

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.

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

²Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.

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

³You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me, ⁴take me out of the net that is hidden for me,

for you are my refuge.

⁵Into 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.

¹⁶Let 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

⁵⁵But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶'Look,' he said, 'I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!' ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then 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. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.' ⁶⁰Then 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

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

⁴Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵like 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. ⁶For it stands in scripture:

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

'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',

⁸and

'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.

⁹But 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.

¹⁰Once 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. ²In 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? ³And 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. ⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.' ⁵Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' ⁶Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

⁸Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' ⁹Jesus 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"? ¹⁰Do 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. ¹¹Believe 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. ¹²Very 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. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If 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.