



Easter Sunrise

Our usual practice has been to gather at the first light of dawn in the churchyard at St Andrew's Northover to worship for the first time at Easter, but this year we are prevented from doing so. However, as we gather in our gardens we remember that it was in a garden that Jesus was buried and rose again. It was to that garden that the disciples came at first light to discover the new dawn for the world.

Opening declaration

All: This Easter morn is God's promise of a new day, it is God's promise of a new life, it is God's promise of a new world coming to pass in our midst.

A Reading Psalm 117

All: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!

O praise the Lord, all you nations;
praise him, all you peoples.
For great is his steadfast love towards us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever. Alleluia.

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!

An Easter affirmation

All: This is the Good News — The grave is empty, Christ is risen. HALLELUJAH!

This is the Good News — The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness can never put it out. HALLELUJAH!

This is the Good News — Once we were no people, now we are God's people.
HALLELUJAH!

Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your sting?

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

Death is swallowed up in victory.

The trumpet will sound and the dead shall be raised.

Where, O death, is your sting?

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

Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your sting?

A Reading John 20.1-10 (The Message)

¹⁻² Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone was moved away from the entrance. She ran at once to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, breathlessly panting, "They took the Master from the tomb. We don't know where they've put him."

³⁻¹⁰ Peter and the other disciple left immediately for the tomb. They ran, neck and neck. The other disciple got to the tomb first, outrunning Peter. Stooping to look in, he saw the pieces of linen cloth lying there, but he didn't go in. Simon Peter arrived after him, entered the tomb, observed the linen cloths lying there, and the kerchief used to cover his head not lying with the linen cloths but separate, neatly folded by itself. Then the other disciple, the one who had gotten there first, went into the tomb, took one look at the evidence, and believed. No one yet knew from the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead. The disciples then went back home.

The Benedictus

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

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, •
who has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, •
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets God promised of old •
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,

To show mercy to our ancestors, •
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: •
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, •
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, •
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation •
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God •
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, •
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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.

Easter prayers

All: 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. Amen.

When everything was dark and it seemed that the sun would never shine again, your love broke through. Your love was too strong, too wide, too deep for death to hold. The sparks cast by your love dance and spread and burst forth with resurrection light.

Gracious God, as we praise you this day for the light of new life made possible through Jesus we lift to you a world, a nation, a village plunged into darkness and separation. May the light of your resurrection burst upon this world again and bring light, hope, healing, and life. May the power of your Spirit bring wisdom and strength to those combatting disease, violence, corruption and greed.

We praise you for the light of new life that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection, may light of new life be found in our community and homes this day and all days. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

All: May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life. And may the blessings of God, Father, Son and Spirit be with us this day and all days. Amen.