



## Worship at home – Easter Sunday 2021

### Alleluia! Christ is risen!

### He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Welcome, let us give our all to praise, worship  
and adore our victorious Saviour, our most  
loving friend, the King of Kings!

### StF N°309 – See, what a morning

SEE, WHAT A MORNING, gloriously bright,  
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;  
Folded, the graveclothes,  
Tomb filled with light,  
As the angels announce Christ is risen!  
See God's salvation plan,  
Wrought in love, borne in pain,  
Paid in sacrifice,  
Fulfilled in Christ the Man,  
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!

See Mary weeping, 'Where is He laid?'  
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;  
Hears a voice speaking,  
Calling her name;  
It's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!  
The voice that spans the years,  
Speaking life, stirring hope,  
Bringing peace to us,  
Will sound till He appears,  
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!

One with the Father, Ancient of Days,  
Through the Spirit who clothes faith with  
certainty;  
Honour and blessing,  
Glory and praise  
To the King crowned with power and  
authority!  
And we are raised with Him,  
Death is dead, love has won,  
Christ has conquered;  
And we shall reign with Him,  
For He lives, Christ is risen from the dead!

*\*Let us pray.*

*Glory to you, O God:  
you raised Jesus from the grave,  
bringing us victory over death  
and giving us eternal life.*

*Glory to you, O Christ:  
for us and for our salvation  
you overcame death  
and opened the gate to everlasting life.*

*Glory to you, O Holy Spirit:  
you lead us into the truth  
and breathe new life into us.*

*Glory to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
now and for ever. Amen.*

### *\*Prayers of confession*

*If we have fallen into despair,  
Lord, forgive us.*

*If we have failed to hope in you,  
Lord, forgive us.*

*If we have been fearful of death,  
Lord, forgive us.*

*If we have forgotten the victory of Christ,  
Lord, forgive us.*

### *In silence we offer our prayers of confession*

*May the living God raise us from despair,  
give us victory over sin and set us free in  
Christ Amen.*

### *\*The collect*

*Lord of all life and power,  
who through the mighty resurrection of your  
Son  
overcame the old order of sin and death  
to make all things new in him:  
grant that we, being dead to sin  
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,  
may reign with him in glory;  
to whom with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit  
be praise and honour, glory and might,  
now and in all eternity. Amen*

**A reading from the Gospel according to  
John 20:1-18**

**Alleluia! Hear the Gospel of Christ.  
Glory to Christ our Saviour. Alleluia!**

**The Resurrection of Jesus**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

**Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene**

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him

away.' Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

**Alleluia! This is the Gospel of Christ.  
Praise to Christ our Lord. Alleluia!**

**StF N°305 – Low in the grave he lay,**

<sup>1</sup> Low in the grave he lay,  
Jesus, my Saviour,  
waiting the coming day,  
Jesus, my Lord:

*Up from the grave he arose,  
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;  
he arose a victor from the dark domain,  
and he lives for ever with his saints to reign:  
He arose! He arose!  
Alleluia! Christ arose!*

<sup>2</sup> Vainly they watch his bed,  
Jesus, my Saviour;  
vainly they seal the dead,  
Jesus, my Lord:  
*chorus*

<sup>3</sup> Death cannot keep his prey,  
Jesus, my Saviour;  
he tore the bars away,  
Jesus, my Lord:  
*chorus*

Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

**Sermon**

I wonder how our reading today makes you feel. Everytime I encounter this gospel account of the Resurrection of Jesus it fills me with joy, and I am struck by the great dramatic unfolding of revelation coming out of darkness causing the disciples to run!

Mary ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. On hearing what Mary had to say they ran, with the other disciple outrunning Peter.

Perhaps running ought to become an Easter Celebration tradition. Maybe that's something to consider for next year.

We obviously read this gospel account knowing the risen Jesus our Lord and Saviour. For Mary, the idea of Jesus being resurrected from the dead hadn't crossed her mind. Mary had gone to the tomb only to find it had been disturbed, the stone had been removed and with that Mary ran to tell the others.

Once Simon Peter and the other disciple arrived to see for themselves what Mary had told them, it was Peter who entered the tomb to investigate. The linen wrappings, the cloth was not how you might find them if this had been a grave robbery, or if something had taken place rushed. Rather the cloth that had been on Jesus' head had been rolled up in a place by itself. It is possible to imagine this being removed by Jesus, rolled up calmly and place down. When the other disciple eventually enters the tomb, we are told he saw and believed, believed what though we do not know. We could surmise he believed Jesus was not there and perhaps not knowing what had taken place, nor how to respond they head home.

