



# Morning Prayer

Easter Day

12<sup>th</sup> April 2020

# An Order for Morning Prayer on Sunday

12 April 2020

## Easter Day

### **† Preparation**

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**and also with you.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

We have come together in the name of Christ  
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,  
to hear and receive God's holy word,  
to pray for the needs of the world,  
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,  
that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

### **Prayers of Penitence**

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.  
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil  
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

*cf 1 Corinthians 5.7,8*

**Lord God,  
we have sinned against you;  
we have done evil in your sight.  
We are sorry and repent.  
Have mercy on us according to your love.  
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.  
Renew a right spirit within us**

**and restore to us the joy of your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies  
cleanse us from our sins,  
and restore us in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Blessed is the Lord,  
**for he has heard the voice of our prayer;**

Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy  
**and in our song will we praise our God.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God,  
creator and redeemer of all;  
to you be glory and praise for ever.  
From the waters of chaos you drew forth the world.  
and in your great love fashioned us in your image.  
Now, through the deep waters of death,  
you have brought your people to new birth  
by raising your Son to life in triumph.  
May Christ your light ever dawn in our hearts  
as we offer you our sacrifice of thanks and praise.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God,  
set our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

# **¶ The Word of God**

## **Psalmody**

*Psalm 118.1-2,14-24*

- 1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
his mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let Israel now proclaim,  
'His mercy endures for ever.'
- 14 The Lord is my strength and my song,  
and he has become my salvation.
- 15 Joyful shouts of salvation  
sound from the tents of the righteous:
- 16 'The right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds;  
the right hand of the Lord raises up;  
the right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds.'
- 17 I shall not die, but live  
and declare the works of the Lord.
- 18 The Lord has punished me sorely,  
but he has not given me over to death.
- 19 Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.
- 20 This is the gate of the Lord;  
the righteous shall enter through it.
- 21 I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.
- 22 The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 This is the Lord's doing,  
and it is marvellous in our eyes.

24 This is the day that the Lord has made;  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

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 10.34-43*

<sup>34</sup>Peter began to speak to those assembled in the house of Cornelius. 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>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. <sup>39</sup>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; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>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. <sup>42</sup>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. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The reading may be followed by a time of silence.*

## **Old Testament Cantic**

### **The Song of Moses and Miriam**

*Exodus 15.1b-3,6,10,13,17*

- 1 I will sing to the Lord, who has triumphed gloriously,  
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.
- 2 The Lord is my strength and my song  
and has become my salvation.
- 3 This is my God whom I will praise  
the God of my forebears whom I will exalt.
- 4 The Lord is a warrior,  
the Lord is his name.
- 5 Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in power:  
your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.
- 6 At the blast of your nostrils, the sea covered them;  
they sank as lead in the mighty waters.
- 7 In your unfailing love, O Lord,  
you lead the people whom you have redeemed.
- 8 And by your invincible strength  
you will guide them to your holy dwelling.
- 9 You will bring them in and plant them, O Lord,  
in the sanctuary which your hands have established.

*Exodus 15.1b-3,6,10,13,17*

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*

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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.' <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. <sup>4</sup>The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup>and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup>for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples returned to their homes.

<sup>11</sup>But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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.' <sup>14</sup>When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>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.' <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' which means Teacher. <sup>17</sup>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.”<sup>18</sup> 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The reading may be followed by a time of silence.*

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead

**And Christ shall give you light.**

You have died and your life is hid with Christ in God.

**Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead.**

Set your minds on things that are above,  
not on things that are on the earth.

**And Christ shall give you light.**

When Christ our life appears you will appear with him in glory.

**Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,  
and Christ shall give you light.**

**Gospel Cantic**

**Benedictus**

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,  
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,  
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old  
to save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors,  
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

- 6 Free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*Luke 1.68-79*

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.

**Sermon** (There is a reflection at the end of this booklet)

## **The Creed**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 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.**

## **¶ Prayers**

Let us pray to the Lord,  
who is our refuge and stronghold.

