

# IX Eastertide

## *Introduction - The Great Fifty Days of Easter*

After forty days of fasting and self-discipline, like marathon runners, exhausted, breathless and weary now, we make one final effort to reach the finishing line. It is Easter, we say. Alleluia, it's over. And yet, it is not over at all, it is just beginning. What went before was careful, intense preparation for high and holy festivity that now comes to meet us.

### **Now is the time of festival.**

We think of Easter as a day or perhaps at most a weekend. Once Easter Sunday has passed, all the chocolate eggs eaten and the lilies wilting, Easter is over and done for this year, a thing of the past. But Easter is a *season*, not a *day* – a Great Fifty days, in fact; literally, a Week of Weeks – 49 days [the perfect number seven multiplied by its own perfection] plus one day more to make perfection perfect.

### **There are two seasons - one before Easter and the other after.**

The season before Easter signifies the troubles in which we live here and now, while the time after Easter which we are celebrating at present signifies the happiness that will be ours in the future.

What we commemorate before Easter is what we experience in this life; what we celebrate after Easter points to something we do not yet possess.

This is why we keep the first season with fasting and prayer; but now the fast is over and we devote the present season to praise. Such is the meaning of the Alleluia we sing.

Let us sing Alleluia here on earth, while we are still anxious and worrying, so that we may one day be able to sing it there in heaven, without any worry or care.

Alleluia Alleluia!

*An Eastertide Sermon of St Augustine of Hippo*

### **Eastertide**

### ***The Season of Sundays of Easter***

This period of the year, from Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost, is the oldest part of the Church Year.

It is directly derived from the fifty-day period in the Jewish calendar, which begins with Passover and concludes with *Pentecost* [the Greek term for *fiftieth day*].

Our Lord's death and resurrection took place at Passover, and its completion—the empowering of the apostles by the Holy Spirit—took place on Pentecost.

Easter Day, the season leading up to it and the season following it - these are the church's original feast days, its high holy days. In very early times the feasts of Easter Day and Pentecost were moved to the Sundays following the Jewish festivals, because of the early church's intense reverence for the first day of the week as the Lord's Day, the Day of Resurrection.

The early Christians considered every Sunday to be a celebration of the rising of Christ and of the coming of the Holy Spirit—a repetition of Easter and Pentecost.

### **The Readings on the Sundays of Easter**

Readings from the Acts of the Apostles, the New Testament Letters and the Gospels shape our Eastertide Sunday celebrations.

The book of Acts tells *the story of the foundation of the Church* and recounts its early witness.

The readings from the letters - the so-called *Catholic Epistles* – call for and inspire the *spirituality* in which the early Church was formed.

The Gospels invite us into the *extravagant offer of abundant life* that is ours in the victory of our Risen Saviour. In the Eastertide Gospels we encounter him in his risen life and hear the words he leaves as his testament on which to build our Easter faith.

### **The Acts of the Apostles**

This book with its description of the life of the early Christian community, characterized by an intense awareness of the risen Lord's presence and the apostolic preaching of the Resurrection, has had an important place in the church's liturgy.

The liturgical revisions among Anglicans, Roman Catholics, and Lutherans have restored the book of Acts to the Easter liturgy. The Acts of the Apostles furnishes one of the readings every Sunday during the Great Fifty Days.

### **The Paschal Candle**

The large candle from the Great Vigil of Easter burns in a prominent place in the Church at every service during Eastertide. It was the custom of the synagogue to begin services in the evening with the lighting of candles—originally for the purpose of giving light but almost immediately invested with the symbolic meaning of light: the revelation of God's love.

Early Christians continued that use of light, seeing in the bringing of light into a dark place a symbol of the Resurrection. In the ancient Christian basilicas, some of which still exist in Italy, the stand for the paschal candle was built into the pulpit as a permanent feature of the building's architecture. In the Middle Ages, Winchester Cathedral had a paschal candle that was sixty feet tall!

After Eastertide, the Paschal Candle is kept near the baptismal font and lit again for baptisms and funerals.

### **Alleluia**

This word, derived from the Hebrew hallelujah, means "praise to Yahweh."

In Jewish worship, it is particularly characteristic of Passover. In the Seder meal, the entire group of psalms called the *Hallel Psalms* is sung [Psalms 113-118].

