

A Service of the Word for Easter Day

Welcome to a Service of Light

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.

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the awesome power of God. As we hear his word and proclaim all that God has done, we can be confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever.

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

Everyone lights a candle

The light of Christ: **thanks be to God!**
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The Exultet

Choirs of angels, stars and planets:
all God's people sing and dance.
All creation, Church of God:
all God's people sing and dance.
We praise you Lord of life and death:
we glorify your name:
all God's people sing and dance.

This is the night you set us free,
bringing us home in love;
holy night, when you led your people
through the fearsome sea:
all God's people sing and dance.

This is the night you brought your Son
through the doors of death;
O holy night, when death takes flight
and hope is born again:
all God's people sing and dance.

This is the night our tears of sadness
turn to shouts of joy;
holy night, when the choirs of earth
sing the songs of heaven:
all God's people sing and dance.

This is the night when Christ our Light
makes the darkness bright:
all God's people sing and dance.

Christ is the life that knows no end.
Christ is the love that burns within.
Christ is the peace that floods the world.
Christ is the Lord who reigns on high.
All God's people sing and dance.
Amen.

The Easter Acclamation

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Prayer

Let us pray that we may walk the risen life of Christ in glory.

Risen Lord Jesus, as Mary Magdalene met you in the garden
On the morning of your resurrection, so may we meet you today and every day:
Speak to us as you spoke to her; reveal yourself as the living Lord;
Renew our hope and kindle our joy; and send us to share good news with others.
Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Acts 10:34-43

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia, alleluia

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one;
I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore. **Alleluia**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

John 20:1-18

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

Re-affirmation of Baptismal Vows

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:

Do you turn to Christ?

I turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sins?

I repent of my sins.

Do you renounce evil?

I renounce evil.

Let us affirm, together our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

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.**

The Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.'
Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.
Alleluia. The peace of the risen Christ be always with you
and also with you. Alleluia.

Prayers

This or another response may be used: Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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.**

Conclusion

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**He has given us new life and hope
by raising Jesus from the dead.**

God has claimed us as his own.

**He has brought us out of darkness.
He has made us light to the world.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

May Christ dwell in our hearts through faith, That we may be rooted and grounded
in love And bring forth the fruit of the Spirit. Amen.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.