

Sunday Word & Prayer – *Easter Day*

GOD WELCOMES US

We come to God

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by his death, and bringing light to those in the grave.

And to us he has given eternal life.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

We sing LHB 88 Jesus Christ is risen today

We proclaim Christ's victory

Rejoice, all heavenly choirs of angels, and sing for joy; sound the trumpet of victory for our marvellous king.

Rejoice, all the earth, shining with the radiance of Christ our eternal king; celebrate the dawn that banishes the darkness.

Rejoice, mother church, clothed with the brightness of Christ, and let this house resound with the voices of many people.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

For that is fitting and right.

It is truly fitting and right, with heart and mind and voice, to praise the Father almighty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

He paid the debt of human sin, and freed us with his blood from our ancient bondage.

This is our Passover feast; the true lamb has been killed, and his blood protects each home and makes us holy.

This is the night when God led our ancestors, the people of Israel, out of Egypt, and brought them safely across the Red Sea on dry ground.

This is the night when Christ broke the chains of death and ascended from hell in triumph.

This is the night when all who believe in Christ leave the darkness of sin and gather together as God's holy people.

This is the night when no-one fears the dark, for the darkness is as light, and the sun of righteousness rises with healing in its wings.

This is the night when heaven is joined to earth, and we are joined to God.

Therefore, heavenly Father, we pray that (like this candle) the light of Christ may drive out all darkness from among us; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

| We pray an Easter prayer

Jesus says: I was dead, but see! I am alive forever and ever
and I have the keys to Death and Hades. Alleluia!

Let us pray that we may rejoice in the victory that Christ has won for us:

Ever living God, you have overcome the old powers of sin and death through the mighty resurrection of your Son, and have made all things new in him. Make us dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, and bring us to reign with him in glory.

To him, with you and the Holy Spirit, be praise, honour, and thanksgiving, now and in all eternity.

Amen.

| We sing LHB 97The strife is o'er

GOD SPEAKS TO US

| We listen to God's word

First Reading

Hear the word of the Lord as it is written in Acts 10:34-43

(after the reading)

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalms 118

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

his love endures forever.

Let Israel say:

"His love endures forever."

This is the day that the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Shouts of joy and victory

resound in the tents of the righteous:

"The LORD's right hand has done mighty things!

The LORD's right hand is lifted high;

the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!"

This is the day that the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it!

I will not die but live,
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.
The LORD has chastened me severely,
but he has not given me over to death.

This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Open for me the gates of the righteous;
I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.
This is the gate of the LORD
through which the righteous may enter.
I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
you have become my salvation.

This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it!

The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the LORD has done this,
and it is marvellous in our eyes.
The LORD has done it this very day;
let us rejoice today and be glad.

This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Second Reading

Hear the word of the Lord as it is written in Colossians 3:1-4
(after the reading)

Since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has any power over him.

Alleluia.

The life he lives, he lives to God.

Alleluia.

Gospel Reading

Hear the gospel of the Lord as it is written in John 20:1-18
(after the gospel)

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for rising from death. Let us share in your new life forever.

Amen.

| We listen to the address

| We confess our faith and remember our baptism into Christ

Brothers and sisters in Christ:

Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

Yes, I do.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in God the Son?

**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, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty,
from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Do you intend to remain firm in this faith and reflect it in love to God and your neighbour?

Yes, I do.

May God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth by water and the Spirit and has forgiven us all our sins, strengthen us with his Spirit +, so that we receive eternal life.

Amen.

GOD RECEIVES OUR OFFERING

| We sing LHS 770 Yours is the glory as our offering is received

| We pray an offering prayer

Let us pray.

**Ever-living God, let the resurrection of your Son fill us with hope and joy. May our lives and our gifts help to bring your new life to others.
Amen.**

| We pray for ourselves and the world

On this day of resurrection, let us pray that the light of Christ may rise over the whole world.

Creator God, we ask that the light of Christ would shine in the church, so that all may see it and be drawn to faith in God.

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,

dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Redeeming God, we pray that the light of Christ would shine in our community, so that our friends and neighbours may know with us the joy of new life.

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,

dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Loving God, we ask that the light of Christ would shine into the darkness of despair, to lift up all who are grieving, lonely, suffering, or without hope.

[Intercessory prayers for those who are unwell or for the grieving may be added here]

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,

dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Saviour God, we pray that the light of Christ would shine into the darkness of human hearts, wherever deeds of greed, oppression and injustice are being planned.

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,

dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Risen God, we ask that the light of Christ would shine in the darkness of the grave and tomb, and that all who have died in Christ may rise to life again.

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,

dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Lord of all creation, we thank you for the gift of light, which you created in the beginning by the power of your word. Shine the light of Christ upon us and all the world, so that we may come to feast with you in eternal light; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our light and our life,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

| We pray the Lord's Prayer

**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 forever.
Amen.**

GOD BLESSES US

| We go with God

Since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again;
death no longer has any power over him.

The life he lives, he lives to God. Alleluia!

Because of our sins, he was handed over to die;
and he was raised to life in order to put us right with God.

The life he lives, he lives to God. Alleluia!

May the God of peace, who raised from the dead our Lord Jesus, provide us
with every good thing we need in order to do his will;
and the blessing of almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with us now
and forever.

Amen.

Go in peace, as witnesses of the risen Lord.

In the name of Christ.

Amen.

| We sing LHB 95 He is risen he is risen