As early as the time of the writing of the book of Revelation [probably by the 2nd century], hallelujah was already established as an important word in the Church's liturgical vocabulary.

Alleluia is a paean of ecstatic praise to God that sings through our worship

This period of the year, from Easter Day through the Day of Pentecost, is the oldest part of the Church Year.

### **Baptismal Font**

The baptismal font remains in the Sanctuary for the duration of Eastertide – the principal Baptismal Season of the Church Year.

As people come to the Altar Rail to receive Communion, they can be invited to dip their fingers into the water in the font and make the sign of the cross, in recognition of the blessings they have received in baptism.

During Eastertide we are encouraged to place the Paschal Candle at the head of our processions, being led to and from worship by it rather than by a Cross.

## Elements: *Holy Eucharist -Principal Service*

### GATHER IN THE LORD'S NAME [G]

#### G18 Call to Worship

*Dialogical*

Alleluia Christ is risen:

**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

*or*

Alleluia. Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

**Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God. Alleluia**

*or*

*Presidential*

We come to worship because for us to live is Christ.

We live for Christ, we live by Christ, we live with Christ,  
for Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

God of grace, who raised Christ from the dead,

let Christ be praised in all we say and do,

in all we think and speak,

in this hour of worship

and in every moment of our lives. **Amen.**

#### G19 Prayer of Preparation/ Illumination

*The Collect for Purity was included in the Sarum Missal [11<sup>th</sup> century]  
and has remained an integral part of Anglican Eucharistic worship.  
A Prayer for Illumination may be substituted for the Collect for Purity.*

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit,

that in your light we may see light,

in your truth find wisdom,

and in your will discover your peace,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*or*

God our helper,

by your Holy Spirit, open our minds

that as the Scriptures are read

and your Word is proclaimed,

we may be led into your truth

and taught your will,

for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*or*

Living God, help us so to hear your holy Word

that we may truly understand;

that, understanding, we may believe

and believing,

we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience,

seeking your honour and glory in all that we do;

through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Come, Holy Spirit, come.  
Come as the wind, and cleanse us;  
come as the fire, and burn;  
come as the dew and refresh;  
convict, convert and consecrate us  
to our great good and to God's greater glory;  
for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.**

## **G20 Confession**

*Confession and Forgiveness can be included here or elsewhere*

**Forgive us, Lord,  
when we wander from the new life of Easter .  
Forgive us, Lord,  
when we find the truth of Easter hard to believe.  
Forgive us Lord,  
when we find it hard live our Easter Faith.**

## **G21 Forgiveness**

Lord Jesus Christ, in you we find our way, our truth and our life. By the power of your resurrection forgive and restore us that we may live to the praise and glory of God.

## **PROCLAIM AND RECEIVE GOD'S WORD [P]**

### **P3 Alleluia Verses in Eastertide**

*Please see Advent P1 above for the music to chant the Alleluia Verses.*

#### **The Paschal Vigil**

Alleluia.

The risen Lord is | in our midst; The Lord is risen | indeed!

*Psalms 118:24*

Alleluia.

#### **Easter Day**

Alleluia.

This is the day the | Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad | in it.

*Psalms 118:24*

Alleluia.

#### **Second Sunday of Easter**

Alleluia.

Blessed are those who | have not seen; and yet have | believed.

*John 20:29b*

Alleluia.

#### **Third Sunday of Easter**

Alleluia.

Our hearts were burning | within us;

while he talked with us on | the road.

*Luke 24:32*

Alleluia.

#### **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Alleluia.

I am the good shepherd. I | know my sheep; and my sheep | know me.

*John 10:14*

Alleluia.

#### **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Alleluia.

I am the way, the truth | and the life; says | the Lord.

*John 14:6*

Alleluia.

### **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Alleluia.

Those who love me o-bey my teaching; and my Father | will love them. *John 14:23*

Alleluia.

### **Ascension of Our Lord**

Alleluia.

Surely I will be | with you always; to the very end of | the age. *Matthew 28:20b*

Alleluia.

### **Seventh Sunday of Easter**

Alleluia.

I will not leave | you as orphans; I will come | to you. *John 14:18*

Alleluia.

