

WORSHIP for the Second Sunday of EASTER - 7th April 2024

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.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

A candle may be lit

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds
in the risen power of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. **Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

O Jesus Christ, risen and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow
for our sins and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

Like Mary at the empty tomb,
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.

Lord, have mercy.

Like the disciples behind locked doors,
we are afraid to be seen as your followers.

Christ, have mercy.

Like the two travellers on the road to Emmaus,
we are slow to believe.

Lord, have mercy.

The Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer

Loving God at Easter, we celebrate your life, your death, your resurrection and your
unfailing love for us; and so we pray,

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son,
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Canticle - A Song of Faith for Easter

- 1 Blessed be the God and Father♦
of our Lord Jesus Christ!
- 2 By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope♦
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
- 3 Into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading,♦
kept in heaven for you,
- 4 Who are being protected by the power of God through faith,♦
for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
- 5 You were ransomed from the futile ways of your ancestors♦
not with perishable things like silver or gold
- 6 But with the precious blood of Christ♦
like that of a lamb without spot or stain.
- 7 Through him you have confidence in God,
who raised him from the dead and gave him glory,♦
so that your faith and hope are set on God.

1 Peter 1.3-5,18,19,21

**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.**

The Bible readings for the Second Sunday of EASTER

Acts 4:32-35 *The Apostles testify to Jesus' death & resurrection & all the believers demonstrate the unity of Christ through their care of one another.*

1 John 1:1 – 2:2 *John testifies to walking in the light of Jesus' forgiving love.*

John 20:19-31 *The risen Lord Jesus appears to his disciples & then to Thomas.*

A few moments of quiet for thought, thanksgiving & reflection.

With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there was no needy person among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need. *(Acts 4:33-35)*

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Jesus Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried; he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers, and to all the apostles:
this we have received, and this we believe,
to the glory of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for in your birth you were proclaimed the Prince of Peace,
and in your resurrection you breathe into your people,
peace beyond this world's understanding.

Be present, Lord, this day with those whose lives are disfigured
by conflict and tragedy and those whose hearts know no peace...

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for you breathed new life into your astonished disciples.

As you turned unutterable grief into unshakeable joy,
so renew and refresh your turbulent world in this time of pain, suffering and fear.
Guide & direct all those in authority and establish now your reign of peace...

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for you are with us, even when our eyes are closed to your companionship.
Walk this day alongside the disconsolate, the despairing, and those without hope
open their eyes to your gentle illumination,
and let their hearts burn within them at your invisible presence...

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for even in the glorious victory of the resurrection
you understood the failure of Peter who denied you.

As you restored him to relationship with you,
remember all who feel downcast, worthless, lonely and unloved
and give them a sense of purpose and value...

To you, Lord Jesus, loving us and walking by our side
despite our weakness, doubt & fear
Speak your word of love to us in this time,
that we may hear your loving, beckoning call and respond in faith & hope & love...
To you, Lord Jesus, whose call summons us to life in all its fullness,
be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Collect for the Second Sunday of EASTER

Almighty Father, you have given your only Son to die for our sins
and to rise again for our justification:

grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness
that we may always serve you in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (or traditional form, if you prefer)

**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.**

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

He has brought us out of darkness.

He has made us light to the world.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Final Prayer

Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Blessing

God the Father,
by whose glory Jesus Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen us to walk with him in his risen life;
and the peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God
and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, now and always. **Amen.**

We are raised to new life with Christ.

Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.