

EASTER DAWN

This liturgy is usually done at sunrise at a beach and we usually begin a short bit before Sunrise. It has been adapted for a time of physical isolation. If you are not in quarantine, you might wish to go out to the ocean or to a park. You can also use this at home with your curtains open to the brightening sky.

Gather + Recognition of Lands

We gather here in the name of the Triune God and with gratitude on the traditional lands of *(name the nation whose lands you are worshipping on)* You may also wish to recall the watershed you are worshipping in.

The new fire is lit *(light a candle)*

Creator God, you meet us in Christ risen. Your energy warms and brings new life. Your love is irresistible and radiant.

We offer ourselves to you, O God, our consuming fire. Come with your baptism of spirit and fire and make this new fire to illuminate our darkness and inflame us with your love.

Christ yesterday and today, the beginning and the end, Alpha and Omega; all time belongs to you, and all the ages. To Christ be glory and power through every age for ever and ever.

Let us go out to greet the dawn.

For Christ is arising from the dead

Whether inside or out, you are welcomed to take your lit candle and to walk in the darkness, bringing the first glimmers of light to the new day.

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)

Ritual of the Stones

We now share a time of silence in which we're all invited to find a small stone somewhere. 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?

When you have found your stone, please return to the circle...



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 aloud, or silently, 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 together and face the east...

We are all invited to name out loud (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 first bated moments of celebration to truly search out and roll away the stones that block the way out of the tombed corners of our lives. Open us to recognize what lies between us and the experience of resurrection in our lives. We ask that you be with us though we often cling to our stones: our privilege, our self-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 window.

Song: Alleluia He is Coming

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)

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



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!

Song: Christ the Lord is risen today

Christ the Lord is risen today, alleluia!
earth and heaven in chorus say, alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high; alleluia!
sing, ye heavens and earth reply: alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, hallelujah!
fought the fight, the battle won. Hallelujah!
Lo, our sun's eclipse is o'er! Hallelujah!
Lo! he dwells in death no more! Hallelujah!

Lives again our glorious King: hallelujah!
where, O death, is now your sting? Hallelujah!
Once he died, our souls to save: hallelujah!
where your victory, O grave? Hallelujah!

Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven, hallelujah!
praise to you by both be given! Hallelujah!
Every knee to you shall bow, hallelujah!
risen Christ, triumphant now. Hallelujah!

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 Poem

i thank You God for most this amazing
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for 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 illimitably 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)
Edward Estlin Cummings (1894–1962)

Today, as we wait with longing for the time when we can fully celebrate Easter together, we remember that we are Easter people and go into this day with hope and joy on our hearts! You might want to hold your own Easter candle up, as we recommit to practicing resurrection in our lives and in this beautiful world.

Sending

Where the touch of love is felt. **Christ is risen!**
Where enemies are reconciled. **Christ is risen!**
Where solidarity is shown in action. **Christ is risen!**
Where neighbourhoods flourish. **Christ is risen!**
Where compassion is earthed. **Christ is risen!**
Where generosity overflows. **Christ is risen!**
Where trust takes root. **Christ is risen!**
Where friendship grows. **Christ is risen!**
Where hope blossoms. **Christ is risen!**
Where love bears fruit. **Christ is risen!**
Where life comes anew. **Christ is risen!**

All earth is awakening,
resurrected, renewed and revived
May the God who shares 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!