### **The Day of Pentecost**

Alleluia.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your | faithful people,  
and kindle in them the fire of | your love.

Alleluia.

## **RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD [R]**

### **R8 Affirming our Faith – A Creed for Eastertide**

Let us affirm our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Son of God who lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy and blessed Trinity.

**We believe in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Christ died for our sins, was buried  
and was raised to life on the third day,  
in accordance with the Scriptures.

**Christ has died,**

**Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again.**

Christ appeared to Peter,  
to the twelve disciples  
and to more than five hundred  
brothers and sisters at one time.

**This we have received,  
and this we believe with joy.**

**Amen.**

### **R9 Prayers of the People**

Let us pray.

*Particular thanksgivings and petitions may be inserted here*

By the grace of our Risen Saviour Jesus Christ and in his name,  
we pray for your holy Catholic Church :

**That Christians everywhere**

**may be united by the grace of the Risen Christ.**

Grant that every member of the Church  
may truly and humbly serve you :

**That the power of our Easter faith**

**may be known in all the world.**

We pray for *N.* our Archbishop, *N.* our bishop, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons :

**That together with them  
we may be faithful witnesses of Christ's resurrection.**

We pray for leaders of all the nations within which the Anglican Church of Southern Africa bears witness: Angola, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, St Helena and South Africa.  
Help our leaders to know what is right and just, and to do it.

**That the justice and peace of the Risen Christ may flourish.**

We pray for the forgiveness of our sins, for what we have done and for what we have left undone.  
Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**That our works may proclaim Christ's victory.**

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble :

**That they may know the grace of Christ  
and the joy of Christ's peace.**

We pray for all who have died, especially . . .

*Petitions are added here*

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord :

**And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

May they rest in peace :

**and rise in glory.**

We praise you for the blessed virgin Mary, mother of our Lord, and for all the saints who have entered into joy;

**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Petitions are added here*

Guide and direct us, O Lord :

**that we may live and work  
confident that we have been raised to new life,  
by Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord and Saviour.  
Amen.**

## **MOVE TO THE TABLE [M]**

### **M4 Sentences for The Peace**

The risen Lord came and stood among the disciples.

Then they rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

**The Peace of the Lord be with you always. Alleluia  
Peace be with you. Alleluia**

*or*

The peace of the risen Christ be with you. Alleluia Alleluia

**Peace be with you Alleluia Alleluia.**

*or*

The glory of the risen Christ is amongst us

The peace of the Lord be with you always. Alleluia Alleluia

**Peace be with you. Alleluia Alleluia.**

## CELEBRATE AT THE TABLE [C]

### C5 The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer for Eastertide

*For use from Easter Sunday to the Day of Pentecost*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Worship and praise belong to you, Source of all being. Your power invigorates, your presence sustains and your love restores our broken world. You are unceasingly at work: bringing order from chaos, creating, restoring, and filling emptiness with life. In raising Christ from the dead you usher in the dawn of a new age.

**Alleluia.**

**Christ bursts forth from the tomb  
to lead us into life in all its fullness.**

**Alleluia.**

Your Spirit is fire in us, your breath is power to purge our sin and warm our hearts to love. As children of your redeeming purpose, freed by Christ whose resurrection opens the gate of life, we offer you our praise, with angels and archangels and the whole company of earth and heaven, singing the hymn of your unending glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord**

**God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blest is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Praise and thanksgiving be to you, Lord of all, for by the Cross we gain eternal life and death is swallowed up in victory. In the first light of Easter, glory broke from the tomb and changed the women's sorrow into joy. From the garden the mystery dawned that he whom they had loved and lost is with us now in every place for ever.

The Risen Lord was recognised in the breaking of the bread, the fearful disciples received a blessing of peace, and the weary fishermen found a ready welcome on the lakeshore. To them all Christ renewed the pledge of his presence and the promise of new birth in the Spirit.

