



THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

HYMN: ICH 277

Love's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won:
Lo! our Sun's eclipse is o'er;
Lo! he sets in blood no more.

Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
Christ hath burst the gates of hell;
death in vain forbids him rise;
Christ hath opened Paradise.

Lives again our glorious King;
where, O death, is now thy sting?
Dying once he all doth save:
where thy victory, O grave?

Soar we now where Christ hath led,
following our exalted Head;
made like him, like him we rise;
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Hail! the Lord of earth and heaven,
praise to thee by both be given;
thee we greet triumphant now,
hail the resurrection thou.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88)

Tune: SAVANNAH (HERRNHUT) Melody from MS. Choralbuch (Herrnhut, c.1740) as given in John Wesley's Foundry Collection (1742)

OPENING RESPONSES:

O Lord, open thou our lips
and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

PSALM: 98

O sing unto the Lord a new song:
for he hath done marvellous things.
With his own right hand, and with his holy arm:
hath he gotten himself the victory.
The Lord declared his salvation:
his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.
He hath remembered his mercy and truth toward the house of Israel:
and all the ends of the world have seen the salvation of our God.
Shew yourselves joyful unto the Lord, all ye lands:
sing, rejoice, and give thanks.
Praise the Lord upon the harp:
sing to the harp with a psalm of thanksgiving.
With trumpets also, and shawms:
O shew yourselves joyful before the Lord the King.
Let the sea make a noise, and all that therein is:
the round world, and they that dwell therein.
Let the floods clap their hands, and let the hills be joyful together before the Lord:
for he is come to judge the earth.
With righteousness shall he judge the world:
and the people with equity.

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 LESSON: Daniel 6:6-23

The presidents and satraps conspired and came to the king and said to him, 'O King Darius, live for ever! All the presidents of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counsellors and the governors, are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an interdict, that whoever prays to anyone, divine or human, for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions. Now, O king, establish the interdict and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked.' Therefore King Darius signed the document and interdict.

Although Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he continued to go to his house, which had windows in its upper room open towards Jerusalem, and to get down on his knees three times a day to pray to his God and praise him, just as he had done previously. The conspirators came and found Daniel praying and seeking mercy before his God. Then they approached the king and said concerning the interdict, 'O king! Did you not sign an interdict, that anyone who prays to anyone, divine or human, within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be thrown into a den of lions?' The king answered, 'The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked.' Then they responded to the king, 'Daniel, one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the interdict you have signed, but he is saying his prayers three times a day.'

When the king heard the charge, he was very much distressed. He was determined to save Daniel, and until the sun went down he made every effort to rescue him. Then the conspirators came to the king and said to him, 'Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no interdict or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.'

Then the king gave the command, and Daniel was brought and thrown into the den of lions. The king said to Daniel, 'May your God, whom you faithfully serve, deliver you!' A stone was brought and laid on the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, so that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no food was brought to him, and sleep fled from him.

Then, at break of day, the king got up and hurried to the den of lions. When he came near the den where Daniel was, he cried out anxiously to Daniel, 'O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God whom you faithfully serve been able to deliver you from the lions?' Daniel then said to the king, 'O king, live for ever! My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths so that they would not hurt me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no wrong.' Then the king was exceedingly glad and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

THE CANTICLE MAGNIFICAT:

My soul doth magnify the Lord:

and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded:

the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth:

all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me:

and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him:

throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm:

he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat:

and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things:

and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:

as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

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.

SECOND LESSON: Mark 15:46-16:8

Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

THE CANTICLE NUNC DIMITTIS:

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:

according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation.

Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people.

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:

and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

**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.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And 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, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick 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 Lord be with you
and with thy Spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us
Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon 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. Amen.**

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us
and grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen
and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness
and make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people
and bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord,
because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us
and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY:

Almighty Father, who hast given thine 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 thee in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PEACE:

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS:

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord: and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PRAYERS

Living God, our Lord and King, we render you the tribute of our praise for the resurrection of the springtime, for the everlasting hopes that rise within the human heart, and for the gospel of the resurrection which has brought life and immortality to light. Receive our thanksgiving, reveal your presence, and send forth into our hearts the Spirit of the risen Christ.

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sea and sky; for the richness of mountains, plains and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honour and glory of your name, now and for ever.

Lord Christ, you said to your disciples, 'My Father has worked till now, and I work': we pray for all who, through no fault of their own, have been deprived of work by the necessities of this time. We pray for businesses, charities, transport and churches who face financial uncertainty because of lost income and restriction of movement. Inspire and guide those in government who bear responsibility for finding ways in which both employers and employees can be supported and sustained through the present crisis. Grant a spirit of co-operation and patience as we learn to live in the new and uncharted territory in which we all find ourselves; in the name of Christ our Risen Master.

Lord and heavenly Father, we thank you for our homes and families: make us aware of your loving care of us day by day; make us thankful for all the blessings we receive which we take for granted; and make us mindful of those who are lonely and less fortunate than ourselves; for the sake of Christ our Lord.

We thank you, Lord God, that because of Easter our gospel is not least a gospel about the mystery of death as well as of life. May those who face death at this time, and especially those who have watched it claim their loved ones, know that through Christ's glorious resurrection death has lost its sting for ever. He has opened the kingdom of heaven to all who believe in him. He has broken the power of death and brought life and immortality to light. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

A PRAYER FOR CARERS

Holy Spirit, promised Counsellor, we pray at this time of stress and anxiety for those who are called to the ministry of nurse, doctor, or hospital administrator, and also for those who, without special training, bear heavy burdens at home in caring for the ill and elderly. We remember those who have to manage somehow on their own, and ask your blessing on all the ordinary folk who are good neighbours and friends in need. Draw us closer in bonds of loving care and Christian compassion, and help us to see and respond to need around us. In the bearing, and alleviating, of human pain may the Father's will be done, the Father's love be known, and the Father's grace be mighty to help; through Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord.

A PRAYER OF ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests:

Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

THE GRACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

HYMN: ICH 292

Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,
your sweetest notes employ,
the paschal victory to hymn
in strains of holy joy.

Triumphant in his glory now,
to him all power is given;
to him in one communion bow
all saints in earth and heaven.

For Judah's Lion bursts his chains,
to crush serpent's head,
and cries aloud through death's domains
to wake the imprisoned dead.

While we, his servants praise our king,
his mercy we implore,
within his palace bright to bring
and keep us evermore.

Devouring depths of hell their prey
at his command restore;
his ransomed hosts pursue their way
where Jesus goes before.

All glory to the Father be,
all glory to the Son,
all glory Holy Ghost, to thee,
while endless ages run.
Alleluia! Amen!

Words: Fulbert of Chartres (d.1028) tr. Robert Campbell (1814-68)

Tune: ST FULBERT Henry J. Gauntlett (1805-76)

PRAYER OF BLESSING

May the peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst 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!

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.

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

Material in this service is reproduced from the Book of Common Prayer copyright © RCB 2004.

Belfast Cathedral text, music and live streaming licence numbers CCL 8124, MRL 1049409

belfastcathedral.org