

Easter Evening Prayer

Spirit of the Risen Christ,
as the lamps light up the evening,
**shine into our hearts and kindle in us
the fire of your love.**

A candle may be lit

Jesus Christ is the Light of world;
a light that no darkness can quench.

**The long reign of sin has ended.
A new age has dawned.
A broken world is being renewed.
and we are once again made whole.
Alleluia!**

Psalm 92

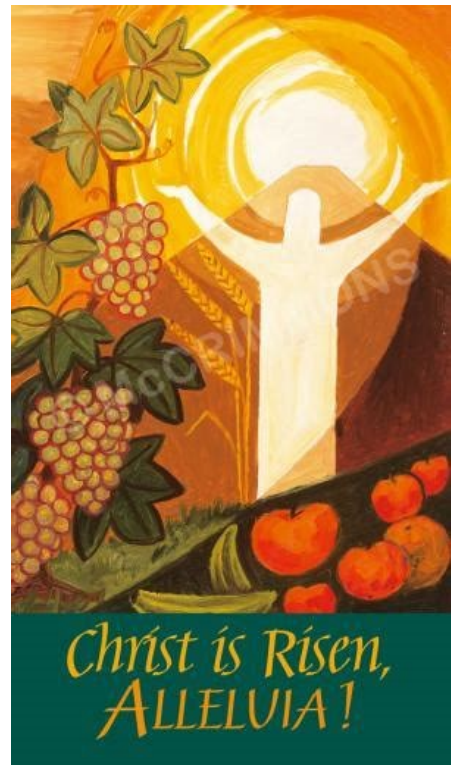
It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to the Most High.
It is good to proclaim your unfailing love in the morning,
your faithfulness in the evening,
accompanied by a ten-stringed instrument,
a harp, and the melody of a lyre.
You thrill me, Lord, with all you have done for me!
I sing for joy because of what you have done.
O Lord, what great works you do!
And how deep are your thoughts.

Let us recollect the presence of the Risen Christ with us now.

Pause

Christ Jesus, in the light of your risen presence,
and in union with your first frail apostles,
we are sorry for the times when we have failed to follow you:
for not weighing your words,
for not sharing your trials,
for not believing your promises.

Things for which we are sorry may be recalled in silence



Risen Christ, disperse the sin from our souls as the mist departs from the hills.
Be in what we do, inform what we say,
redeem who we are.
Amen.

Reading John Chapter 21 verses 14 -21

This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go." Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, "Follow me!"

Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, "Lord, who is going to betray you?") When Peter saw him, he asked, "Lord, what about him?"

Reflection

Reading

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
naught be all else to me save that thou art;
thou my best thought in the day and the night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence is light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
I ever with thee and thou with me Lord;
thou my great Father, and I thy true heir;
thou in me dwelling, and I in thy care.

Be thou my breastplate, my word for the fight,
be thou my armour, and be thou my might,
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I need not, nor all the world's praise,
though mine inheritance through all my days;
thou, and thou only, the first in my heart,
high King of heaven, my treasure thou art!

High King of heaven when battle is done,
grant heaven's joy to me, O bright heav'n's sun;
Christ of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe, O God of all gods,
that you are the eternal God of life.
We believe, O God of all peoples,
that you are the eternal God of love.
We believe that you create earth and seas and skies,
we believe that you create us in your image,
and give us eternal worth.**

Jesus says:
I am the resurrection and the life.
You break the power of sin and death.
I am the bread of life.
You feed and fill the hungry.
I am the true vine.
You make empty lives bear fruit.

Risen Christ,
you turned Mary's tears into joy:
turn our tears into joy.

Risen Christ,
you turned the travellers' despair into hope:
turn our despair into hope.

Risen Christ,
you turned the disciples' fears into boldness;
turn our fears into boldness.

Risen Christ,
you turned Thomas' unbelief into trust:
turn our unbelief into trust.

Prayer of Intercession

Risen Christ,
you appeared to Mary in the garden at dawn;
Make yourself known to us in the dawns of our lives.

You appeared to the fishermen as they toiled in vain;

**Make yourself known to us in the long hours
of our weekly work.**

You appeared to the walkers as they welcomed you into their home;
Make yourself known to us in our life journey and make welcoming our homes.

You appeared to Thomas when he touched the scars in your body;
Make yourself known when we touch the wounds of the world.

You appeared to many as they met beneath the skies;
Make yourself known to us in the wonder of your creation.

Risen Christ,
into your hands we place all who are restless or sick,
tenderly watch over and care for them.

Into your care and keeping we give our loved ones who have died.
May they rest in peace and rise again with you in glory.

.

Blessing

Risen Christ,
raise up new callings and communities that meet the need of our times.

Lord Jesus Christ, Light of the world,
by your cross you have overcome all darkness that oppresses.
**Come and shine on us here
that we may grow and live together in your love
which makes us one with all humanity.**

The Father of life go with us.
The Risen Christ beside us.
The vibrant Spirit within us.
Amen.