Before he was given up to suffering and death, recalling the night of Israel's release when slaves walked free, at supper with his disciples, Jesus took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you." After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this to remember me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Dying, you destroyed our death.**

**Rising, you restored our life.**

**Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be to us the Body and the Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

*All sing the **Amen** three times.*

*This Eucharistic Prayer is based on the Eucharistic Prayers in Scottish Liturgy 1982  
© College of Bishops of the Scottish Episcopal Church.*

## **GO OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE [O]**

### **O11 Thanksgiving for Worship**

Give thanks for the Lord is gracious.  
**God's mercy endures for ever.**

*or*

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases.  
**God's mercies never come to an end.**

*Optional Presidential Thanksgiving*

O God, our life and our hope, we thank you that in these sacred mysteries we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands the bread of life: strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you and for one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*or*

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin and also an example of godly life: as you have fed us in this sacrament so give us thankful hearts to receive the grace of this holy communion and eager wills to follow in Christ's blessed footsteps; for his tender mercies' sake.  
**Amen.**

### **O12 Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

*or*

Let us go forth into the world,  
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia. Alleluia.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

*or*

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

## **Elements: Seasonal Sunday Evening Prayer**

### **ENTRANCE RITE [E]**

#### **E7 Procession Led by the Paschal Candle**

*The church is dark before the liturgy begins.*

*The Paschal Candle is processed to in front of the Altar.  
The presider remains standing in the gate to the sanctuary.  
When the Altar candles are lit, they are lit from the Paschal candle.*

#### **E8 Greeting**

Alleluia! Christ is risen:  
**The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

### **LIGHTING THE EVENING CANDLES [L]**

#### **L13 Blessing of the Light**

Blessèd are you, O Lord our God,  
time and eternity are yours  
you bring the abundance of summer sunshine  
into the harvest that sustains us in winter.  
Let the resurrection of Christ  
empower us to confront with confidence  
all that threatens to diminish and destroy us  
through Christ who is our victory and our joy,  
and who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
in glory everlasting:  
**Blessèd be God for ever!**

#### **L14 Evening Cantic**

*If a version of **Hail Gladdening Light** is not sung,  
one of the following canticles may be used.  
For versions of **Hail Gladdening Light** please refer to L2 in Advent above.*

*The Altar candles are lit during the Evening Cantic*

#### **Evening Cantic: Song of Moses and Miriam**

**Antiphon:** *In your unfailing love, O Lord :  
you lead the people whom you have redeemed.*

I will sing to the Lord, who has triumphed gloriously :  
the horse and his rider have been thrown into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my song :  
and has become my salvation.

This is my God whom I will praise :  
the God of my forebears whom I will exalt.

The Lord fights for his people :  
the Lord is his name.

Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in power :  
your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.

At the blast of your nostrils, the sea covered them :  
they sank as lead in the mighty waters.

In your unfailing love, O Lord :  
you lead the people whom you have redeemed,

And by your invincible strength :  
you will guide them to your holy dwelling.

You will bring them in and plant them, O Lord :  
in the sanctuary which your hands have established.

*Exodus 15. 1b-2, 6a, 11-12a, 13-18*

### **Evening Cantic: *Song of Faith***

*Antiphon: God raised Christ from the dead :  
the Lamb without spot or stain.*

Blessèd be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ :  
who in his great mercy  
gave us a new birth as his children.

He has raised Jesus Christ from the dead :  
so that we have a sure hope in him.

We have the promise of an inheritance  
that can never be spoilt :  
because it is kept for us in heaven.

The ransom that was paid to free us :  
was not paid in silver or gold,

But in the precious blood of Christ :  
the Lamb without spot or stain.

God raised him from the dead and gave him glory :  
so that we might have faith and hope in God.

*1 Peter 1*

## **L15 Evening Responsory**

O Lord we call to you, make haste to help us.  
**Let our prayer rise before you as incense  
the lifting up of our hands as the evening sacrifice**

Our eyes are turned to you Lord God, in you we take our refuge.  
**Let our prayer rise before you as incense  
the lifting up of our hands as the evening sacrifice**

## **L16 Evening Prayer**

Let us pray.

