

READINGS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Acts 10 : 34-43

[If the readings from Acts will be used as the first lesson throughout the Easter season:

During the Easter season, in place of the Hebrew Scriptures, we read the witness of the early church to the power of the Lord's resurrection.]

This is a small part of the story of Peter and a centurion of the Roman occupying army, when the Gospel first reached beyond the Jews. The teaching sums up Jesus's old and new life.

or

Jeremiah 31 : 16

The prophet's vision is of Jerusalem rebuilt after it had been totally destroyed. His song of resurrection fits our mood today, when we know that the life of Jesus was destroyed on Friday but is now raised again to save us and restore us.

Colossians 3 : 1-4

It is not just that Christ is risen, says Paul. Our life is now his life, so we too are raised up above much that is earthly, to dwell in God's realm of being.

John 20 : 1-18

Mary Magdalene is sometimes called 'The Apostle to the Apostles', for she was the first to see the risen Lord and tell the others. But his appearance had changed and only love speaking to love made him known to her.

or

Matthew 28 : 1-10

The birth of Jesus was announced to Mary by an angel; so now it is angels who tell the two Marys that he is risen to new life. They run to share the good news, and meet him on their way.

PRAYERS

Collect

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 your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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Post Communion

Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

How Blessed Is The Day

How blessed is this day, when earth and heaven are joined and humankind is reconciled to God!

May the light of Jesus shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find his light ever burning in our hearts—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

-- adapted from the Book of Common Prayer -1979, the Episcopal Church in the United States of America.

A Prayer for Easter Morning

O Lord Jesus Christ, who upon this day did conquer death and rise from the dead, and who are alive for ever more, help us never to forget your Risen Presence forever with us.

Help us to remember,

That you are with us in every time of perplexity to guide and to direct;
That you are with us in every time of sorrow to comfort and console;
That you are with us in every time of temptation to strengthen and to inspire;
That you are with us in every time of loneliness to cheer and befriend;
That you are with us even in death to bring us to the glory of your side.

Make us to be certain that there is nothing in time or in eternity which can separate us from you, so that in your presence we may meet life with gallantry and death without fear.

You turn our darkness into light, in your light we shall see light.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.
Christ the Lord is risen today!
ALLELUIA

-- Adapted from ThisIsChurch.com

Easter prayers (1)

Dear Lord God, we thank you that you are a forgiving God, who wipes out all the wrongs from the past, and starts anew with us today.

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Bring healing and comfort to those who are anxious, upset, lonely, or ill today; encourage those who help and care for them. May all who suffer be led from pain to peace.

We give you thanks for your loving mercy shown to us in Jesus Christ, who endured the suffering of the cross to overcome all that separates us from you, and was raised up to new life.

Strengthen our faith in the victory of the cross and the hope of eternal life. Help us to grow in the life which does not end, in love and friendship with you, which lasts for ever; through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Easter prayers (2)

Lord our God, we thank and praise you for the greatness of your love, shown to us in Jesus Christ, who was willing to die for us, to bring us into your family, and to bless us with the life that lasts for ever.

We thank you for the new life we celebrate at Easter; help us to keep growing in the life that never comes to an end.

We pray for our families, our friends, and all those we care about: fill them with hope and happiness.

We pray for people who are unhappy today: those who are hungry, or homeless, those who fear violence or harm; may they find protection and peace.

We pray for those who are ill, or facing difficulties: may they find hope in the cross of Christ, and be strengthened by the knowledge of your love.

Lord, accept our prayers, and be with us now and for ever.

Amen.

O God, who for our redemption gave your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection delivered us from the power of our enemy: Grant us so to die daily to sin, that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

God our Father,
by raising Christ your Son
you conquered the power of death
and opened for us the way to eternal life.
Let our celebration today
raise us up and renew our lives
by the Spirit that is within us.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

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who lives and reigns with you and Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Lord,
the resurrection of Your Son
has given us new life and renewed hope.
Help us to live as new people
in pursuit of the Christian ideal.
Grant us wisdom to know what we must do,
the will to want to do it,
the courage to undertake it,
the perseverance to continue to do it,
and the strength to complete it.

