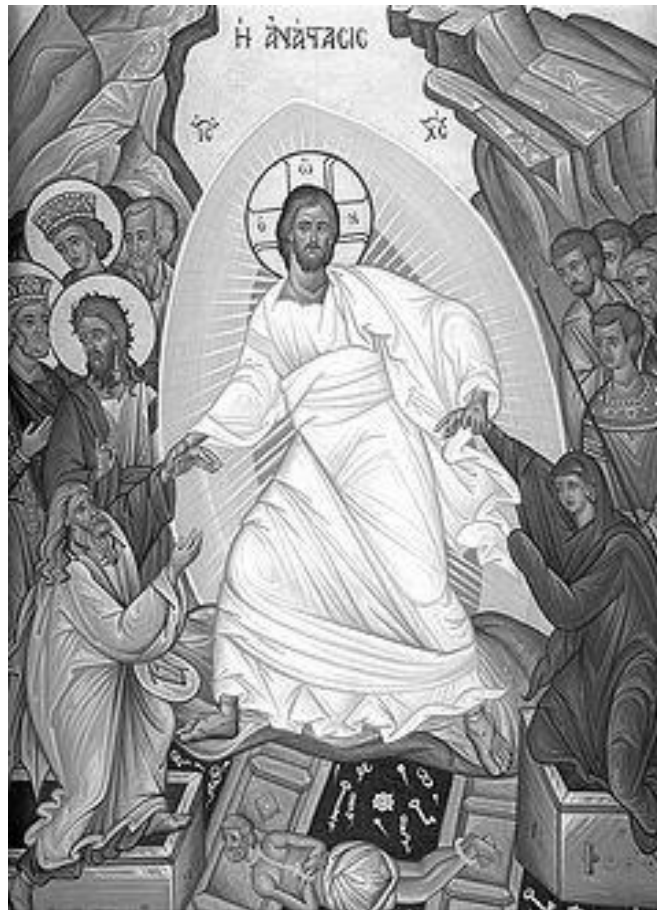




**BELFAST  
CATHEDRAL**



**A SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER  
FOR USE AT HOME  
EASTER DAY**

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2020  
11:00am

## 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*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
to you be glory and praise for ever.  
Your steadfast love extends to the heavens  
and your faithfulness never ceases.

Illuminate our hearts with your wisdom  
and strengthen our lives with your word,  
for you are the fountain of life;  
in your light we see true light.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

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.**

*The Dean lights the Easter Candle, saying*  
May the light of Christ, rising in glory,  
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

**Amen.**

**HYMN: ICH 271**

**Jesus Christ is risen today, alleluia!**  
**our triumphant holy day, alleluia!**  
**who did once upon the cross, alleluia!**  
**suffer to redeem our loss, alleluia!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, alleluia!**  
**unto Christ our heavenly King, alleluia!**  
**who endured the cross and grave, alleluia!**  
**sinner to redeem and save, alleluia!**

**But the pains that he endured, *alleluia!*  
our salvation have procured, *alleluia!*  
now above the sky he's King, *alleluia!*  
where the angels ever sing, *alleluia!***

*Words: Anon., Lyra Davidica (1708) based on a 14<sup>th</sup> century MS  
Tune: EASTER HYMN Adpt. in The Compleat Psalmodist (1749) from a melody in Lyra Davidica  
(1708)*

## **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.**

## **PROPER PSALM: 118:1-2, 14-24**

O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is gracious:  
because his mercy endureth for ever.

Let Israel now confess that he is gracious:  
and that his mercy endureth for ever.

The Lord is my strength, and my song:  
and is become my salvation.

The voice of joy and health is in the dwellings of the righteous:  
the right hand of the Lord bringeth mighty things to pass.

The right hand of the Lord hath the pre-eminence:  
the right hand of the Lord bringeth mighty things to pass.

I shall not die, but live:  
and declare the works of the Lord.

The Lord hath chastened and corrected me:  
but he hath not given me over unto death.

Open me the gates of righteousness:  
that I may go into them, and give thanks unto the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord:  
the righteous shall enter into it.  
I will thank thee, for thou hast heard me:  
and art become my salvation.  
The same stone which the builders refused:  
is become the head-stone in the corner.  
This is the Lord's doing:  
and it is marvellous in our eyes.  
This is the day which the Lord hath made:  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:  
and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:  
world without end. Amen.