For the health and well-being of our nation,  
that all who are fearful and anxious  
may be at peace and free from worry:

At this time of need

**We wait, we watch, we hope, we pray.**

For the isolated and housebound,  
that we may be alert to their needs  
and care for them in their vulnerability:

At this time of need

**We wait, we watch, we hope, we pray.**

For our homes and families,  
our schools and young people,  
and all in any kind of need or distress:

At this time of need

**We wait, we watch, we hope, we pray.**

For all those of our congregation worshipping at this time,  
that we may be supported by our common prayer  
and soon return to worshipping together

At this time of need

**We wait, we watch, we hope, we pray.**

For a blessing on our local community,  
that our neighbourhoods may be places of trust and friendship,  
where all are known and cared for:

At this time of need

**We wait, we watch, we hope, we pray.**

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,  
to the mercy and protection of God.

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

*The Collect is said.*

Lord of all life and power,  
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son  
overcame the old order of sin and death  
to make all things new in him:  
grant that we, being dead to sin  
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,  
may reign with him in glory;  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
be praise and honour, glory and might,  
now and in all eternity.

**Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer is said*

**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.**



## **The Conclusion**

### **The Blessing**

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,  
and keep us in eternal life.  
**Amen.**

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Easter Day  
Rosalind Brown

Acts 10.34-43; John 20.1-19 or Matthew 28.1-10

WHAT happened at dawn on the first day of the week was not instant and overwhelming joy for those involved. It provoked yet more perplexity. Mary Magdalene and another Mary (like Judas who was "not Iscariot" - John 14.22 - she was equally faithful, but always named in relation to someone else) went to see the tomb. Suddenly, there was the second earthquake in three days, and an angel, looking like lightning and snow at the same time, descended from heaven and sat on the stone. It was holy commotion yet again.

Matthew, having previously recorded the setting of the guard, contrasts those men with these women. All were at the tomb, felt the earthquake, saw the angel, and felt the fear. Unlike the previous earthquake, which brought dead people back to life, this one caused living guards to become like dead people. The women were bolder - afraid, yes, but they held their ground.

They were invited to see the emptiness that betokened Jesus's absence, to express the sighing that needed a theology. An empty tomb on its own was not evidence of resurrection. It was Jesus's going ahead to Galilee that gave them hope. Galilee, off the political map, where they had first encountered Jesus, was to be the place where hope was given substance.

Mingled with great joy, fear was not paralysing, but gave impetus to action. These were times full of wonder, and the Authorised Version captures this in a way that more recent translations do not. Good Friday's "And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain" yields on Easter Day to still more marvels for human eyes and hearts to behold: "And, behold, there was a great earthquake . . . and behold he goeth before you into Galilee . . . and behold Jesus met them." Behold!

So the women ran, but Jesus beat them to it, interrupting their run. Even so, Jesus does not play a large part in Matthew's account of the chaotic dawn goings-on. His one word, "Greetings", was almost a walk-on part, but it was some walk-on.

The women recognised him, touched him, and worshipped him, showing none of the doubt that some disciples experienced subsequently (Matthew 28.16). Then it was action stations. Just as once disciples were told to proclaim the good news (Matthew 10.7), now the women were to tell his brothers to go to meet him, and, once there, they would be told to go and make disciples of all the nations (Matthew 20.19).

I drafted this column one evening. The next day, someone came to talk something through, and I write this part with her permission.

Perhaps because I had been immersed in Matthew's dawn story, as she described what had been going on in her life, I heard resonances with the underlying issues for the two Marys; so I simply read the story and we discussed it.

Matthew describes speechless, fearful women who had faced a devastating ending, paralysed into inaction and seemingly not knowing what to do next. So the angel had to give them very firm and straightforward directions: do not be afraid; come and see the tomb (take a good look and see it is empty; what you laid there is gone, a thing of the past; so leave it behind); go quickly and tell the disciples that he has been raised and is going before you (move on: there is a way forward); you will see him in Galilee (get on with the journey without understanding everything; God who has acted so radically thus far will provide insight when you arrive).

She made her own connections, and her face lit up with new insight and hope. I will not tell you what they were; for they are her story. It renewed my joy and confidence that God, who - as a consequence of the resurrection - turned the women's lives around, and gave them

confidence to move forward in new mission, is doing the same today in our lives.

In the collect's phrase, through the mighty resurrection of his Son, the old order of sin and death is overcome. There is a sound of grace and beauty expressed in Jesus's one word: "Greetings." All things are made new in Christ. Alleluia!