New Saint Joseph People's Prayer Book

Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ.
In His great mercy
He has given us a new birth
to a living hope through the resurrection
of Jesus Christ from the dead
and to an inheritance
that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.
It is reserved in heaven for you,
who because of your faith in God
are being protected by His power
until the salvation
that is ready to be revealed at the end of time.

New Saint Joseph People's Prayer Book

Almighty God,
who hast given thine only Son
to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin,
and also an ensample of godly life;
Give us grace that we may always
most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit,
and also daily endeavour ourselves
to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
Give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened
and sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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Living God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread.
Open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Easter Prayer

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,
your love broke through.

Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep
for death to hold.

The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.

Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.
Amen.

*Michaela Youngson
Superintendent Minister of the Ealing Trinity Circuit, Methodist Church*

Easter Blessings

May the loving power of God,
which raised Jesus to new life,
strengthen you in hope,
enrich you with his love,
and fill you with joy in the faith;
and the blessing ...

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Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As once you ransomed your people from Egypt
and led them to freedom in the promised land,
so now you have delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your risen Son.
May we, the first fruits of your new creation,
rejoice in this new day you have made,
and praise you for your mighty acts.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

Common Worship

INTERCESSIONS

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us a little child one of us,
flesh and blood to share in our humanity
For God so loved the world
That all might have eternal life

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as carpenter
and yet in whose creative hands a world was fashioned
For God so loved the world
That all might have eternal life

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as fisherman
and yet pointed to a harvest that was yet to come
For God so loved the world
That all might have eternal life

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as teacher
and opened eyes to truths that only the poor could understand
For God so loved the world
That all might have eternal life

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as healer
and opened hearts to the reality of wholeness
For God so loved the world
That all might have eternal life

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as prophet, priest and king
and yet humbled himself to take our place upon the cross
For God so loved the world
That all might have eternal life

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as servant
and revealed to us the extent of his Father's love for human kind

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For God so loved the world
That all might have eternal life

Blest are you, Lord Jesus, who rose from the ignominy of a sinner's death
to the triumph of a Saviour's resurrection
For God so loved the world
That all might have eternal life

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son
for the sake of me
and you
and other sinners too
God so loved the world
Blest are you Lord Jesus, our Saviour and Redeemer

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The Priest introduces the prayers:

The God who raised Jesus from the dead is the Father whose name we hallow, whose forgiveness we seek, whose will we try to follow. On this Easter day we address him in the name of the risen Lord Jesus, as we pray for the Church and for the world.

Reader:

Let us pray for those who still seek the Living God
that the Lord will choose to reveal himself to them and grant them Easter joy in his presence.

Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us pray for ourselves, the community of the resurrection:

that filled with the spirit we may recount the deeds of the Lord and lead others to believe in him.

Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us pray for the sick and those who care for them,
that the risen Christ may show them his love
and give them strength to bear their sorrows.

Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.

We pray for those who have died,
that they may rise with Christ to glory everlasting.

Lord, hear us. Lord, graciously hear us.

We join our prayers with the faithful who are in the innermost presence of God.

Let us pray in silence with all the saints who share in the power of the resurrection.

The Priest concludes the prayers:

Almighty God, hear your people who gather today to celebrate the glorious resurrection of Christ your Son. Lead us from this celebration to the joys which have no end. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Easter Day - The First Sunday of Easter

"Christ the Lord is risen to-day,"
Sons of men and angels say.
Raise your joys and triumphs high;
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply.
(Charles Wesley)

From the darkness of the grave
Blood poured out, a crown of thorns
Christ the Lord is risen to-day
Alleluia!

From the triumph that is won
Over the power and fear of death
Christ the Lord is risen to-day
Alleluia!

Walking from the empty tomb
Opening wide the gates of life
Christ the Lord is risen to-day
Alleluia!

Lord of life
You defeated death
To show that we can rise
From all that binds us to the world
Pride, envy, anger, fear
The debt of sin that holds us here
Christ the Lord is risen to-day
Alleluia!

Lord of life
You defeated death
To demonstrate a love that is
Beyond our understanding
That reaches out even to us
Saving Grace to all who hear
Christ the Lord is risen to-day
Alleluia!

Lord of life
We pray for all who bring your word of life
As a light to those in darkness
For those who bring your word of peace
To those enslaved by fear
For those who bring your word of love
To those in need of comfort
Lord of love and Lord of peace
Lord of resurrection life
Be known
Through our lives
and through your power

Easter Day - The First Sunday of Easter

Christ the Lord is risen to-day

Alleluia!

