

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord,
we come to you in sorrow for our sins,
and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We keep a short time of silence

We have lived by our own strength,
and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone,
and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us.

Lord, hear us and help us.

May the Father of all mercies
cleanse you from your sins,
and restore you in his image
to the praise and glory of his name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Collect

Risen Christ,
your wounds declare your love
for the world and the wonder of your risen life:
give us compassion and courage to risk ourselves
for those we serve,
to the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Reading Acts 8:26-end

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Go south to the road – the desert road – that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means 'queen of the Ethiopians'). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, 'Go to that chariot and stay near it.' Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. 'Do you understand what you are reading?' Philip asked. 'How can I,' he said, 'unless someone explains it to me?' So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

Welcome

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ;
**he has given us new life and hope
by raising Jesus from the dead.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn

The Church's one foundation
is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation,
by water and the word;
from heav'n he came and sought her
to be his holy bride,
with his own love he bought her,
and for her life he died.

Elect from ev'ry nation
yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses
partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses,
with ev'ry grace endued.

'Mid toil and tribulation
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace for evermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great Church victorious
shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord,
give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

Samuel John Stone

This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading: 'He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.

Who can speak of his descendants?

For his life was taken from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?' Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they travelled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptised?' And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptised him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and travelled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's song:

We are marching in the light of God
(repeat 3 times)
We are marching, we are marching
We are marching, oh, oh
We are marching in the light of God
We are marching, we are marching,
We are marching, oh, oh
We are marching in the light of God

We are living in the love of God
(repeat 3 times)
We are living, we are living
We are living, oh, oh
We are living in the love of God
We are living, we are living
We are living, oh, oh
We are living in the love of God.

Attributed to Andries van Tonder

Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,
according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

'I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Creed

Let us declare our faith
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards, he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received,
and this we believe.
Amen.**

We sing

Angel voices, ever singing,
round thy throne of light,
angel harps, for ever ringing,
rest not day or night;
Thousands only live to bless Thee,
and confess Thee
Lord of might.

Thou who art beyond the farthest
mortal eye can scan,
can it be that thou regardest
songs of sinful man?
Can we know that thou art near us
and wilt hear us?
Yea, we can.

Yea, we know that thou rejoicest
o'er each work of thine;
thou didst ears and hands and voices
for thy praise design;
craftsman's art and music's measure
for thy pleasure all combine.

In thy house, great God, we offer
of thine own to thee;
and for thine acceptance proffer, all unworthily,
hearts and minds and hands and voices,
in our choicest psalmody.

Honour, glory, might and merit,
thine shall ever be,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
blessed Trinity!
Of the best that thou hast given
earth and heaven render thee.

Francis Pott

Prayers, concluding with the Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation, as our Saviour
has taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours, now and for ever.
Amen.**

Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his
disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were
they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

We offer a sign of peace to one another

Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King!
The heavens are not too high,
his praise may thither fly.
The earth is not too low,
his praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King!

Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King!
The church with psalms must shout,
no door can keep them out;
but, above all, the heart
must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing,
my God and King!

George Herbert

Dismissal

God the Father,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting
life.

Amen.

God the Son,
who in bursting the grave has won a glorious
victory, give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

Amen.

God the Holy Spirit,
whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

Amen.

And the blessing...

Let us bless the Lord:

**thanks be to God.
Blessing, honour and glory be yours,
here and everywhere,
now and for ever.
Amen.**