

## Opening Statement

Alleluia. Christ is risen **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

**He has given us new life and hope by raising  
Jesus from the dead.**

God has claimed us as his own:

**He has made us light to the world.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen. **He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

## Prayer

God of life, who for our redemption gave your only begotten Son to the death of the cross, and by his glorious resurrection have 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 risen life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Bible Reading

John 1 v 1-5 & 14

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.*

*In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.*

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

## Hymn

There is a green hill far away outside a city wall,  
where our dear Lord was crucified,  
who died to save us all.

We may not know, we cannot tell what pains he had  
to bear, but we believe it was for us  
he hung and suffered there.

He died that we might be forgiven, he died to make  
us good; that we might go at last to heaven,  
saved by his precious blood.

There was no other good enough  
to pay the price of sin; he, only,  
could unlock the gate of heaven – and let us in.

O dearly, dearly has he loved,  
and we must love him too, and trust in his  
redeeming blood, and try his works to do.

Cecil Frances Alexander - Public Domain

## Reflection

Sometimes it feels we are all too eager to get to Easter day and celebrate, forgetting about Good Friday, but without the cross there would be no Easter day, no resurrection and Jesus' cry of dereliction "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" would be the end, but we know that because he went through this God raised him from death. It's hard sometimes to make sense of our own suffering, but it can be a comfort to realise that Jesus, the Son of God, suffered too, because of this, he understands and will walk with us in our own pain and sorrow till we ourselves reach that glorious Easter morn.

## Creed

Though he was divine, he did not cling to equality with God, but made himself nothing. Taking the form of a slave, he was born in human likeness. He humbled himself and was obedient to death, even the death on the cross. Therefore God has raised him on high, and given him the name above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every voice proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

## Bible Reading

Acts 10 v 34 – 40

*Then Peter began to speak: "I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, telling the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached – how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen."*

## Hymn

Alleluia, sing to Jesus!  
His the sceptre, his the throne:  
Alleluia! – his the triumph,  
his the victory alone,  
Hear the songs of holy Zion  
thunder like a mighty flood:  
'Jesus out of every nation  
has redeemed us by his blood!'

Alleluia! – bread of heaven,  
here on earth our food, our stay:  
Alleluia! – here the sinful  
come to you from day to day.  
Intercessor, friend of sinners,  
earth's redeemer, plead for me,  
where the songs of all the sinless  
sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia! – not as orphans  
are we left in sorrow now:  
Alleluia! – he is near us,  
faith believes, nor questions how.  
Though the cloud from sight received him  
whom the angels now adore,  
shall our hearts forget his promise,  
'I am with you evermore'?

W. Chatterton Dix (1866)

## Bible Reading

John 20 v 19 – 21

*On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."*

## Praise, Prayer and Blessing

Jubilate, everybody, serve the Lord in all your ways,  
and come before his presence singing: enter now  
his courts with praise. For the Lord our God is  
gracious, and his mercy everlasting,  
jubilate, jubilate, jubilate Deo!

And now we give you thanks because, for our  
salvation, he was obedient even to death on the  
cross. The tree of shame was made the tree of glory:  
and where life was lost, there life has been restored.

Amen

May you know the joy of Salvation and God's  
blessings this Easter, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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# EASTER