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Lamb of God, you shed for me
Your life upon a blood stained tree,
Your life for mine, love re-defined
An offering, a ransom, release
You gave so much, O Lamb of God
Just as I am, I come

The doubts I have, the pain I feel
When at your feet I humbly kneel
You take it all, both great and small
Give freedom, forgiveness and peace
I have the choice, O Lamb of God
Just as I am, I come

Lamb of God, I hear your voice,
And hearing know I have a choice
To make a start, within my heart
A willingness, to journey by faith
You ask no more, O Lamb of God
Just as I am, I come

By waters still, through fire and storm
Your love continues to transform
And with that call, you welcome all
No barriers now, no limits, just grace
No more excuses Lamb of God
Just as I am, I come

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Dear Lord, we thank you for the glories of Easter and for the promise of resurrection on this joyous morning. We thank you for the love that you have shown us in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, and for the immeasurable gift of your Son. We pray that day by day we may draw closer to him, and be able to extend your love to others.

Your will be done - On earth as in heaven.

Loving Father, we pray for those who are unable to worship in freedom as we are, through persecution in distant hostile lands. We pray also for the missionaries spreading the good news of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, and the promise of our Lord's resurrection in bringing us all to the eternal joys of your heavenly kingdom.

Your will be done - On earth as in heaven.

In compassion we call to mind all who are locked in physical or emotional pain, all who are weighed down with worry, guilt or despair. Restore and refresh them, comfort and free them, and let the light of your resurrection shine upon them.

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Your will be done - On earth as in heaven.

We thank you for raising up Jesus – raise us up in newness of life.

Your will be done - On earth as in heaven.

Dear Lord, we thank you for your many gifts to us and we look forward to the time when we are raised up to be with your Son, Jesus Christ, in heaven.

Your will be done - On earth as in heaven.

st-michaels-beddington

A Litany For Easter

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us a little child
one of us, flesh and blood to share in our humanity
For God so loved the world
That all might have eternal life

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as carpenter
and yet in whose creative hands a world was fashioned
For God so loved the world
That all might have eternal life

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as fisherman
and yet pointed to a harvest that was yet to come
For God so loved the world
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Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as teacher
and opened eyes to truths that only
the poor could understand
For God so loved the world
That all might have eternal life

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as healer
and opened hearts to the reality of wholeness
For God so loved the world
That all might have eternal life

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as prophet, priest and king
and yet humbled himself
to take our place upon the cross
For God so loved the world
ALL: That all might have eternal life

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as servant
and revealed to us the extent of his Father's love
for human kind
For God so loved the world
That all might have eternal life

Blest are you, Lord Jesus, who rose
from the ignominy of a sinner's death
to the triumph of a Saviour's resurrection
For God so loved the world
That all might have eternal life

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son
for the sake of me
and you
and other sinners too
God so loved the world
Blest are you Lord Jesus, our Saviour and Redeemer

-- John Birch

POETRY AND READINGS

I do not know

I do not know
what resurrection is
(though I'm almost sure
it has something to do
with hallowing the common ground.)
Of course, that's not all of it.
I expect one day I'll get up
and find that it sneaked up on me
while I wasn't looking,
and maybe even that it's been there all along.
That's as may be.
There's no point in trying to see things
before you're ready.
You have to walk before you can run.
In the meantime,
I believe in it
And that feels like an initial step.
For now,
it will do.
It is enough.
Kathy Galloway

The Resurrected Christ Who Saves Us

O Jesus, King,
Receive my supplication,
And consider my supplication,
As a pledge to you.
For you, O living King,
Have gone forth and gone up,
Out of hell,
As conqueror.

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Woe to those who have rejected you;
For, to evil [spirits](#) and demons,
You are sorrow,
To Satan and to Death,
You are pain,
To Sin and Hell,
You are mourning.

