

MORNING PRAYER FOR EASTER
From Easter to Ascension

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Introductory Responses

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Let us praise our God

who has given us life and hope

by raising Jesus from the dead.

Let us rejoice, then, even in our distress.

We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.

O God, you have claimed us as your own

and called us from our darkness into the light of your day.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!¹

Or

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

In your resurrection, O Christ,

let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.

Blessed are you, God of our salvation,
to you be praise and glory for ever.

As once you ransomed your people from Egypt
and led them to freedom in the promised land,
so now you have delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and brought us into the loving reign of the risen Christ.

May we, the first fruits of your new creation,
rejoice in this new day you have made
and praise you for your mighty acts.

Blessed be God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

or

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.²

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

¹ *The Book of Alternative Services* (1985), 98 alt.

² *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2005), 263 alt.

The Psalm

A Psalm from the Daily Office Lectionary, the Weekday Eucharistic Lectionary or the Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings is said or sung.

At the end of the Psalm one of the following may be said or sung.

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

or

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

Morning Prayer continues with the Reading.

The Reading

A Reading from the Daily Office Lectionary, the Weekday Eucharistic Lectionary or the Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings is read. After a period of silent reflection one of the following is said.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

or

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

or

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Morning Prayer continues with the Responsory or the Canticle or both. If two Readings are read, then the Responsory follows the first Reading and the Canticle the second.

The Responsory

The Responsory is said or sung.

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?³

Either of the following may be said or sung.

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit.
Death is swallowed up in victory.
Where, O death, is your sting?

or

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Death is swallowed up in victory.
Where, O death, is your sting?⁴

Morning Prayer continues with [the Second Reading or] the Canticle or an Affirmation of Faith.

The Canticle

'The Song of Zechariah', 'The Song of Moses and Miriam' or 'A Song of the New Creation' may be said or sung.

The Song of Zechariah (Luke 1.68-79)

Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, *
 you have come to your people and set them free.
You have raised up for us a mighty Saviour, *
 born of the house of your servant David.
Through your holy prophets, *
 you promised of old to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all who hate us, *
 to show mercy to our forebears,
 and to remember your holy covenant.
This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: *
 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
 free to worship you without fear.
And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
to give God's people knowledge of salvation *
 by the forgiveness of 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, *

³ *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2005), 266.

⁴ *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2005), 266.

and to guide our feet into the way of peace.⁵

Or

The Song of Moses and Miriam (Exodus 15.1b-3, 6, 10, 13, 17)

I will sing to the Lord, for you have triumphed gloriously, *
the horse and rider you have thrown into the sea.
The Lord is my strength and my song *
and has become my salvation.
This is my God whom I will praise, *
the God of my ancestors whom I will exalt.
The Lord is a warrior, *
the Lord is the holy name.
Your strong hand, O Lord, is glorious in power; *
your strong hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.
At the blast of our nostrils, the sea covered them; *
they sank as lead in the mighty waters.
In your unfailing love, O Lord, *
you lead the people whom you have redeemed.
And by your invincible strength *
you will guide them to your holy dwelling.
You will bring them in and plant them, O Lord, *
in the sanctuary which your hands have established. ⁶

Or

A Song of the New Creation (Isaiah 43.15, 16, 18, 19, 20c, 21)

'I am the Lord, your Holy One, *
the Creator of Israel, your Sovereign.'
Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, *
a path in the mighty waters.
'Remember not the former things, *
nor consider the things of old.
Behold, I am doing a new thing; *
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert, *
to give drink to my chosen people,
the people whom I formed for myself, *
that they might declare my praise.' ⁷

⁵ *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006), 303.

⁶ *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2005), 265 alt.

⁷ *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2005), 583 alt.

At the end of either Canticle one of the following may be said or sung.

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

or

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

Morning Prayer continues with an Affirmation of Faith or the Litany.

Affirmation of Faith

One of the following Affirmations of Faith may be said or sung.

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.⁸**

Or

Hear, O Israel

**Hear, O Israel,
the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
Love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
with all your soul,**

⁸ *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006), 105.

**with all your mind,
and with all your strength.**

**This is the first and the great commandment.
The second is like it:
Love your neighbour as yourself.**

There is no commandment greater than these.⁹

Or

An Affirmation of the Resurrection

**Goodness is stronger than evil;
love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness;
life is stronger than death;
victory is ours through Jesus who loved us.¹⁰**

Morning Prayer continues with the Litany.

THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

The Litany

The Litany is said or sung.

Let us offer our intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings, saying,
'Creator of Israel, hear our prayer.'

May we live as those who believe in the triumph of the cross.
Creator of Israel, hear our prayer.

May all people receive the good news of Christ's victory.
Creator of Israel, hear our prayer.

May those born to new life in the waters of baptism
know the power of Christ's resurrection.
Creator of Israel, hear our prayer.

