



Christ is Risen! Home Easter Day Service

Christ yesterday, today and forever.

Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

To him be glory forever. Amen.

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life. **Alleluia!**

You may like to light a candle

The light of Christ: **Thanks be to God.**

The Exsultet (the Easter Song of Praise)

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

O Universe, dance around God's throne!

Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!

Sound the victorious trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in glory, revealing the splendour of your creation,
radiant in the brightness of your triumphant King!

Christ has conquered! Now his life and glory fill you!

Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory!

The risen Saviour, our Lord of life, shines upon you!

Let all God's people sing and shout for joy.

Alleluia. Christ is risen: **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

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The People Cheer! Happy Easter!

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts: **We lift them to the Lord.**

This is the morning when Jesus Christ vanquished hell,
broke the chains of death and rose triumphant from the grave.

This is the morning when all who claim it are freed from sin,
restored to grace and holiness, and share the victory of Christ.

This is the morning that gave us back what we had lost;
beyond our deepest dreams.

Evil and hatred are put to flight and sin is washed away,
lost innocence regained, and mourning turned to joy.

Peace and justice find a home, and heaven is joined to earth
and all creation reconciled to you.

Therefore, heavenly Father, in this our Easter joy
accept our sacrifice of praise, your Church's solemn offering.

Glory to you for ever.

Bible Readings

Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

John 20: 1-18 The Resurrection of Jesus

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.

So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he

saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' 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!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Sermon

Easter Sermon given by St. John Chrysostom (circa 400 AD)

Are there any who are devout lovers of God?

Let them enjoy this beautiful bright festival!

Are there any who are grateful servants?

Let them rejoice and enter into the joy of their Lord!

Are there any weary with fasting? Let them now receive their wages!

If any have toiled from the first hour, let them receive their due reward;

If any have come after the third hour, let him with gratitude join in the Feast!

And he that arrived after the sixth hour,

let him not doubt; for he too shall sustain no loss.

And if any delayed until the ninth hour,

let him not hesitate; but let him come too.

And he who arrived only at the eleventh hour,

let him not be afraid by reason of his delay.

For the Lord is gracious and receives the last even as the first.

He gives rest to him that comes at the eleventh hour,
as well as to him that toiled from the first.

To this one He gives, and upon another He bestows.
He accepts the works as He greets the endeavour.
The deed He honours and the intention He commends.
Let us all enter into the joy of the Lord!

First and last alike receive your reward;
rich and poor, rejoice together!
Sober and slothful, celebrate the day!
You that have kept the fast, and you that have not,
rejoice today for the Table is richly laden!

Feast royally on it, the calf is a fatted one.
Let no one go away hungry. Partake, all, of the cup of faith.
Enjoy all the riches of His goodness!

Let no one grieve at his poverty,
for the universal kingdom has been revealed.

Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again;
for forgiveness has risen from the grave.

Let no one fear death, for the Death of our Saviour has set us free.
He has destroyed it by enduring it.
He destroyed Hell when He descended into it.
He put it into an uproar even as it tasted of His flesh.
Isaiah foretold this when he said,

"You, O Hell, have been troubled by encountering Him below."
Hell was in an uproar because it was done away with.
It was in an uproar because it is mocked.
It was in an uproar, for it is destroyed.
It is in an uproar, for it is annihilated.
It is in an uproar, for it is now made captive.

Hell took a body, and discovered God.
It took earth, and encountered Heaven.
It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it did not see.

O death, where is thy sting?

O Hell, where is thy victory?

Christ is Risen, and you, o death, are annihilated!

Christ is Risen, and the evil ones are cast down!

Christ is Risen, and the angels rejoice!

Christ is Risen, and life is liberated!

Christ is Risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead;

for Christ having risen from the dead,

is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

To Him be Glory and Power forever and ever. Amen.

Although John Chrysostom wrote that over a thousand years ago, can the power of Easter be described better! Jesus' death and resurrection overcame the finality of death. We see that God's love for us is inclusively for everyone, it outlasts everything and anything else. Easter shows us that death does not, and will never, have the last word. Easter breathes God's grace and hope into our waiting fearful hearts with whispers, shouts, of love and reassurance.

May the power of Easter always be your peace and joy 😊 Amen.

The Creed - Expression of Christian Faith

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

We believe and trust in God.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in God.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in all the world?

We believe and trust in God.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers

Almighty God, on this Easter day we praise and thank-you for your great love shown to us in Jesus, the saviour of the World.

We thank you that Jesus' resurrection brings hope. We claim that hope today, and ask your healing grace to flood our nations to end this pandemic and to bring peace.

Lord hear us: **Lord graciously hear us.**

We thank you for the dedication of all frontline and key workers and pray your protection on them, and their families.

We pray for wisdom for our government and world leaders, for medical and viral advisers and researchers, for all involved in the medical, food and supply chains.

Lord hear us: **Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for all who are feeling lonely, overwhelmed, depressed and fearful.

For all who are vulnerable. For those whose homes are not a sanctuary.

For the hungry and homeless; for those who have lost their livelihoods.

Lord hear us: **Lord graciously hear us.**

We ask for your healing presence to surround all who are sick and we lift them before you now...

We ask your comforting presence to surround all who mourn.

Lord hear us: **Lord graciously hear us.**

Your resurrection brings life out of death. We lift to you the recently departed and all those whom we have known and loved....

Lord hear us: **Lord graciously hear us.**

We pray for one another and lift to you now the prayers of our own hearts....

Joining all our prayers together, as beloved children of God, we pray:

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.

Blessing of Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said 'Peace be with you'.

Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the risen Christ be always with you

And also with you. Alleluia.

The blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you and those whom you love always. † **Amen**

Alleluia! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Happy Easter!