Yet, joy has come today,
For those who are born anew.
On this great day therefore,
We give great glory to You,
Who died and is now alive,
That to all you may give
[Life](#) and resurrection!
- St. Ephrem the Syrian

Death Be Not Proud

Death, be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so;
For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow,
Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me.
From rest and sleep, which but thy pictures be,
Much pleasure; then from thee much more must flow,
And soonest, our best men with thee do go,
Rest of their bones, and soul's delivery.
Thou art slave to fate, chance, kings, and desperate men,
And dost with poison, war, and sickness dwell;
And poppy or charms can make us sleep as well
And better than thy stroke; why swell'st thou then?
One short sleep past, we wake eternally,
And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die.
- John Donne

Christ Resurrected

Christ, rising again from the dead
Dieth now no more:
Death shall no more have dominion over him;
For in that he died, he died once:
But in that he liveth, he liveth unto God,
Alleluia, alleluia.

Let the Jews now tell us,
How the soldiers,
Who guarded the sepulchre,
Lost the King,
Though they had placed a rock over him.
Why kept they not the Rock of Justice?
Either let them restore the buried One,
Or adore with us the risen One, saying:

But in that he liveth,
He liveth unto God,
Alleluia, alleluia.
- The Liturgical Year: Book 7

God, give us eyes to see
the beauty of the Spring,
And to behold Your majesty
in every living thing -
And may we see in lacy leaves
and every budding flower
The Hand that rules the universe
with gentleness and power -
And may this Easter grandeur
that Spring lavishly imparts
Awaken faded flowers of faith
lying dormant in our hearts,
And give us ears to hear, dear God,
the Springtime song of birds
With messages more meaningful
than man's often empty words
Telling harried human beings
who are lost in dark despair -
'Be like us and do not worry
for God has you in His care.

Helen Steiner Rice

SERMON STARTERS

Or Easter Day A: Matt. 28.1 At dawn on the first day...

After the **Tragic Events of Good Friday** comes the **Traumatic Experience of Easter Day...**

1. The Execution:- of Jesus, Son of the Living God..

a) the Scene - Golgotha/Calvary - *there they crucified him...*

b) the Sorrow - crucified broken Lord now dead & buried...

Cicero: referred to Crucifixion as ***the most cruel of all deaths...*** The disciples were devastated, but courageously *Mary Magdalene & the other Mary went to look at the tomb* - Mary, wife of Clopas, mother of James & Joses (Mk 16.1)

2. The Earthquake: v2 supernatural events - *the angel of the Lord came down from heaven & going to the tomb rolled back the stone & sat on it. His appearance was like lightning & his clothes were white as snow* - fantastic frightening sight!

a) the fear of the guards - *became like dead men* - fainted!

b) the faith of the women - believed the angel's message - *Do not be afraid for I know that you are looking for Jesus.. He is not here. He is risen just as he said. Come & see the place where he lay.*

i) they Accepted the Message - *go quickly & tell his disciples - has risen from the dead & is going ahead of you into Galilee*

Easter Day - The First Sunday of Easter

ii) they **Acted upon the Message** - *hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy & ran to tell his disciples...*

3. The Exaltation - conqueror of death *Suddenly Jesus met them* - 1st of many Resurrection appearances over 40 days

a) **Raised to life** - "*Greetings*", he said. *They came to him, clasped his feet and worshipped him. We still do today..*

b) **Raised to Heaven** - Ascended & glorified - *has gone ahead to prepare a place for you* - glorious promise/prospect for all believers in the Risen Lord! *By Norman Porteus*

SERMON SERIES

Easter leaves us with the Resurrection of Jesus, and now we have a chance to examine what difference Jesus' resurrection makes in the way we approach forgiveness, freedom, the power of sin, and even life and death, with a focus on how theology informs practical life.

Scroll down the page here is a series of five sermons on the Resurrection

3. [The Resurrection & Life](#)
4. [The Resurrection & Forgiveness](#)
5. [The Resurrection & Evil](#)
6. [The Resurrection & Sin](#)
7. [The Resurrection & Death](#)

at

http://www.centralpc.org/sermons/sermon_series.htm

The Very First Easter Sermon - three points are highlighted: Do not be afraid; He has been raised; Go Quickly and tell. A good sermon from St Dunstan's Episcopal Church in San Diego which commences with a quote from Anthony Trollope: "There is, perhaps, no greater hardship at present inflicted on mankind in civilized and free countries, than the necessity of listening to sermons." The preacher however moves quickly to the very first Ester sermon as found in the gospel.

<http://stdunstans.org/sermons/sermon-transcripts/the-very-first-easter-sermon.html>