**A Short Service for Use at Home on Easter Sunday**

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

**Confession**

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God.  
Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil  
and confess our sins in penitence and faith.        cf Romans 6.10

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,  
I come to you in sorrow for my sins,  
and confess to you my weakness and unbelief.

I have lived by my own strength,  
and not by the power of your resurrection.  
In your mercy, forgive me.

I have lived by the light of my own eyes,  
as faithless and not believing.  
In your mercy, forgive me.

I have lived for this world alone,  
and doubted my home in heaven.  
In your mercy, forgive me.

Almighty and merciful Lord  
grant mepardon and forgiveness of all my sins,  
time for amendment of life,  
and the grace and strength of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**The Collect**

Lord of all life and power,  
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son  
overcame the old order of sin and death  
to make all things new in him:  
grant that we, being dead to sin  
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,  
may reign with him in glory;  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
be praise and honour, glory and might,  
now and in all eternity. Amen.

**The Gospel Reading is taken from**

**St John’s Gospel, chapter 20, verses 1-18**

*Please see the additional sheet for the reading*

*from the New International Version,*

*but you may prefer to read it from your own version of the Bible.*

*Take a moment of silence after the Gospel Reading and then continue with the following* **Response** *to the good news of the Resurrection…*

**Response**

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!

**The Easter Anthems**

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us:   
so let us celebrate the feast,

not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:   
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. *1 Corinthians 5.7b, 8*

Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:   
death has no more dominion over him.

In dying he died to sin once for all:   
in living he lives to God.

See yourselves therefore as dead to sin:   
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. *Romans 6.9-11*

Christ has been raised from the dead:   
the first fruits of those who sleep.

For as by man came death:   
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;

for as in Adam all die:   
even so in Christ shall all be made alive. *1 Corinthians 15.20-22*

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.

**Prayers of Intercession**

In joy and hope I pray to the Father…

That our risen Saviour may fill his people

with the joy of his glorious and life-giving resurrection …   
Father, hear my prayer.

That isolated and persecuted churches  
may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter…   
Father, hear my prayer.

That God may grant us humility  
to be subject to one another in Christian love …   
Father, hear my prayer.

That he may provide for those

who lack food, work or shelter…   
Father, hear my prayer.

That by his power

war and famine may cease through all the world …   
Father, hear my prayer.

That he may reveal the light of his presence

to the sick, the weak and the dying,  
to comfort and strengthen them …   
Father, hear my prayer.

That, according to his promises,  
all who have died in the faith of the resurrection  
may be raised on the last day …   
Father, hear my prayer.

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people,  
so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection,  
Father, hear my prayer.

*Other prayers may be added here…*

Heavenly Father,  
you have delivered us from the power of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:  
grant that, as his death has recalled us to life,  
so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Lord’s Prayer** *(in this, or the traditional version)*

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 for ever. Amen.

**Prayers for God’s Blessing**

God the Father,  
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,  
open, to all who believe, the gates of everlasting life. Amen.

God the Son,  
who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,  
give us joy as we share the Easter faith. Amen.

God the Holy Spirit,  
who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,  
empower us and fill us with Christ’s peace. Amen.

And may the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

~

*A final word from The Rector…*

With the power that raised Jesus from the dead

at work within you,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

*I wish you all a Happy and Blessed Easter!*

**Easter Day Gospel Reading**

**from St John’s Gospel, chapter 20, verses 1-18**

*This is from the New International Version,*

*but you may prefer to read it from your own version of the Bible.*

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark,

Mary Magdalene went to the tomb

and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple,

the one Jesus loved,

and said,

“They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,

and we don’t know where they have put him!”

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb.

Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter

and reached the tomb first.

He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there

but did not go in.

Then Simon Peter, who was behind him,

arrived and went into the tomb.

He saw the strips of linen lying there,

as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus’ head.

The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen.

Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first,

also went inside.

He saw and believed.

(They still did not understand from Scripture

that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

Then the disciples went back to their homes,

but Mary stood outside the tomb crying.

As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb

and saw two angels in white,

seated where Jesus’ body had been,

one at the head and the other at the foot.

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.”

At this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there,

but she did not realise that it was Jesus.

“Woman,” he said,

“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.”

Jesus said to her,

“Mary.”

She turned towards him and cried out in Aramaic,

“Rabboni!” (which means Teacher).

Jesus said,

“Do not hold on to me,

for I have not yet returned to the Father.

Go instead to my brothers and tell them,

*‘I am returning to my Father and your Father,*

*to my God and your God.*’”

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news:

“I have seen the Lord!”

And she told them that he had said these things to her.

*Take a moment of silence after the Gospel Reading*

*and then continue with the* **Response**

*to the good news of the Resurrection…*