



THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. *1 Peter 1:3*

Beloved in Christ, we come together to offer to Almighty God our worship and praise and thanksgiving, to confess our sins and to receive God's forgiveness, to hear his holy word proclaimed, to bring before him our needs and the needs of the world, and to pray that in the power of his Spirit we may serve him and know the greatness of his love.

Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

Silence is kept.

Heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault; by what we have done and by what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.

Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouth will proclaim your praise.

God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.

Praise the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

PSALM: 116:1-3, 10-17

I love the Lord, for he has heard the voice of my supplication; ♦

because he inclined his ear to me on the day I called to him.

The snares of death encompassed me; the pains of hell took hold of me; ♦

by grief and sorrow was I held.

Then I called upon the name of the Lord: ♦

'O Lord, I beg you, deliver my soul.'

How shall I repay the Lord ♦

for all the benefits he has given to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation ♦

and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord ♦

in the presence of all his people.

Precious in the sight of the Lord ♦

is the death of his faithful servants.

O Lord, I am your servant, ♦

your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

I will offer to you a sacrifice of thanksgiving ♦

and call upon the name of the Lord.

I will fulfil my vows to the Lord ♦

in the presence of all his people,

In the courts of the house of the Lord, ♦

in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Alleluia.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son;

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now,

and shall be for ever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: 'Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

CANTICLE: The Easter Anthems (*1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Romans 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22*)

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us:

therefore let us celebrate the feast,

Not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

Christ, once raised from the dead dies no more;

death has no more dominion over him.

In dying, he died to sin once for all;

in living, he lives to God.

See yourselves therefore as dead to sin;

and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Christ has been raised from the dead:

the firstfruits of those who sleep.

For as by man came death,

by man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die,

even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son;
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

SECOND READING: Luke 24:13-35

On that same day two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us.

They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

REFLECTION

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen
and grant her government wisdom.

Let your ministers be clothed with righteousness
and let your servants shout for joy.

O Lord, save your people
and bless those whom you have chosen.

Give peace in our time, O Lord,
and let your glory be over all the earth.

O God, make clean our hearts within us
and renew us by your Holy Spirit.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty Father, who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord: Give us such knowledge of his presence with us that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life and serve you continually in righteousness and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECTS AT MORNING PRAYER

Go before us, Lord, in all our doings, with your most gracious favour, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy attain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray that your Holy Spirit may so guide and govern us that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life, we may never forget your presence but may remember that we are always walking in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYERS

Let us pray to the Father in joy and hope and with the Spirit of the Risen Christ:

Father, grant that our risen Saviour may fill us and all your people with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Father, grant that isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Father, grant us humility to be prepared to make ourselves subject to one another in Christian love.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Father, grant that those who lack food, work or shelter may be provided for by us.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Father, grant that war and famine may cease in all the world.
Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Father, reveal the light of your presence to the sick, the weak and the dying to comfort and strengthen them.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Father, grant that, according to Christ's promises, all who have died in the faith of the resurrection may be raised on the last day.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

Father, send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon your people, so that we may bear faithful witness to the resurrection of your Son.

Lord, in your mercy **hear our prayer.**

A PRAYER FOR CARE WORKERS:

O Heavenly Father, who by your Son Jesus Christ has taught us the glory of self-sacrifice and service: bless all doctors, nurses, anaesthetists and hospital personnel who are called to care for the sick, especially those suffering from the Coronavirus. Give your strength to all who work in Nursing homes, and who attend those in need of care in the community. Protect all who work in essential shops, and businesses and supply companies. Help each to remember that they are fellow-workers with you; and give them such patience, skill and love that they may bring healing and comfort to those who they serve, and their loved ones. Guard them in their work from themselves contracting the virus, and watch over their families and loved ones in their anxiety for them. We ask this in the name of the one who spent himself for others with no thought for himself, even our Great Healer, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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

PRAYER OF EASTER BLESSING

May God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
raise us up to walk with him in the newness of his risen life:
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

ICH 418*

**Here, O my Lord, I see thee face to face;
here faith can touch and handle things unseen;
here would I grasp with firmer hand thy grace;
and all my weariness upon thee lean.**

**I have no help but thine; nor do I need
another arm save thine to lean upon;
it is enough, my Lord, enough indeed:
my strength is in thy might, thy might alone.**

**Mine is the sin, but thine the righteousness;
mine is the guilt, but thine the cleansing blood;
here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace-
thy blood, thy righteousness, O Lord, my God.**

**This is the hour of banquet and of song;
this is the heavenly table spread for me;
Here let me feast, and, feasting, still proclaim
The hallowed hour of fellowship with thee.**

*Words: Horatius Bonar (1809-89)
Tune: ST. AGNES James Langram (1835-1909)*

THE EASTERTIDE DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of the Risen Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Belfast Cathedral Closure

We regret that, due to current restrictions
as a result of the Covid-19 virus, Belfast Cathedral is closed to
services, tourism, events and as a public gathering venue.

However, please continue to watch the cathedral website (www.belfastcathedral.org) or
our Facebook Page "Belfast Cathedral" for up to date news and online prayer resources.

Bible passages in this service are from the New Revised Standard Version.

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FURTHER HYMNS THAT COULD BE USED AT HOME:

ICH 86*

**Christ is the King! O friends rejoice;
brothers and sisters, with one voice
let the world know he is your choice.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**O Christian women, Christian men,
all the world over, seek again
the way disciples followed then.**

**Christ through all ages is the same:
place the same hope in his great name;
with the same faith his word proclaim.**

**Let love's unconquerable might
your scattered companies unite
in service to the Lord of light.**

**So shall God's will on earth be done,
new lamps be lit, new tasks begun,
and the whole Church at last be one.**

Words: G.K.A. Bell (1883-1958)

Tune: VULPIUS (GELOBT SEI GOTT) Melody from Melchior Vulpius' Gesangbuch (Jena, 1609)

ICH 277*

**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.**

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

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

**Hail! the Lord of earth and heaven,
praise to thee by both be given;
thee we greet triumphant now,
hail, the resurrection thou.**

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

*Tune: SAVANNAH (HERRNHUT) Melody from MS. Choralbuch (Herrnhut, c.1740) as given in John Wesley's
Foundery Collection (1742)*