May those who suffer pain and anguish
find healing and peace in the compassion of Christ.
Creator of Israel, hear our prayer.

⁹ *The Book of Alternative Services* (1985), 53.

¹⁰ Desmond Tutu quoted in Morley, *Bread of Tomorrow: Prayers for the Church Year* (1992), 117.

May we be united in Christ's undying love
with all who have passed through the gates of death.
Creator of Israel, hear our prayer. ¹¹

Additional intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings may be offered in silence or aloud. Among these concerns it is appropriate to remember

- *the people of God that they might proclaim the risen Lord;*
- *God's creation that the peoples of the earth may meet their responsibility to care;*
- *those in despair and darkness that they may find the hope and light of Christ;*
- *those in fear of death that they may find faith through the resurrection and*
- *prisoners and captives.* ¹²

After a period of silence either the Collect of the Day or one of the following collects may be said or sung.

Living God, long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection and the world was changed forever. Teach us to keep faith with them, so that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep and our faith as true. **Amen.** ¹³

or

Creator of the universe, you made the world in beauty and restore all things in glory through the victory of Jesus Christ. We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed, the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love and peace, to the glory of your name. **Amen.** ¹⁴

or

Love divine, in raising Christ to new life you opened the path of salvation to all peoples. Send us out, with the joy of Mary Magdalene, to proclaim that we have seen the Lord, so that all the world may celebrate with you the banquet of your peace. **Amen.** ¹⁵

or

We exult in your love, O God of the living, for you made the tomb of death the womb from which you bring forth your Son, the first-born of a new creation, and you anointed the universe with the fragrant Spirit of his resurrection. Make us joyful witnesses to this good news, so that all humanity may one day gather at the feast of new life with you and all creation. **Amen.** ¹⁶

¹¹ *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2005), 382 alt.

¹² *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2005), 365.

¹³ *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers* (2002), 106 alt.

¹⁴ *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers* (2002), 106 alt.

¹⁵ *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers* (2002), 107.

¹⁶ *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers* (2002), 108 alt.

Morning Prayer continues with the Lord's Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation
and gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,¹⁷

**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.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Morning Prayer continues with the Dismissal.

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY

The Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Morning Prayer may conclude with the following Sentence.

May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life. **Amen.**¹⁸

¹⁷ *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2005), 268 alt.

¹⁸ *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2005), 268.

EVENING PRAYER FOR EASTER
From Easter to Ascension

GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Introductory Responses

Light and peace in Jesus Christ our hope.
Thanks be to God.

or

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
A light no darkness can extinguish.¹⁹

Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to God our Creator.
It is right to offer thanks and praise.²⁰

or

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, God of the living,
to you be glory and praise for ever.
From the deep waters of death
you brought your people to new birth
by raising Jesus to life in triumph.
Through him dark death has been destroyed
and radiant life is everywhere restored.
As you call us out of darkness into his marvellous light,
may our lives reflect his glory
and our lips repeat the endless song.

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.

or

Blessed be God: Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit.
Blessed be God for ever.²¹

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

¹⁹ *The Book of Alternative Services* (1985), 61 alt.

²⁰ *Eucharistic Prayers, Services of the Word, and Night Prayer: Supplementary to The Book of Alternative Services* (2001), 15.

²¹ *Common Praise: Daily Prayer* (2005), 269 alt.

The Psalm

A Psalm from the Daily Office Lectionary, the Weekday Eucharistic Lectionary or the Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings is said or sung.

At the end of the Psalm one of the following may be said or sung.

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

or

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

Evening Prayer continues with the Reading.

The Reading

A Reading from the Daily Office Lectionary, the Weekday Eucharistic Lectionary or the Revised Common Lectionary Daily Readings is read. After a period of silent reflection one of the following is said.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

or

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

or

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

Evening Prayer continues with the Responsory or the Canticle or both. If two Readings are read, then the Responsory follows the first Reading and the Canticle the second.

The Responsory

The Responsory is said or sung.

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?²²

Either of the following may be said or sung.

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit.

Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your sting?

or

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your sting?²³

Evening Prayer continues with [the Second Reading or] the Canticle or an Affirmation of Faith.

The Canticle

'The Song of Mary', 'A Song of Faith' or 'A Song of God's Children' may be said or sung.

The Song of Mary (Luke 1.46-55)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, *

for you, Lord, have looked with favour

on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *

you, the Almighty, have done great things for me

and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you, *

from generation to generation.

You have shown strength with your arm *

and scattered the proud in their conceit,

casting down the mighty from their thrones *

and lifting up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things *

and sent the rich away empty.

You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, *

to remember the promise of mercy,

the promise made to our ancestors, *

to Abraham and his children for ever.²⁴

²² *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2005), 266.

²³ *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2005), 266.

²⁴ *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006), 315 alt.

