



AT HOME SERVICE

Sunday 5th April 2026

EASTER SUNDAY

compiled by Angela Banfield - Lay Assistant

Happy Easter everyone.
Jesus Christ is risen today! Hallelujah.

Welcome to our worship for Easter Sunday 2026, as we join together with Christians throughout the world, to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus.

Hymn - 309 StF

1] See what a morning gloriously bright,
with the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
folded the grave clothes, tomb filled with light,
as the angels announce Christ is risen!
See God's salvation plan,
wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice
fulfilled in Christ the Man,
for He lives: Christ is risen from the dead.

2] See Mary weeping, 'where is He laid?'
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;
hears a voice speaking, calling her name;
it's the master the Lord raised to life again!
The voice that spans the years,
speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us,
will sound till He appears,
for He lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

3] One with the Father, Ancient of days,
through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty,
honour and blessing, glory and praise
to the King crowned with power and authority!
And we are raised with Him,
death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered;
and we shall reign with Him,
for He lives: Christ is risen from the dead.

Stuart Townend (b.1963) and Keith Getty (b.1974)

We pray together

Risen and triumphant Lord Jesus, this day we join in spirit with those who sorrowfully crept to your tomb on that first Easter morning. We think of their baskets of oil and herbs, carefully chosen to afford you what dignity they could. Their hearts were breaking and fearful, yet full of love that spurred them on, they found a joy that conquered all that death or life could threaten. For you dear Lord were risen. Raised by Our Father to eternal and everlasting Glory.

We also are witnesses to the empty tomb. We know that Jesus was raised to life from death, because like them, we have met our living Saviour and Lord within our lives, within each other, and see his presence throughout our world.

Forgive us when we forget the power and glory of this first Easter Morning, preferring to live quiet and fearful lives below the radar of criticism. Choosing popularity before Jesus. Remaining silent in the face of injustice that doesn't affect us, but ruins others. Living Lord, forgive us and convince us, to be the people we could be to change the world. Empowered by faith and fuelled with your eternal and endless love. Amen

The Lord's Prayer. Please say the version that you know best, then please try singing these words, based upon The Lord's Prayer to the tune Finlandia.

1] Our Father may, your name be always honoured,
your Kingdom come, on earth as high above.
Give us each day, the food our souls will thrive on,
forgive us when, we fail to live in love.
Your will be done, by sister and by brother,
and let us follow, where our Lord has gone.

2] Yours is the power, the glory, and our heaven.
Safe in this world, we work to build the next.
If we are hurt, help us forgive the hurter -
and offer all men, grace and love instead.
Our praise is yours, your power and your glory,
yet through our lives, Christ rises from the dead.

(Angela Banfield)

The Easter Reading. The Gospel of Matthew 28:1 - 10

The Resurrection of Jesus

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings! 'And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

Reflection

If we are looking for a textbook answer to the question, 'what does the resurrection mean to us?' We will do well to begin by looking at what it meant to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary. Quite who this other Mary was is open to debate, so we won't worry which Mary she is, but we can be glad she was there.

What an interesting response we find, firstly from the guards; who were frozen with fear, and then from the Marys; who overcame their fear, listened to the angel, looked inside the tomb, met with Jesus, worshipped him, and were sent to tell Jesus' brothers that he was risen and they were to go to Galilee to see him.

I wonder sometimes if we are frozen with fear and are therefore, unable or unwilling to share the Good News of a Risen Lord. Are we like the guards that couldn't do a thing? or are we like the Marys?

The disciples were sent back to Galilee to meet with Jesus, to go to the places where Jesus fed the hungry, healed the sick, and preached the Good News to those, who had no idea that salvation applied to them. Jesus said his disciples would meet him there, in Galilee. And so will we, metaphorically!

We will find Jesus ahead of us and with us, whenever we engage in following his example of a life worth living. Where our response to need, is not governed by our fears but fuelled instead by our love. Love for our neighbours, in biblical style! And love for our risen Lord, who recognises the good and godliness, even in us, as he generously forgives the things that are not.

Jesus is alive - and because of it, we are through his grace able to serve him in our world. He is alive and because of it, we know that nothing can separate us from him. He is alive, and our fears are conquered.

St. Paul has the last word today. 'For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.' Romans 8: 38-39. Amen

A Prayer taken from Roots Resources for Churches

Lord Jesus, we ask your forgiveness for when we have failed to perceive the power in your story. Even the Easter story has become so familiar to us that we fail to feel the immense impact of it. The stone rolled away! The ground itself shaking beneath us! A crucified man defeating death itself! Today Lord, we seek to follow in the footsteps of the women who witnessed your resurrection; to hear and feel as they did, so that we can truly proclaim your groundbreaking gospel. Amen

The Easter Sermon of of John Chrysostom (circa 400 AD) - this is a special treat!

Are there any who are devout lovers of God?

Let them enjoy this beautiful bright festival!

Are there any who are grateful servants?

Let them rejoice and enter into the joy of their Lord!

Are there any weary with fasting?

Let them now receive their wages!

If any have toiled from the first hour,

let them receive their due reward;

If any have come after the third hour,

let him with gratitude join in the Feast!

And he that arrived after the sixth hour,

let him not doubt; for he too shall sustain no loss.

And if any delayed until the ninth hour,

let him not hesitate; but let him come too.

And he who arrived only at the eleventh hour,

let him not be afraid by reason of his delay.

For the Lord is gracious and receives the last even as the first.

He gives rest to him that comes at the eleventh hour,

as well as to him that toiled from the first.

To this one He gives, and upon another He bestows.

He accepts the works as He greets the endeavour.

The deed He honours and the intention He commends.

Let us all enter into the joy of the Lord!

First and last alike receive your reward;

rich and poor, rejoice together!

Sober and slothful, celebrate the day!

You that have kept the fast, and you that have not,

rejoice today for the Table is richly laden!

Feast royally on it, the calf is a fatted one.

Let no one go away hungry. Partake, all, of the cup of faith.

Enjoy all the riches of His goodness!

Let no one grieve at his poverty,

for the universal kingdom has been revealed.

Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again;

for forgiveness has risen from the grave.

Let no one fear death, for the Death of our Savior has set us free.

He has destroyed it by enduring it.

He destroyed Hell when He descended into it.

He put it into an uproar even as it tasted of His flesh.

Isaiah foretold this when he said,
"You, O Hell, have been troubled by encountering Him below."
Hell was in an uproar because it was done away with.
It was in an uproar because it is mocked.
It was in an uproar, for it is destroyed.
It is in an uproar, for it is annihilated.
It is in an uproar, for it is now made captive.

Hell took a body, and discovered God.
It took earth, and encountered Heaven.
It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it did not see.
O death, where is thy sting?
O Hell, where is thy victory?
Christ is Risen, and you, o death, are annihilated!
Christ is Risen, and the evil ones are cast down!
Christ is Risen, and the angels rejoice!
Christ is Risen, and life is liberated!

Christ is Risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead;
for Christ having risen from the dead,
is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
To Him be Glory and Power forever and ever. Amen

In a time of silence, please pray for those people you know who need your prayers today.

Hymn: 313 StF

1] Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death has 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.*

2] 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 has lost its sting:

Thine be the glory

3] No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life;
life is naught 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:

Thine be the glory

Edmond Budry (1854-1932)

Blessing

May the wonder and power of the first resurrection day inspire you throughout each day
and know that Jesus our risen and living Lord is always with you. Amen