

Opening Praise

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

Alleluia.

He has defeated the powers of death.

Alleluia.

Jesus turns our sorrow into dancing.

Alleluia.

He has the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.

Words from an Easter Hymn

Jesus Christ is risen today: Alleluia!

Our triumphant holy day: Alleluia!

Who did once upon the cross: Alleluia!

Suffer to redeem our loss: Alleluia!

Prayer

I love the way this prayer reminds us that through the resurrection of Jesus, not only do we receive the promise of eternal life, but in this life our dreams can be resurrected with hope and joy!

Let Us Pray

Creator of Life,
in raising Christ Jesus
up, through, out of, and beyond
the chains of death,
You opened for us the way
to eternal and abundant life.

May our Alleluias on this day
float high above the ceiling
of what we think we know
and transcend to the heaven of
what we believe -
and thus live.

Raise us up!

Renew our lives!

Resurrect our dreams!

Through Jesus Christ our Living Saviour,

Amen.

Reading

The Resurrection

John 20: 11-16

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. ¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

Easter Praise Prayer

by Christine Sine

Hold your head high, Christ has risen
Rejoice and shout
Christ has come calling us home
Home to the heart of God
Home to God's living presence
Home to God's banquet feast

Hold your head high, Christ has risen
Death has been conquered

Christ has come calling us home
He has renewed and restored us

All that was broken has been made whole
All that was dislocated has been set right

Hold your head high, Christ has risen
Carry forward God's healing

Christ has come calling us home
To a world where truth and justice triumph
To a place where abundance flourishes
To a community where generosity flourishes

Hold your head high, Christ has risen

Christ has come calling us home
Your redemption is complete

God's eternal world has begun
Love reigns over all

Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Christ has risen indeed.

What wonderful news! We can hold our heads high, knowing that death is not a barrier for God's love. We can be confident of the promise that Jesus has come to call us home.

Maybe hold your head up high, perhaps even open your arms and in this moment receive God's forgiveness, love and promise of hope.

Words from an Easter Hymn

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded graveclothes,
where thy body lay.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
let the Church with gladness hymns of triumph
sing, for her Lord now liveth;
death hath lost its sting.

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy
deathless love:
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

Edmond Budry (1854-1932)

Easter Closing Prayer

We have come from darkness and despair
to hope and joy.

We have been transformed by new life.

Go forth to witness and to testify to the message
of hope we have received this day.

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia.

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Easter