Or

A Song of Faith (1 Peter 1.3-5, 18, 19, 21)

Blessed are you, the God and Father *
of our Lord Jesus Christ!

By your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope &
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, *
kept in heaven for us,

who are being protected by your power through faith, *
for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

We were ransomed from the futile ways of our ancestors *
not with perishable things like silver or gold
but with the precious blood of Christ *
like that of a lamb without spot or stain.

Through Christ we have confidence in your, O God,
who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, *
so that our faith and hope are set on you. ²⁵

Or

A Song of God's Children (Romans 8.2, 14, 15b-19)

The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus *
has set us free from the law of sin and death.

All who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God; *
for we have received the Spirit
that enables us to cry, 'Abba, Father'.

The Spirit bears witness that we are children of God *
and if God's children, then heirs of God;
if heirs of God, then fellow-heirs with Christ; *
since we suffer with him now,
that we may be glorified with him.

These sufferings that we now endure *
are not worth comparing to the glory
that shall be revealed.

For the creation waits with eager longing *
for the revealing of the children of God. ²⁶

At the end of either Canticle one of the following may be said or sung.

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

²⁵ Common Worship: Daily Prayer (2005) 271 alt.

²⁶ Common Worship: Daily Prayer (2005) 615 alt.

or

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

Evening Prayer continues with an Affirmation of Faith or the Litany.

Affirmation of Faith

One of the following Affirmations of Faith may be said or sung.

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.²⁷**

Or

Hear, O Israel

**Hear, O Israel,
the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
Love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind,
and with all your strength.**

This is the first and the great commandment.

²⁷ *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006), 105.

**The second is like it:
Love your neighbour as yourself.**

There is no commandment greater than these.²⁸

Or

An Affirmation of the Resurrection

**Goodness is stronger than evil;
love is stronger than hate;
light is stronger than darkness;
life is stronger than death;
victory is ours through Jesus who loved us.²⁹**

Evening Prayer continues with the Litany.

THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

The Litany

The Litany is said or sung.

Let us pray, saying, 'Giver of life, hear our prayer.'

Fill us with the joy of Christ's holy and life-giving resurrection.
Giver of life, hear our prayer.

Strengthen isolated and persecuted churches in the Easter gospel.
Giver of life, hear our prayer.

Grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love.
Giver of life, hear our prayer.

Provide for those who lack food, work or shelter.
Giver of life, hear our prayer.

Bring wars and famines throughout the earth to an end.
Giver of life, hear our prayer.

Reveal the light of your presence to the sick, the weak and the dying.
Giver of life, hear our prayer.

²⁸ *The Book of Alternative Services* (1985), 53.

²⁹ Desmond Tutu quoted in Morley, *Bread of Tomorrow: Prayers for the Church Year* (1992), 117.

Send the fire of your Holy Spirit upon your people.
Giver of life, hear our prayer. ³⁰

Additional intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings may be offered in silence or aloud. Among these concerns it is appropriate to remember

- *the people of God that they might proclaim the risen Lord;*
- *God's creation that the peoples of the earth may meet their responsibility to care;*
- *those in despair and darkness that they may find the hope and light of Christ;*
- *those in fear of death that they may find faith through the resurrection and*
- *prisoners and captives.* ³¹

After a period of silence either the Collect of the Day or one of the following collects may be said or sung.

Living God, long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection and the world was changed forever. Teach us to keep faith with them, so that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep and our faith as true. **Amen.** ³²

or

Creator of the universe, you made the world in beauty and restore all things in glory through the victory of Jesus Christ. We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed, the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love and peace, to the glory of your name. **Amen.** ³³

or

Love divine, in raising Christ to new life you opened the path of salvation to all peoples. Send us out, with the joy of Mary Magdalene, to proclaim that we have seen the Lord, so that all the world may celebrate with you the banquet of your peace. **Amen.** ³⁴

or

We exult in your love, O God of the living, for you made the tomb of death the womb from which you bring forth your Son, the first-born of a new creation, and you anointed the universe with the fragrant Spirit of his resurrection. Make us joyful witnesses to this good news, so that all humanity may one day gather at the feast of new life with you and all creation. **Amen.** ³⁵

Evening Prayer continues with the Lord's Prayer.

³⁰ *The Book of Alternative Services* (1985), 122-123 alt.

³¹ *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2005), 365.

³² *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers* (2002), 106 alt.

³³ *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers* (2002), 106 alt.

³⁴ *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers* (2002), 107.

³⁵ *Revised Common Lectionary Prayers* (2002), 108 alt.

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation
and gathering our prayers and praises into one,
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,³⁶

**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.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Evening Prayer continues with the Dismissal.

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY

The Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Morning Prayer may conclude with the following Sentence.

May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life. **Amen.**³⁷

³⁶ *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2005), 268 alt.

³⁷ *Common Worship: Daily Prayer* (2005), 268.