

Scripture **Matthew 28: 1-10** [NT page 33]

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow.

For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come; see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, *'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.'* This is my message for you."

So, they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples.

Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!"

And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.

Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

> **Don't be afraid**

Lenten Liturgy

God raised Jesus on the third day

**Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

Let us take our tambourines and dance

**Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

With the risen one in our midst,

**...the graveyard becomes a garden – grief turns to gladness,  
tears to laughter. There is a new creation!**

With the risen one in our midst,

**...life defeats death, love overcomes hatred, hope replaces fear.**

This is the good news of the gospel!

**Christ is risen! We are risen! Alleluia!**

Let us pray

**Creator God, in raising Jesus from the dead, you have made the world brand new. We praise you with joy and thanksgiving! May we live daily as Easter people bringing life, love and hope to all the world, through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. Amen**

> **Jesus Christ is risen today**

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Scripture **Acts 10: 34-43** [NT page 129]

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all.

That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

**Colossians 3: 1-4** [NT page 201]

So, if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

**Message** (sent as a separate file)

> ***In the bulb there is a flower*** **674**

† Pastoral Prayers<sup>1</sup> and the Lord's Prayer

Holy God, in ways diverse and rich we feel ourselves to be truly blessed. Creation's beauty abounds and in it we glimpse your divine self - through the sky's shifting clouds, the majesty of mountains, the rhythm of waves – in pink moon and scarlet sunset, in birdsong and owl hoot, in bursting bud and fragile flower. We give thanks for the blessing of such beauty in all creation.

Sung Response ***Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.***

We celebrate and pray for the witness of the church throughout the world, in all its colour, diversity and difference. May the Body of the Risen Christ embody contemplation and compassion however it lives its life together in these uncertain days.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Church of Scotland prayers for April 12, 2020

God of the soul, in the stillness of this time together, we bring to you the suffering of the world. Present in every aching heart, Jesus is love and peace. We are mindful of those broken by life events – hardship, injury, disease, unkindness or abuse. We pray for all who work in caring professions – those who seek to sooth and heal. Present in every darkness, may the Risen Christ burn brightly bringing light, renewal and new life.

Sung Response      ***Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.***

Eternal God, dwelling deep within us, bless all who lead in our country – in our community – in our broken world. Guide all who shape our common life. May we all play our part in helping to build a future – a society – of hopeful welcome and care. in which the vulnerable are valued and protected, human rights are honoured, and creation itself is nurtured.

Sung Response      ***Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.***

We remember the bereaved, those who are dying, those suffering in body, spirit or mind. In these moments of shared silence, we call to mind those whom we love – their smiles – the joy they bring – our recent or distant memories...

We give thanks for all people of peace – co-pilgrims of all faiths and spiritual leaders across myriad cultures – for all who worship in temple, mosque, synagogue and church – for all who make that inward journey, seeking renewal, rebirth and the miracle of resurrection.

God of Eternity, surrounded by that great cloud of witnesses, we pray for departed loved ones, knowing that the church is one – in this life and forever.

We sum up all our prayers, saying as Jesus taught...      **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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen**

Sung Response      ***Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.***

Blessing

Continue in Easter Joy! Fill your homes with love and laughter. Inspire the community with sharing and support. Encourage one another with enthusiasm and action. Work for justice and peace in our struggling world. Consider that with the living Christ all things are possible. Easter joy will not stop at Easter – thanks be to God! May the grace of the risen Christ, the love of God and the nurturing community of the Holy Spirit embrace us all.