



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: 16

Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge:

I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord, all my good depends on you.'

All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land:

upon those who are noble in heart.

Though the idols are legion that many run after:
their drink offerings of blood I will not offer, neither make mention of their names upon my lips.
The Lord himself is my portion and my cup:
in your hands alone is my fortune.
My share has fallen in a fair land:
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel:
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.
I have set the Lord always before me:
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.
Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices:
my flesh also shall rest secure.
For you will not abandon my soul to Death:
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.
You will show me the path of life; in your presence is the fullness of joy:
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.
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, 22-32

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: 'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him,
"I saw the Lord always before me,
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.
For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,
or let your Holy One experience corruption.
You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence."

'Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,
"He was not abandoned to Hades,
nor did his flesh experience corruption."
This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.'

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 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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, you have given your only Son to die for our sins and to rise again for our justification: Grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECTS AT MORNING PRAYER

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

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity:

Jesus, light of the world, bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations.

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

Jesus, bread of life, give food to the hungry and nourish us all with your word.

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

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life, be with us and all who follow you in the way. Deepen our appreciation of your truth and fill us with your life.

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

Jesus, Good Shepherd, who gave your life for the sheep, recover the straggler, bind up the injured, strengthen the sick and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.

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

Jesus, the resurrection and the life, we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you. Raise us with them to eternal life.

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, and other health care workers who are called to care for the sick, especially those who suffer from the Coronavirus. Help them always 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, 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.

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

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!

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

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HYMNS FOR POSSIBLE USE AT HOME: ICH 262

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain
of triumphant gladness;
God has brought his Israel
into joy from sadness;
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters,
led them with unmoistened foot
through the Red Sea waters.

'Tis the spring of souls today;
Christ has burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death
as a sun has risen;
all the winter of our sins
long and dark, is flying
from his light, to whom we give
laud and praise undying.

Now the queen of seasons, bright
with the day of splendour,
with the royal feast of feasts,
comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem,
who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains
Jesu's resurrection.

*Words: John of Damascus (c.675-c.750) tr. John Mason Neale (1818-66) based on Exodus 15; Luke 24
Tune: ST JOHN DAMASCENE Arthur Henry Brown (1830-1926)*

Alleluia, now we cry
to our King immortal,
who triumphant burst the bars
of the tomb's dark portal;
alleluia, with the Son
God the Father praising;
alleluia, yet again,
to the Spirit raising!

HYMN: ICH 272*

Jesus lives! thy terrors now
can no more, O death, appal us;
Jesus lives: by this we know
now the grave cannot enthrall us.
Alleluia!

Jesus lives: for us he died;
then may we, for Jesus living,
pure in heart in him abide,
glory to our Saviour giving.
Alleluia!

Jesus lives: our hearts know well
nought from us his love shall sever;
life, nor death, nor powers of hell
tear us from his keeping ever.
Alleluia!

Jesus lives: henceforth is death
but the gate of life immortal;
this shall calm our trembling breath
when we pass its gloomy portal.
Alleluia!

*Words: Christian F. Gellert (1715-69) tr. Frances E. Cox (1812-97)
Tune: ST ALBINUS Henry J. Gauntlett (1805-76)*

HYMN: ICH 258*

Christ the Lord is risen again!
Christ has broken every chain!
Hark! angelic voices cry,
singing evermore on high,
alleluia!

He who bore all pain and loss
comfortless upon the cross,
lives in glory now on high,
pleads for us and hears our cry:
alleluia!

He who slumbered in the grave
is exalted now to save;
now through Christendom it rings
that the Lamb is King of kings.
Alleluia!

Thou, our paschal Lamb indeed,
Christ thy ransomed people feed;
take our sins and guilt away:
let us sing by night and day
alleluia!

*Words: Michael Weiss (c.1480-1534) tr. Catherine Winkworth (1829-78)
Tune: NASSAU (WURTEMBERG) Later form of a melody in Hundert Geistlicher Arien (Dresden, 1694) adapted by
William Henry Monk (1823-89)*

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.