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# EASTER DAWN

*This liturgy is usually done at sunrise at a beach and we usually begin a short bit before Sunrise. This year it has been adapted for 2020 for a time of physical isolation. We invite you to mark it in your own homes, moving from darkness to light.*

*If you aren't in quarantine, you might wish to go out to the ocean or to a park (maintaining social distancing).*

*The is adapted from the Toronto Catholic Worker.*

## **A Candle is Lit in the Dark.**

Whether inside or out, you are welcomed to light a candle and to walk in the darkness, bringing the first glimmers of light to the new day. As fire is a source of warmth and light, the new fire of the Easter Vigil represents the victory in Christ of light and life over darkness and death.

## **Gather + Recognition of Lands**

We gather here in the name of the Triune God on the traditional lands of (fill in the name of the nation whose lands you are worshipping on – if in Victoria, Songhees and Esquimalt Nations). You may also wish to recall the watershed you are worshipping in.

## **Reading: Mark 16:1-3**

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?”

### **Song: Alleluia He Is Coming**

I looked up and I saw my Lord a-coming  
I looked up and I saw my Lord a-coming  
Down the road, down the road

Chorus

*Alleluia He is coming, Alleluia He is here  
Alleluia He is coming, Alleluia He is here*

I looked up and I saw my Lord a-dying  
I looked up and I saw my Lord a-dying  
On the cross, on the cross (Chorus)

I looked up and I saw my Lord a-rising  
I looked up and I saw my Lord a-rising  
From the grave, from the grave (Chorus 2x)



### **Ritual of the Stones**

We now share a time of silence in which we're all invited to find a small stone. During this time, reflect on what stone must be rolled away from the tombs, the places of death in our lives, in our choice, and in our relationships. What barriers have we let come between us and our neighbours?



The following ritual is an ancient practice performed by the catechumens during the Easter Vigil. Just before the first light of dawn they would face the west where the light dies each day and would renounce together that which was hardened and lifeless in their lives. Let us turn to the west in renunciation.

*We are all invited to name that which we need to renounce...*

After the catechumens had turned in renunciation to the west where the sun sinks, they would then turn towards the east, in expectation of the rising sun. Facing the east, they would profess their faith, embracing new life. We will now turn and face the east...

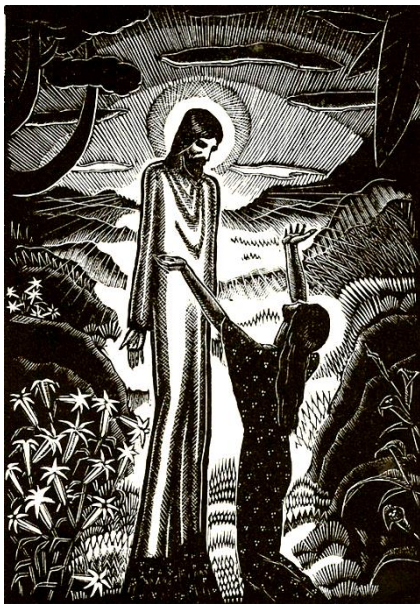
*We are invited to name (to ourselves, or to those with whom we gather) that which we wish to embrace and nurture in our lives, Our choices and our relationships...*

## ROLLING AWAY THE STONE

Let us pray:

Holy Listener, Loving and Forgiving God, help us in these to truly search out and roll away the stones that block the way in our lives. Open us to recognize what lies between us and the lives we desire. We ask that you be with us though we often cling to our fears, our focus, our fearfulness, our pride. Help us to cast these stones into the crazy, healing, limitless waters of new life that you offer us this morning. Amen.

*You are welcomed to cast away the stone. If you are at a lake or ocean, cast it in. If you are at home, throw it (safely!) out your door or far away...*



## **PROCLAMATION OF THE RESURRECTION**

### **A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke**

...on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, He has risen!

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

## Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

All cre - a - tion, join to say Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fought the fight, the ba - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Once he died our souls to save, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Made like him, like him we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth re - ply, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.  
 MUSIC: *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

EASTER HYMN  
 7.7.7.7. Alleluias

On Easter morning,  
 we stand luminous in the full moon of spring,  
 radiant in the rising of the sun.  
 We rejoice like all of creation  
 and, like the lily's trumpet,  
 we open wide our throats and our hearts  
 to join with all the earth  
 in celebrating Easter's annual return.

We take hope in the story of Christ,  
 hope that we will also have our Easter morning  
 when we will be freed from the prison,  
 the decaying dusty tomb  
 of our narrow and stony spirits.  
 We trust that we too will arise, spring-like,  
 to a fullness of living and loving.  
 Amen.



### CLOSING PRAYER (e.e. cummings)

i thank You God for most this amazing  
 day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees  
 and a blue true dream of sky; and of everything  
 which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today,  
 and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth day  
 of life and of love and wings: and of the gay  
 great happening illimitable earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing  
 breathing any – lifted from the no of all nothing – human merely being  
 doubt unimaginable You?  
 (now the ears of my ears awake  
 and now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

May the God who shakes heaven and earth,  
 whom death could not contain,  
 who lives to disturb and heal us,  
 bless us and fill us with peace



**Alleluia. Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia**