

## **Easter Morning Prayer**

*April 12, 2020*

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

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We awake this morning to declare He is risen indeed! We cannot gather face to face this resurrection Sunday. This causes us to long for the day when all the saints will gather around the throne of Jesus Christ, who died and lives forevermore.

In this morning prayer time I will simply lead us in prayer through Scripture reading. My intent is to draw us to rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which gives us new life in Him and secures our eternal heart. This will be a time of meditation on Scripture and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

I invite you to join with me, by the Spirit, in prayer.

I begin with the great hymn “Christ the Lord is Risen Today.”

Let us worship Christ!

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!  
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!

Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!  
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!  
Praise to thee by both be given, Alleluia!  
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!  
Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

King of glory, soul of bliss, Alleluia!  
Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!  
Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia!  
Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!

Jesus Christ, by celebrating your glorious resurrection, we must also remember your death, your sacrifice for our sin.

1 Corinthians 5:7-8 instructs us, *“Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.”*

Pause now and confess sin, acknowledge our sinfulness, beseech the Lord to remove sin that we might worship Jesus with sincerity and truth with a pure conscience cleansed by His blood. [PAUSE]

Hear the Word of the Lord:

Matthew 28:1-10, *“Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and 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, and there they will see me.”*”

Romans 6:8-11, *“Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.”*

1 Peter 1:3-9, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.”*

Father we ask that you would fill us with the power of the resurrection, that we might not live for ourselves but for Jesus Christ. We pray for resurrection power to put to death what is earthly in us. We pray for resurrection power to die to sin and live for righteousness. We pray for resurrection power to be instruments of grace and truth, that you might open our mouths to speak boldly as we ought. We pray for power to walk with all patiences, meekness, gentleness, and love. We pray for resurrection power to walk by faith in these days, not fear and anxiety. We pray for resurrection power to endure to the end with all joy and wisdom.

Throughout this day we pray you would provide for our needs. Not that we would be comfortable, but rather provide for our needs that we might give our lives in service to your kingdom.

We pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world. We pray for the purity of your Church that comes only through the Word of God. We pray that you would cause those translating the Scriptures efficiency and accuracy. For those living in lands different then their birth, give them courage in the fact they are citizens of heaven, sent to declare the glory of Jesus Christ. For our persecuted brothers and sisters give them power to persevere as a testimony of your worth.

Father, fill us with eternal joy!  
Christ Jesus, fill us with eternal hope!  
Holy Spirit, fill us with eternal life!

We ask this in Jesus' name, AMEN!