

A Short Act of Worship for Sunday 18 April

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

*Make me a channel of Your peace, where there is hatred, let me bring Your love,
Where there is injury, Your pardon Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in You*

*Make me a channel of Your peace, where there's despair in life, let me bring hope
Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy*

*Oh Master, grant that I may never seek, so much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love with all my soul*

*Make me a channel of Your peace, it is pardoning that we are pardoned
In giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life*

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:

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of grilled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. (Luke 24: 36b-48)

*Now is eternal life, if risen with Christ we stand, in him to life reborn,
And holden in his hand; No more we fear death's ancient dread, in Christ arisen from the dead.*

*Man long in bondage lay, brooding o'er life's brief span; was it, O God, for nought,
For nought, thou madest man? Thou art our hope, our vital breath; shall hope undying in death?*

*And God, the living God, stooped down to man's estate; by death destroying death,
Christ opened wide life's gate. He lives, who died; he reigns on high; who lives in him shall never die.*

*Unfathomed love divine, reign thou within my heart; from thee nor depth nor height,
Nor life nor death can part; My life is hid in God with thee, now and through all eternity.*

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, bread of life, give food to the hungry ...
and nourish us all with your word.

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, 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, 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 ...

Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen

*Jesus is Lord! Creation's voice proclaims it,
for by his power each tree and flower was planned and made.*

*Jesus is Lord! The universe declares it - sun, moon and stars in heaven cry: `Jesus is Lord!' Jesus is Lord,
Jesus is Lord! Praise him with alleluias, for Jesus is Lord.*

*Jesus is Lord! Yet from his throne eternal in flesh he came to die in pain on Calvary's tree. Jesus is Lord!
From him all life proceeding - yet gave his life a ransom thus setting us free.*

*Jesus is Lord! O'er sin the mighty conqueror;
from death he rose and all his foes shall own his name.*

Jesus is Lord! God sends his Holy Spirit to show by works of power that Jesus is Lord

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.