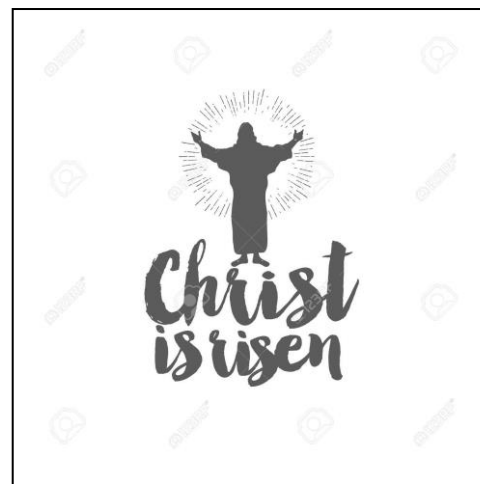


Service 31st March 2024 At home service Easter Day

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Today is a celebration of the risen Christ. Let us give thanks and praise, as we come together in spirit, knowing that just like us, other church family join us in their own homes to worship and glorify the risen Lord as one body, united in Him.



(Listen, read, pray or sing along)

[Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord \(Singing the Faith 295 / StF295\) - YouTube](#)

(Chorus) Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord

Alleluia, Alleluia, give praise to His name.

- 1. He is the Lord of all the earth, He is the King of creation **(Chorus)***
- 2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth. Jesus has died and has risen. **(Chorus)***
- 3. We have been crucified with Christ. Now we shall live forever. **(Chorus)***
- 4. God has proclaimed the just reward: Life for all men, alleluia! **(Chorus)***
- 5. Come, let us praise the living God, Joyfully sing to our Saviour. **(Chorus)***

Read John 20:1-18 (The empty tomb)

Imagine you are one of those who went to the tomb. The stone is rolled away and your master is not there. What is your reaction? I can only imagine, but for me, I think I would have been devastated. I would have wanted to be able to minister to Him, to be able to do at least something for him.

As a nurse in hospital, losing a patient was very sad, but to be able to carry out the last rights was a privilege, because you were able to be the last person to care for them, to ensure they were given the best care possible, with the most respect and dignity. I would imagine that their initial reaction was one of dismay because they were robbed of that privilege.

Then, of course, the realisation that Jesus body had not been stolen, but in fact He was alive. There must have been absolute shock, then elation and excitement and then absolute joy. They hadn't understood what Jesus was saying about being raised again on the third day, because they could not see past their grief. But now, it would have all made sense.

Sometimes we can be so taken up by circumstances that we cannot see past them and fail to remember that Jesus is alive. He is not some distant theory of salvation. He is not just like wishing on a star. He is actually alive. Yes, He died on the cross for you and me, but He did not stay there. The cross is empty and the tomb was empty. He appeared to many people after that day and promised before He went to be with the Father that He would be with us always. And not only that, He also promised that He would send the Holy Spirit to be with us. So, we need to remember that whatever we are going through, whatever our circumstances, we should live our lives in the knowledge of the risen Christ. It changes our perspective. It gives us hope, it gives us assurance, and it gives us strength to overcome. Through Christ, we are overcomers. In 1 John 5:4-5 it says *“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”*

Read Acts 10:34-43 (God shows no favouritism)

As humans, it is hard for us to imagine not showing any favouritism. I love everyone and want all to come to a knowledge of Christ and to find salvation. I want what is best for people. But I cannot really say I show no favouritism, because my family and friends are the closest people to me, and obviously I prioritise them above others when it comes to the crunch.

But God does not have favourites. He loves everyone equally, and He wants us to share the good news with everyone, because He doesn't want anyone to perish. In 2 Peter 3:9 it says 'The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.'

It is God's desire for all to hear the gospel, for all to come to faith. Not just certain people. And He entrusts us to tell others. We are His ambassadors here on earth. And the hope and faith that we have, sure faith in His eternal Kingdom, that gives us our incentive, our urgency, to spread the good news so that others can find the same relationship that we are blessed to have with our Lord. It is so precious to us, we want everyone to experience it. And that is our calling, the great commission, to spread the good news that Jesus is alive, and everyone who believes in Him and puts their trust in Him will be saved.

Prayer of Praise: Heavenly Father, we praise you for the triumph of your Son, Jesus Christ, over sin and death. May our lives reflect His victory, and may we bring glory to your name in all we do. Amen.

Hymn (*Listen, read, pray or sing along*)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzy7jFNUc3w>

1. Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

2. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once He died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!
3. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia!
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!
4. Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia!
Foll'wing our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!
5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!
Praise to Thee by both be given, Alleluia!
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!
Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!
6. King of glory, Soul of bliss, Alleluia!
Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!
Thee to know, Thy pow'r to prove, Alleluia!
Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!

Hymnary.org([https://hymnary.org/text/christ the Lord is risen today wesley](https://hymnary.org/text/christ%20the%20Lord%20is%20risen%20today%20wesley))

Prayers of intercession

Almighty and Eternal God

Whose goodness and grace overflowed when you raised Jesus from the dead,
Let your goodness and grace continue to flow upon your people.

We pray for those, whose lives have been stopped because they couldn't roll away a stone
that was blocking their path to new life and hope.

Roll away the stone of despair and hopelessness, that the light of Jesus Christ may shine
into the darkness to bring joy and warmth again.

Roll away the stone for those still stuck at Good Friday, those whose strength is failing
through ill-health, whose spirits are flagging through depression, whose determination is
being sapped through addiction.

Lord God, roll away the stone that they might better see the path stretching out before
them,
a path unused except for your footprints etched out in the morning dew.

In the light and the glory of the resurrection we pray for our world. For areas of violence and hostility, especially thinking of Israel and Gaza, Ukraine, Haiti.
For lands where famine and disease are rife. For peoples who look in vain for the rains to come to guarantee a harvest. For all those who today would struggle to find joy in the resurrection story.

Bless our king and all the members of the governments, that they may lead our country with all righteousness and justice.

Bless the Church; its ministers and office bearers that they may offer wise and sensitive leadership. Encourage our membership in our local church and circuit, that they may be true to their calling to follow the Risen Christ. Bless all churches at home and abroad that we may journey with them on this adventure of faith as we discover where you are asking us to follow.

On this Easter Day hear now our own prayers in silence as we remember before you those nearest and dearest to our own hearts confident that you care and that you hear the earnest prayer of every heart....

We offer these prayers to you Lord God in and through Jesus Christ our living Lord. **Amen**
(Adapted from a prayer written by the Very Right Rev. David Arnott)

Hymn – Lord I lift Your Name on high *(Listen, read, pray or sing along)*

[Lord I Lift Your Name On High \(worship video w/ lyrics\) - YouTube](#)

[Chorus]

Lord I lift your name on high
Lord I love to sing your praises
I'm so glad you are in my life
I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth, to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky
Lord I lift your name on high.

(Repeated)

Written by: Rick Doyle Founds, Lyrics © Capitol CMG Publishing, Lyrics Licensed & Provided by [LyricFind](#)

Benediction

May the joy of the risen Christ fill our hearts and homes. May His blessings be upon us, and may we share the love and grace He has bestowed upon us with others.

And now, may the God of peace, who brought back again from the dead our Lord Jesus, equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, all that is pleasing to him. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

*Prepared by Shirley Medhurst
CLI: 512566*

