus is not dead. He is risen.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

THE CANDLE:

A lit 'Christ candle' is placed on the table or stand with these words:

This candle reminds us that Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

(This Liturgy has been adapted from a liturgy by Norman Hogg W.A. published in ON THE MOVE many years ago)

PRAYER OF ADORATION

To You be glory, O God, for raising Jesus from death.


Risen Lord, we worship and adore you.

To You be glory, O Christ, for being prepared, through your sacrificial love, to conquer death so we may share eternal life.

Risen Lord, we worship and adore you.

And, as if that were not enough, you greet us by name, as you greeted Mary in the garden,

and transform our lives forever with your Easter life.



Risen Lord, we worship and adore you.
We pray that the Holy Spirit, your life in us,
will so conform us to your image that we radiate your glory here,
through our rejoicing and praise,
and in all the places where people's lives are still affected by the powers of sin
and death.

Risen Lord, we worship and adore you.
To You be the glory, risen Lord Jesus, and we rejoice that 'endless is the victory
that you won over death'.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Amen

SONG

How Great thou Art

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/625058316/c3d3d79251>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of love, like the first witnesses of the resurrection,
we too come to the empty tomb with a variety of responses.
We hear the good news that Jesus has risen,
but so often the evidence for this is difficult to detect in our lives.

Forgive us when we fail to make Christ evident through our words, our actions
and our lives .

For so many people, the only good news of this weekend is that it provides the
opportunity for a holiday in pleasant Autumn weather.

Forgive us if we feel that this time of worship is an interruption to our planned
activities.

As we come to the empty tomb seeking forgiveness for all our faults and
shortcomings,
help us to re-order our priorities so that we
put the risen Christ first in our lives at all times.

Forgive us when we forget that the tomb is forever empty because Jesus is
here with us now and is wherever we may be.

Help us always to remember the costly act of Jesus the Christ –
an act which gives us the gift of a new beginning –
guilt free and graced by Your love.

The tomb is empty because Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia. Amen!

ASSURANCE

All the prophets testify that everyone who believes in Jesus receives
forgiveness of sins through his name." (Acts 10: 42b,43)


Hear, believe, and live the good news. In Jesus Christ we are blessed and
forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(take this time to pray for each other, the community and world)

SONG



He Lives, He Lives

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/531093876/ed6aceecd9>

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Loving God, we thank you for this Easter Day –
with its promise of new life, and new opportunities.
Use us, and our gifts, to love and to serve you,
and to witness to Christ whom you have raised,
and in whose name we pray. Amen

READINGS

Luke 24:1-12

REFLECTION

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/696800022/328b9800bd>

QUESTION

When have you experienced a remarkable surprise on Easter Morning?

SONG

Crown Him with Many Crowns

<https://vimeo.com/worshipwell/download/644229163/93d70a7326>

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

Living God, on this most joyous day we offer our thanks and praise to you;
creator of heaven and earth;
creator and lover of all humanity.

When people rejected your ways, you never rejected them,
but spoke words of mercy and love through the prophets;
promising a new creation where people will live life to the full,
and delight in being blessed by you.

And so, with all the company of heaven and earth we praise your holy name
saying:


**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy God, this meal which we share today is the celebration that death has
been defeated forever.



We celebrate also how the language of your love became audible through the Word made flesh,
Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, our beloved Lord;
and how the shape of your love became visible through his life and sacrificial love.

He graced lives with healing and hope, compassion and power and gave his very life for us.

On the night of his betrayal, as he sat at the table and broke bread with his friends, he said:

‘Take and eat; this is my body which is broken for you.
Remember me each time you do this.’

After they had eaten, he took the cup, and said:

‘Remember me as you drink from this,
for it is my life, poured out for you –
the beginning of a new relationship with God.’

God of all power, breathe your Holy Spirit upon us,
and upon these gifts of bread and wine,
that they may be for us the life of Christ,
and that we may make that life visible through our faithful witness to him.
In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen

THE LORD’S PRAYER

BREAKING THE BREAD

We break this bread and take this cup so that we can all share in the life of Christ.

God’s gifts for God’s people.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give thanks that this has been no ordinary meal.

It has been one in which we have been fed and nourished with the life of Jesus, our crucified and risen Lord.

May we go from here, refreshed and eager, to share that life with others.

In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen

BENEDICTION

Go in peace to love and serve our living Lord.

We go in the power of Christ’s resurrection! Alleluia!

May God, the creator of all life,

Jesus Christ, the giver of eternal life,

and the Holy Spirit, the power in each and every life,

bless each one of us, this day and every day.