

Easter Day

Readings: Acts 10:34–43

Colossians 3:1–4

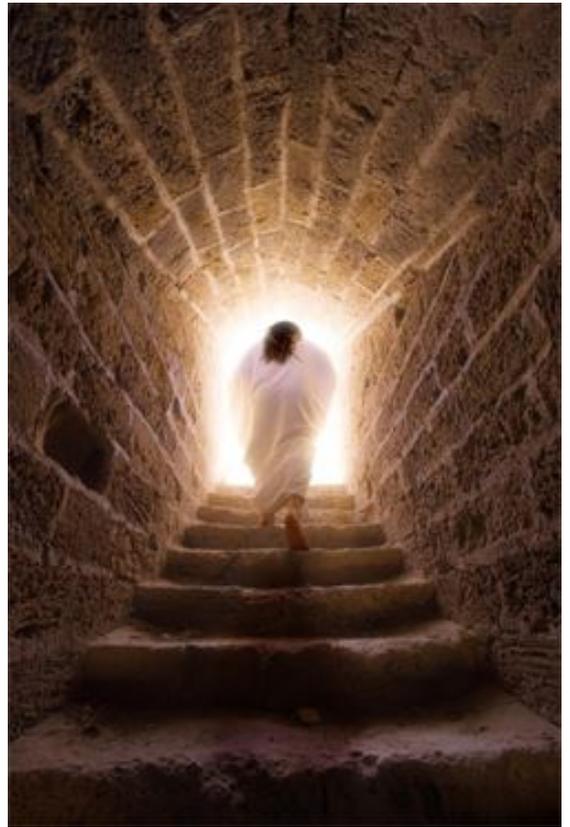
The Resurrection of Jesus:

John 20:1–18

This is not a vision or a trick of the light. As Mary Magdalene bends to look into the tomb, she sees – no doubt with utter horror – that Jesus is not there. She runs to the disciples, who scramble to the tomb and see that he has gone. Mary remains in the garden, bereft, and is approached by the gardener;

‘Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!”

The impossible has happened – Jesus is risen, death has been defeated! No longer do we have to carry the guilt of our wrongdoings. We are loved and accepted, despite our flaws; if we turn our eyes to the risen Christ, we are washed clean and forgiven. Alleluia!



Points for reflection

There is so much to learn from the precious few verses printed above. Know that, as you pause to reflect today, you are in the company of millions of Christians worldwide.

If you're able, sit in your garden or sit where you can see a garden, park or green space; place a vase of flowers near you, or focus on this cross smothered in fresh flowers. Ponder over these questions:

*How would you react if you arrived at the tomb?
Jesus called Mary by her name. What does it mean to you, to know that He also calls **you** by name?
What does the resurrection of Christ mean to you?
How does this shape your life?*

This Holy Week may have felt strange as we have journeyed in a state of separation. Just for today, rejoice that we are united in celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and saviour, Jesus Christ.

Easter Day prayers

God of the open garden,
we have found you and long to hold you fast.
But you refuse our clinging need,
eluding the love that would bind
and possess you,
sending us out
beyond the bounds of our feeble knowing.
Rapt in our joy and desire,
we cannot interpret you:
you have gone from us again,
moving into morning, moving into light.
In your great love,
wait for us where you have sent us,
Go ahead of us,
be there to meet us,
risen, released into your world.¹⁰



*Christ, you are risen
from the dead.
We are risen with you.
May our life never deny
This eternal life,
this peace and hope
and joy.
Praise and glory to
the God of life
who is stronger
than all kinds of death.
Amen.*

BLESSED BE THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!

By his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope, through the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, and into an inheritance which cannot perish or



May the light of Christ, rising in glory, scatter the darkness of your hearts and minds; and may the blessing of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, rest upon you and those you love and pray for, and be with you always.

Compiled by Revd Sally Prendergast

¹⁰ All prayers on this page from Angela Ashwin (ed), *The Book of a Thousand Prayers*: Zondervan (1996), p. 347–352