

WORSHIP @ HOME



DAILY WORSHIP FOR HOLY WEEK EASTER DAY



Preparing for worship:

This Joyous Eastertide:

[http://www.viewpure.com/rsPiOf70Cw?
start=0&end=0](http://www.viewpure.com/rsPiOf70Cw?start=0&end=0)

This joyful Eastertide,
Away with sin and sorrow.
My Love, the Crucified,
Hath sprung to life this morrow:

*Had Christ, that once was slain,
Ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
But now hath Christ arisen,
arisen, arisen, arisen.*

My flesh in hope shall rest,
And for a season slumber,
Till trump from east to west

Shall wake the dead in number:

*Had Christ, that once was slain,
Ne'er burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
But now hath Christ arisen,
arisen, arisen, arisen.*

Death's flood hath lost its chill,
Since Jesus crossed the river:
Lover of souls, from ill
my passing soul deliver:

*Had Christ, that once was slain,
ne'er burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain;
but now is Christ arisen,
arisen, arisen, arisen.*

The Greeting:

ALL: 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. AMEN'. Our tradition is to cross ourselves as this is said.

Opening prayer and lighting a candle:

Living God, on this most joyous day
we offer our thanks and praise to You;
creator of heaven and earth,
creator and lover of all humanity.

We bless You for creating the whole world,
for Your promises to Your people Israel,
and for the life we know in Jesus Christ Your Son.

Even when we turned away from You, You never rejected us.
You spoke words of mercy and love through the prophets;
promising to swallow up death forever
and to host a banquet for all people;
a feast of life-giving sustenance.

We praise you for Christ Jesus,
Your Word Incarnate made Flesh.
Born of Mary, He shares our life.
Eating with sinners, He welcomes us.
Leading His followers, He guides us.
Dying on the cross, He rescues us.
Risen from the dead, He gives new life.

Most resilient God,
Source of all that is eternally raised up,
We give you thanks for your unspeakable gift of Christ Jesus.

ALL: Amen

Bible Reading:

A reading from John Chapter 20 verses 1-10.

The Empty Tomb

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 came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, 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 where they were staying.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

A message:

On this day the stone was rolled away. The grave was empty, for Jesus *is* alive, risen from the dead. **He is a light that no one can extinguish.** He brings new life. The new life that is echoed in the fresh shoots and new life of Spring. The new life that is echoed in every Spring flower.

Remember, the story does not end here. There is more to Easter than one Sunday celebration:

Easter *declares* what happened in history; Jesus of Nazareth was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Easter *invites* the rest of us into new creation; the same power that raised Jesus heals our brokenness and empowers our righteousness

Easter *bears witness* to the world; the Spirit's power is free to all who will receive it.

There will always be those who deny these truths, but arguing is not the answer. Living with joy and gentleness, kindness and patience, concern and generosity is what brings others to Christ. Hearts yield to such virtues. We need to be connected with others by mutual respect and concern. We all want to love and be loved. We want an authentically spiritual life. The Bible has a couple of words to describe it. In the Hebrew Bible, it is shalom; in the language of Jesus, it is eternal life.

We are part of God's purpose to put hope on display! We must live the reality of resurrection. It is a way of life, not just an annual event to circle in the calendar!

In the words Ephesians 1:18-20:

I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope he has given to those he called — his holy people who are his rich and glorious inheritance. I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honour at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. Amen.

A time for reflection:

Reflect on the words of 'Great are you Lord'

<http://www.viewpure.com/ZZqV6i98SkA?ref=search>

Closing hymn:

Listen or sing 'Thine be the glory':

<http://www.viewpure.com/IXzmjNE-yLA?start=0&end=0>

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 grave-clothes where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son'
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won.*

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.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won*

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.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the vict'ry, thou o'er death hast won!*

Closing prayer:

Great are you Lord!
You give life, You are love,
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope, You restore every heart that is broken
We pour out our praise to you this Easter Day.

ALL: 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.**

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us, now and evermore. Amen.

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Acclamation and sending out

**Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen, indeed!
Alleluia!**

