

Third Sunday of Easter: Resurrection Journey and Spiritual Communion

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Introduction

Let us bless the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Let us praise and exalt him for ever.

**Blessing and honour and glory and power
be to him who sits upon the throne
and to the Lamb for ever and ever. Amen.**

Great and marvellous are your works,

Lord God the almighty;

just and true are your ways,

King of saints;

all glorious your gifts, Spirit of life.

Blessing and honour

and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving

and honour and power and might

be to our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Collect

Almighty Father,

who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples

with the sight of the risen Lord:

give us such knowledge of his presence with us,

that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life

and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

First Reading

Acts 2.14a, 36-41

Easter Responses

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

Jesus Christ is Lord.

Over powers and principalities, over all who determine,

control, govern or finance the affairs of humankind,

Jesus Christ is Lord.

Of the poor, of the broken, of the sinned against and the sinner,

Jesus Christ is Lord.

Above the Church, beyond our most excellent theologies

and in the quiet corners of our hearts,

Jesus Christ is Lord.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

Gospel Reading

Luke 24: 13-35

Thought

Easter Thanksgiving

Our Lord Jesus Christ, risen from death,
we praise you for changed lives and new hopes at Easter.

You come to Mary in the garden,
and turn her tears into joy.
For your love and mercy we give you thanks:
we praise your holy name.

You come to the disciples in the upper room,
and turn their fear into courage.
For your love and mercy we give you thanks:
we praise your holy name.

You come to the disciples by the lakeside,
and turn their failure into faith.
For your love and mercy we give you thanks:
we praise your holy name.

You come to the disciples on the Emmaus road,
and turn their despair into hope.
For your love and mercy we give you thanks:
we praise your holy name.

You come to your people now,
and turn our weakness into triumph.
For your love and mercy we give you thanks:
we praise your holy name.

Spiritual Communion

You may wish to find a space for prayer in front of a cross, a candle, or a special place.

Reflect on the day and on your relationships.

What good things have come from God in these days?

Where have I fallen short?

Help me receive your Easter gift of peace this day and in the days to come.

Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

John 6.35

Prayers of intercession

Pray for the needs of the world, for your local community, and for those close to you.

Response: Lord, hear us,

Lord, graciously hear us.

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Give thanks for the saving death and resurrection of Jesus and ask him to be with you now.

**Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits you have given me,
for all the pains and insults you have borne for me.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
I ask you to come spiritually into my heart.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day.
Amen.**

after the Prayer of St Richard of Chichester

Conclusion

Living God,
we give you thanks and praise that your Son
made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread:
open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.
Amen. Alleluia.

The Easter Anthems

**Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us:
so let us celebrate the feast,
not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:**

death has no more dominion over him.
In dying he died to sin once for all:
in living he lives to God.
See yourselves therefore as dead to sin:
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Christ has been raised from the dead:
the first fruits of those who sleep.
For as by man came death:
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;
for as in Adam all die:
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

Eternal Father,
through the resurrection of your Son,
help us to face the future
with courage and assurance,
knowing that nothing in death or life
can ever part us from your love.
Jesus, we believe you; all we heard is true.
You break the bread; we recognise you,
you are the fire that burns within us;
use us to light the world.

Go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

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