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,  
so may your mercy come down upon us  
to cleanse our hearts  
and set us free to sing your praise,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

## WORD OF GOD [W]

### W10 Gospel Responory

*One of the following Responsories is used.*

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead :  
**And Christ shall give you light.**

You have died,  
and your life is hid with Christ in God :  
**Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead.**

Set your minds on things that are above,  
not on things that are on the earth :  
**And Christ shall give you light.**

When Christ our life appears  
you will appear with him in glory :  
**Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,  
and Christ shall give you light.**

*or*

Blessèd are you, O God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit :  
**We give you praise and honour for ever.**

For you have loved us from all eternity :  
**And remembered us when we were in trouble.**

Blessèd are you, Lord Jesus Christ :  
**For our salvation you came down from heaven.**

By the power of the Holy Spirit :  
**You became incarnate of the Virgin Mary.**

You set us free from our sins by your own blood :  
**And on the third day rose from the dead.**

You ascended up on high :  
**And opened wide for us the everlasting doors.**

You are seated at the right hand of the Father :  
**And ever live to intercede for us.**

Blessèd are you, O God: Source of all being,  
eternal Word and Spirit of life :  
**We give you praise and honour for ever.**

*or*

The Lord is my light and my salvation ;  
the Lord is the strength of my life.  
**The Lord is my light and my salvation :  
the Lord is the strength of my life.**

The light shines in the darkness :  
and the darkness has not overcome it.  
**The Lord is the strength of my life.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit :  
**The Lord is my light and my salvation :**  
**the Lord is the strength of my life.**

## **W11 Gospel Canticle**

*One of the following Canticles may be used in place of the **Song of Mary**.  
For versions of the **Song of Mary** please refer to W2 in Advent above.*

*The Gospel Book may be processed into the midst of the Assembly.  
The Gospel is proclaimed from there.*

### **Gospel Canticle: *Easter Anthems***

**Antiphon:** *Christ has died, Christ is risen :  
Christ will come again.*

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 will be for ever.

Amen. *1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Romans 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22*

### **Gospel Canticle: *Song of Our Adoption***

**Antiphon:** *Alleluia, Alleluia, Christ has ransomed us :  
and made us children of God.*

Blessed are you, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ :  
for you have blessed us in Christ  
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

Before the world was made, you chose us to be yours in Christ :  
that we should be holy and blameless before you.

You destined us for adoption as your children through Jesus Christ,  
according to the good pleasure of your will, To the praise of your glorious grace :  
that you have freely given us in the Beloved.

In you, we have redemption through the blood of Christ,  
the forgiveness of our sins, According to the riches of your grace :  
which you have lavished upon us.

You have made known to us, in all wisdom and insight :  
the mystery of your will,

According to your good pleasure which you set forth in Christ :  
as a plan for the fullness of time,

To gather together all things in Christ :  
things in heaven and things on earth.

*Ephesians 1:3-10*

### **Gospel Canticle: *Song of the Redeemed***

**Antiphon:** *Salvation belongs to our God :  
who will guide us to springs of living water.*

Behold, a great multitude :  
which no one could number,

From every nation,  
from all tribes and peoples and tongues :  
standing before the throne and the Lamb.

They were clothed in white robes  
and had palms in their hands :  
and they cried with a loud voice, saying,

‘Salvation belongs to our God :  
who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.’

These are they who have come out of the great tribulation :  
they have washed their robes  
and made them white in the blood of the Lamb;

Therefore they stand before the throne of God :  
whom they serve day and night within the temple.

And the One who sits upon the throne :  
will shelter them with his presence.

They shall never again feel hunger or thirst :  
the sun shall not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat.

For the Lamb at the heart of the throne :  
will be their Shepherd,

He will guide them to springs of living water :  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

To the One who sits on the throne and to the Lamb :  
be blessing and honour and glory and might,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

*Revelation 7. 9-10, 14b-17*

## W12 Gospel Procession after the Proclamation

*After the Proclamation of the Gospel, the Gospel Book may be processed among the People who are invited either to kiss or reverently touch it.  
During this Procession a Chant, Song or Hymn be sung.*

## RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD [RG]

### RG11 Affirmation of Faith

*The following Affirmation of Faith may be used in place of the **Baptismal Creed** or **Apostles' Creed**.*

Let us declare our faith  
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Christ died for our sins was buried,  
and was raised to life on the third day,  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
**This we believe with confidence.**

Christ appeared to Peter,  
to the twelve disciples  
and to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time.  
**This we have received, and this we believe with joy.**  
**Amen.** *1 Corinthians 15.3-7*

