

# Easter Season

O Lord, open our lips

**All** and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

In your resurrection, O Christ,

**All** let heaven and earth rejoice.  
Alleluia.

*This opening prayer may be said*

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;

let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,  
so may the light of your presence, O God,  
set our hearts on fire with love for you;  
now and for ever.

**All** Amen.

## The Word of God

### Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

*To the leader. A Psalm of David.*

<sup>1</sup>In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;  
do not let me ever be put to shame;  
in your righteousness deliver me.

<sup>2</sup>Incline your ear to me;  
rescue me speedily.

Be a rock of refuge for me,  
a strong fortress to save me.

<sup>3</sup>You are indeed my rock and my fortress;

for your name's sake lead me and guide me,

<sup>4</sup>take me out of the net that is hidden for me,

for you are my refuge.

<sup>5</sup>Into your hand I commit my spirit;  
you have redeemed me, O LORD,  
faithful God

My times are in your hand;

deliver me from the hand of my enemies and persecutors.

<sup>16</sup>Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love.

**All** 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.

### Acts 7:55-60

<sup>55</sup>But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' <sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' <sup>60</sup>Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, 'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.' When he had said this, he died.

### 1 Peter 2:2-10

<sup>2</sup>Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— <sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

<sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living

stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture:

<sup>5</sup>'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious;  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'

<sup>7</sup>To you then who believe, he is precious;  
but for those who do not believe,

'The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner',  
<sup>8</sup>and

'A stone that makes them stumble,  
and a rock that makes them fall.'  
They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

<sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God's people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

### **Canticle**

**All In your unfailing love, O Lord,**

**you lead the people whom you have redeemed.**

**Alleluia.**

1 I will sing to the Lord, who has triumphed gloriously, ◆

the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

2 The Lord is my strength and my song ◆

and has become my salvation.

3 This is my God whom I will praise, ◆  
the God of my forebears whom I will exalt.

4 The Lord is a warrior, ◆  
the Lord is his name.

5 Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in power: ◆  
your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.

6 At the blast of your nostrils, the sea covered them; ◆  
they sank as lead in the mighty waters.

7 In your unfailing love, O Lord, ◆  
you lead the people whom you have redeemed.

8 And by your invincible strength ◆  
you will guide them to your holy dwelling.

9 You will bring them in and plant them, O Lord, ◆  
in the sanctuary which your hands have established.

*Exodus 15.1b-3,6,10,13,17*

**All 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.**

**All In your unfailing love, O Lord,**

**you lead the people whom you have  
redeemed.**

**Alleluia.**

## **John 14:1-14**

**14** 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.' <sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' <sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' <sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? <sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am

going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

## ***Responsory***

Death is swallowed up in victory.

***All*** **Where, O death, is your sting?**

Christ is risen from the dead,  
the first fruits of those who have fallen  
asleep.

***All*** **Death is swallowed up in victory.**

The trumpet will sound  
and the dead shall be raised.

***All*** **Where, O death, is your sting?**

We shall not all sleep,  
but we shall be changed.



***All*** **Death is swallowed up in victory.**

**Where, O death, is your sting?**

*from 1 Corinthians 15*

## **Gospel Canticle**

***All*** **The Lord is risen from the tomb  
who for our sakes hung upon the  
tree. Alleluia.**

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of  
Israel,   
who has come to his people and set  
them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty  
Saviour,   
born of the house of his servant  
David.

- 3 Through his holy prophets God  
promised of old ♦  
to save us from our enemies, from the  
hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors, ♦  
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our  
father Abraham: ♦  
to set us free from the hands of our  
enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear, ♦  
holy and righteous in his sight all the  
days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the  
prophet of the Most High, ♦  
for you will go before the Lord to  
prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of  
salvation ♦  
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our  
God ♦  
the dawn from on high shall break  
upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in  
darkness and the shadow of death, ♦  
and to guide our feet into the way of  
peace.

*Luke 1.68-79*

**All 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.**

**All The Lord is risen from the tomb  
who for our sakes hung upon the  
tree. Alleluia.**

[Read sermon here](#)

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Let us pray to God the Father,  
who has reconciled all things to himself in  
Christ:

For peace among the nations,  
that God may rid the world of violence  
and let peoples grow in justice and harmony  
...

For those who serve in public office,  
that they may work for the common good ...

For Christian people everywhere,  
that we may joyfully proclaim and live our  
faith in Jesus Christ ...

For those who suffer from hunger, sickness  
or loneliness,  
that the presence of Christ may bring them  
health and wholeness ...

Let us commend ourselves, and all for whom  
we pray,  
to the mercy and protection of God.

*Silence may be kept.*

Almighty God,  
who through your only-begotten Son  
Jesus Christ  
have overcome death and opened to us  
the gate of everlasting life:  
grant that, as by your grace going before  
us you put into our minds good desires,  
so by your continual help  
we may bring them to good effect;

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

All Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer is said*

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

**All Our Father, who art in heaven ...**

May the risen Christ grant us the joys of  
eternal life.

**All Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

**All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**