**FIRST READING: Acts 10:34-43**

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the crowd 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.'

**THE 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:** John 20:1-18

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. 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.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then

the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; 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. 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.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 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.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). 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." ' 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.

**SERMON** by the Very Reverend Stephen Forde, Dean of Belfast

## **THE RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS AT EASTER**

As we celebrate again the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ we remember that through these saving acts we have been buried with him in baptism, so that we might rise with him to a new life within the family of his Church. We now proceed to renew the promises made at our baptism, to affirm our allegiance to Christ and our rejection of all that is evil.

Do you renew and affirm the promises made when you were baptised?

**I do.**

Do you turn in faith to Christ?

**I do.**

Do you then renounce all evil?

**I do, by God's help.**

Will you obey and serve Christ?

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

Do you believe and trust in God the Father and creator of heaven and earth?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ, who redeemed the world?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God?

**I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Those who are baptised are called to worship and serve God: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

**With the help of God, I will.**

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

**With the help of God, I will.**

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

**With the help of God, I will.**

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking justice?

**With the help of God, I will.**

Almighty God,

you have given us the will to do all these things:  
give us the courage and strength to achieve them  
to the honour and glory of your name,  
and the good of your Church and people:

through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns

with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith, that you may be rooted and grounded in love and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. **Amen.**

**HYMN: ICH 283**

**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** has brought us over,  
with hymns of victory.

**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.

**Now let the heavens be joyful,**  
let earth her 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** is risen,  
our joy that has no end.

*Words: John of Damascus (c.675-750) tr. John Mason Neale (1818-66)*

*Tune: ELLACOMBE Melody from Württemberg Gesangbuch (1784)*

**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, 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.**

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.**

### **THE COLLECT OF EASTER DAY**

Almighty God, through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ you have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life, and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us in all assaults of our enemies, that we, surely trusting in your protection, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everliving God, we give you thanks for bringing us safely to this day: Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger, and in all things guide us to know and do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **PRAYERS**

As disciples who know that Christ is risen let us pray for the Church and for the world:

As your Church rejoices this day in the Resurrection of her Lord and Saviour, may her worship be reverent and her proclamation faithful. May every Christian soul respond in faith to the call of the Master and make haste to tell the good news.

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

Let the Easter hope be known in all the world. Give light to those who seek, assurance to those who doubt, and peace to all. May Christ be known as the only Lord, the only hope of the nations.

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

Be with our families and friends and all who share with us the wonderful day of Resurrection. May the presence of Christ bring us close to those who are separated from us, in the knowledge that no distance can part us from his love.

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

Have mercy on those who stand at the open door of faith but are held back by doubt or fear of their unworthiness. Draw them in, that they may begin the new life that Christ has brought. Help and comfort those for whom suffering and sorrow mar the happiness of this day.

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

We give thanks for those who, having shared with Christ the death of the body, now share with him the eternal life of his Resurrection. May the promise that has been fulfilled in them be our hope in this world and our place in the world to come.

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

## **A PRAYER FOR HEALTH 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.**

## **HYMN: ICH 288**

**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.*

**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:**

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;  
life is nought 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:**

*Words: Edmond Budry (1854-1932) tr. R.B. Hoyle (1875-1939)  
Tune: MACCABEUS G.F. Handel (1685-1759) adpt. From a chorus in Judas Maccabeus (1746)*

## **PRAYER OF EASTER BLESSING**

May the God of peace,  
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
that great shepherd of the sheep,  
through the blood of the eternal covenant,  
make us perfect in every good work to do his will,  
working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight:  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be with us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

## **THE EASTERTIDE DISMISSAL**

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



Wishing you all the joy of this day and a blessed, safe and peaceful Easter.

### **Belfast Cathedral Closure**

We regret that, due to current restrictions as a result of the Covid-19 virus, Belfast Cathedral remains closed.

Please continue to watch the website [www.belfastcathedral.org](http://www.belfastcathedral.org) for up to date news and online prayer resources.

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