### RG12 Litany of Intercessions

#### Litany 1 for the Sundays of Easter

*Particular petitions may be added at the end of the written petitions, where indicated ...*

Filled with joy and hope at the victory of Christ over sin and death, let us pray that Christ's resurrection will transform and renew our lives,  
Lord have mercy :  
**Christ have mercy.**

Risen Lord, we pray that the isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter ...  
Lord have mercy :  
**Christ have mercy.**

Risen Lord, we pray that the new life we share with you will build us more fully into the Body of Christ ...  
Lord have mercy :  
**Christ have mercy.**

Risen Lord, let the power of your love impel us to care for those around us, providing for those without food, work or shelter  
Lord have mercy :  
**Christ have mercy.**

Risen Lord, by your victorious power over sin, and darkness and death, work in and with people everywhere that war and famine will cease in the world, and all the nations live in peace and prosperity ...

Lord have mercy :

**Christ have mercy.**

Risen Lord, reveal the light of your presence to the sick, the weak and the dying, to comfort and strengthen them ...

Lord have mercy :

**Christ have mercy.**

Risen Lord, by the power of your risen life gather all who have died in the faith of the resurrection into the joy of eternal life with you ...

Lord have mercy :

**Christ have mercy.**

Risen Lord, send upon us the fire of the Holy Spirit that we will be faithful witnesses to the abundant new life your resurrection brings,

Lord have mercy :

**Christ have mercy.**

God of grace and glory, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life, so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Litany 2 for the Sundays of Easter**

*Particular petitions may be added at the end of the written petitions, where indicated ...*

Let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who in his risen life is present with us to eternity,

Lord have mercy :

**Christ have mercy.**

Risen Saviour, you are the light of the world: bring the light and peace of your Gospel to the nations ...

Lord have mercy :

**Christ have mercy.**

Risen Saviour, you are the bread of life: give food to the hungry ...  
and nourish us all with your word.

Lord have mercy :

**Christ have mercy.**

Risen Saviour, you are our way, our truth, and our life, be with us and with all who follow you in the way ...

deepen our commitment to the truth, and fill us with your life.

Lord have mercy :

**Christ have mercy.**

Risen Saviour, you are the 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.

Lord have mercy :

**Christ have mercy.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you are resurrection and life, we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you ...

raise us with them to eternal life.

Lord have mercy :

**Christ have mercy.**

Risen Saviour, Lord of life and Fountain of light, you are ours and we are yours: take us as we are and make us what you would have us be, for the glory of your name, for the good of all your church, and for the salvation of all people.

**Amen.**

### **RG13 Seasonal Collect**

God of grace and glory,  
through the victorious resurrection of Jesus Christ our saviour,  
you have delivered us from the power of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of your love:  
grant that, as Christ was raised from the dead  
so we may walk in newness of life;  
through our risen Lord  
who lives and reigns with you  
and the holy Spirit  
in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

### **SENDING RITE [SR]**

#### **SR12 Seasonal Sentences**

*One of the following sentences is used.*

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his suffering ones. *Isaiah 49:13*

For he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' *Mark 9:31*

Jesus said, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day.' *Luke 24:46*

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the religious authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' *John 20:19*

Jesus presented himself alive to the disciples by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. *Acts 1:3*

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being. *1 Corinthians 15:20-21*

As all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. *1 Corinthians 15:22*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. *1 Peter 1:3*

We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. *Acts 1.10-11*

It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. *Romans 6.9*

Christ Jesus died, yes, Christ was raised, and is at the right hand of God; indeed Christ intercedes for us. *Romans 8.34*

### **SR13 Blessing**

May the Spirit of truth lead you into all truth,  
give you grace to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
and strengthen you to proclaim the word and works of God;  
And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

*or*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
through the power of the Holy Spirit;  
And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

*or*

May the God of peace,  
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
the great shepherd of the sheep,  
by the blood of the eternal covenant,  
equip you with everything good  
that you may do God's will,  
working in you that which is pleasing in his sight;  
through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.  
And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

### **SR14 Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia  
**In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia. Alleluia**

*or*

Let us go forth into the world,  
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia. Alleluia  
**In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia. Alleluia**

*or*

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia**

