

12 APRIL 2020
EASTER SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION

OPENING HYMN

**As we gather may your Spirit work within us,
As we gather may we glorify your name.
Knowing well that as our hearts begin to worship
We'll be blest because we came – 2**

We are sons and daughters of the resurrection,
Halleluiah is the song we sing with joy,
All the praises we proclaim, go to God in Jesus' name.
Through His cross He has become our great Amen.

(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who on this day, through your only Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life. Through our lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

FIRST READING: Acts 10:34, 37-43

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23

Response: This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,
for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say:
'His love has no end'. **R/**

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;
his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live
and recount his deeds. **R/**

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the conner stone.
This is the work of the Lord,
a marvel in our eyes. **R/**

SECOND READING: Col 3:1-4

GOSPEL: Jn 20:1-9

REFLECTION:

The Gospel tells us Mary went to the tomb “*early in the morning while it was still dark*”. When she arrived she saw the stone was moved away and it was empty. This probably would have only increased Mary’s sadness and darkness in her heart.

Mary ran and told Peter and the beloved disciple that the body of Jesus was not in the tomb. They had taken him away. So Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb. One sees “*the linen cloths lying on the ground.....*” and the other “*saw and believed*”. They did not understand fully but the scriptures tell us that the empty tomb gave rise to hopeful hearts, ready to believe. What Mary and the disciples needed was an encounter with the living Lord, who fills their hearts with the glory of His risen Life.

The first reading gives us the message of all Jesus’ activity. The disciples subsequently understand the great love of Jesus and his death and resurrection, in the light of fulfillment of scriptures. With each encounter the disciples grow in their understanding of Jesus and is the same for each one of us also. It also gives us the dual message that: for everyone, Christ is set apart as *the judge* and for those who believe they will find *forgiveness of sins in His name*.

As Christ’s disciples, this unique event can only be understood as we keep encountering the risen Lord. Like the early disciples we need *to run* to meet the risen Christ. We need to meet Christ in others and empty ourselves so others can meet the risen Christ within us. Easter invites us to love all that God has created. I need to realize that everything I have is a gift from God. I am invited to use these gifts wisely for others, so together, we can grow in love.

Pause.

The Easter mystery invites me to experience the fullness of Life, even in the current situation that the world is in. We show our love for others by keeping social distancing and protecting life. Are we ready to let go of all our attachments i.e. health, poverty, wealth, success etc... The pandemic should not cause anxiety and fear of death within us. Truly, the Lord has risen and is victorious over sin and death. What about our own internal virus of ego, exploitation, manipulation, prejudices etc... For all of us who believe, there is forgiveness when we confess our own sinfulness. We live the fullness of life when we place our trust in the risen Lord, accept reality and our responsibility and do our best to serve God and others. Like the psalmist we can truly say “*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad*”. **Pause.**

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: Jesus Christ, Our Saviour, has conquered sin and death and intercedes for us at the right hand of the Father. Trusting in his compassion and love let us confidently bring our prayers and those of the world before the risen Lord.

Our response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

The Church: We pray for all the members of the Church, that they may proclaim the good news of Jesus’ resurrection and help others encounter the risen Christ; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

The World & The Community: We pray for the world that the risen Christ may dispel the uncertainty, pain, suffering, hardships and loss of lives, which has been caused by the pandemic of Corona virus; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

The Sick and the Suffering: We pray for all those who are suffering from mental and emotional stress that they may find comfort and hope in Christ's resurrection; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

All Christians: We pray for all baptised Christians that keeping to the laws of the land and social distancing, we may share the joy of the risen Lord with others; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

Leader: Heavenly Father, you have brought us to the joy of this Easter day. Hear our prayers and in your grace renew and strengthen us to be your faithful disciples. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us together by the Saviour's command and formed by Divine teaching, dare to say:
(All say the Lord's Prayer together) Our Father, ...

CLOSING PRAYER

O God, look upon your Church, with unfailing love and favor, so that, renewed by the paschal mysteries, she may come to the glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONAVIRUS

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Coronavirus in various parts of the world.

We come before You asking for a quick control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We pray for the doctors doing research that an effective vaccine to combat the sickness is speedily found.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

**Good news, Good news,
Go proclaim to all the Good News, Good News,
Go and tell the world "With Jesus we have
Risen, alleluia, death shall reign no more".**

(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)