

A Short Act of Worship for Sunday 11 April

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*Now he is living, the Christ. Out of the tomb he is risen;
He has conquered death, opened heaven to all believers.*

Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Like Mary at the empty tomb, we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence.
Lord, have mercy.

Like the disciples behind locked doors, we are afraid to be seen as your followers.
Christ, have mercy.

Like Thomas in the upper room, we are slow to believe.
Lord, have mercy.

A pause for reflection ...

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

God's Word:

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.
(Acts 4: 32-25)

Take a few moments of silence to think about these words

This joyful Eastertide away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow.
*Had Christ, who once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison, our faith had been in vain:
But now hath Christ arisen, arisen, arisen, arisen.*

My flesh in hope shall rest and for a season slumber:
til trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number:

Death's flood hath lost its chill, since Jesus crossed the river:
Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver:

Our prayers:

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.

Jesus, light of the world, bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations ...
Jesus, Lord of life, in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, bread of life, give food to the hungry ...
and nourish us all with your word.
Jesus, Lord of life, in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life, be with us and all who follow you in the way ...
Deepen our appreciation of your truth and fill us with your life.
Jesus, Lord of life, in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,
recover the straggler, bind up the injured, strengthen the sick
and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.
Jesus, Lord of life, in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, the resurrection and the life, we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in
you ... Raise us with them to eternal life.
Jesus, Lord of life, in your mercy, hear us,
accept our prayers, and be with us always. Amen.

A pause for silence prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name ...

(or)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name ...

*You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace,
And the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you.
There'll be shouts of joy and the trees of the fields shall clap, shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the fields shall clap their hands,
and the trees of the fields shall clap their hands,
And you'll go out with joy.*

Risen Christ, for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:
open the doors of our hearts, that we may seek the good of others
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace, to the praise of God the Father. Amen

May Christ, who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,
fill us with his new life; and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life.
Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.