Mary's pain is almost tangible as we read how in deep anguish, she stood weeping outside the tomb before bending down to look in for herself. In looking Mary saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, at the head and the foot.

We have several accounts of angels visiting people in the bible and often the angels speak to the fear which one might experience when this happens, with the words 'do not be afraid' but the first words of the angels are to ask Mary, why are you weeping? A questioned asked not out of concern, rather a questioned asked by angels that know Jesus is alive.

Mary's answer comes from her longing to know what had happened to Jesus, and from needing still to understand. "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."

Jesus appears first to Mary and one thought is because she needed him most at that time.

Mary is so overwhelmed by sadness and again she is asked the same question but this time by Jesus, 'Woman, why are you weeping? But Jesus goes further, 'For whom are you looking? Supposing him to be the gardener, she pleads with him to tell where she might find Jesus body.

Jesus speaks Mary's name, 'Mary!' And with such release of jubilation responds with 'Rabbouni' Mary's sorrow is turned to joy. Jesus instructs Mary to go and tell the others "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Mary and the disciples receive the victorious news. Jesus Christ is risen.

For Mary and the disciples, this was all unfolding before their very eyes. For us today, we have a relationship with Our loving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Today we recall our own experiences and know God with us. We too have been encouraged along the way by the testimonies of others.

Hebrews 12 reads, 'Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.'

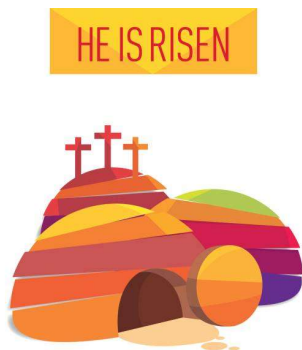
We are not running to an empty tomb, rather we are to run by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We are to run with perseverance, with passion and heart the way God leads us looking to our risen Lord Jesus, our Saviour and champion of our faith. We will have much to discover along the way and although we do not know what tomorrow brings, we do know who holds our tomorrow. Today is day of celebration but we find ourselves exactly where we are but let us not be afraid instead let us trust in Jesus victorious and with perseverance, lovingly live out the good news that God's kingdom is come, that all can be saved because of Jesus. Amen.

## StF N°293 – All heaven declares

<sup>1</sup> All heaven declares  
the glory of the risen Lord;  
who can compare  
with the beauty of the Lord?  
For ever he will be  
the Lamb upon the throne;  
I gladly bow the knee,  
and worship him alone.

<sup>2</sup> I will proclaim  
the glory of the risen Lord,  
who once was slain  
to reconcile us to God.  
For ever you will be  
the Lamb upon the throne;  
I gladly bow the knee,  
and worship you alone.

Noël Richards (b. 1955)  
and Tricia Richards (b. 1960)  
Words and Music © 1987, Thankyou Music



### Prayers of intercession (for others)

\*In the power of the resurrection we offer our prayers to God.

*Let us pray.*

Remember, O Lord, in your love the Church throughout the world. Those who have recently come to faith and those who faithfully continue to witness and minister to others.

May your whole Church know your power and be a sign that Christ is risen.

*Lord of life hear us in your love.*

Remember in your love the world you have made in the beauty of creation. Those who seek a fair and proper use of the world's resources that all would have food, safe water to drink, and shelter. May all people have a more symbiotic relationship upon the earth. We pray for those who strive for justice and peace among the nations. For healing of broken relationship and restoration of communities.

May the whole earth be transformed by mercy and rejoice in hope.

*Lord of life hear us in your love.*

Remember in your love all those who are suffering in anyway due to the pandemic. Remembering especially the victims of violence and injustice and those who mourn.

May all in need find comfort, strength, and freedom in the living Christ.

*Lord of life hear us in your love.*

Remember in your love those who have died: those who have confessed the faith and those whose faith is known to you alone.

May all your children receive grace and light according to their needs and come at last to share with all the saints in life eternal.

*Lord of life hear us in your love.*

Gracious God, we ask these prayers through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Saviour.  
**Amen.**

### The Lord's Prayer

*We say the prayer that Jesus gave us:*

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.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## StF N°313 – Thine be the glory

<sup>1</sup> Thine be the glory,  
risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory  
thou o'er death hast won;  
angels in bright raiment  
rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes  
where thy body lay:

*Thine be the glory,  
risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory  
thou o'er death hast won.*

<sup>2</sup> Lo, Jesus meets us,  
risen from the tomb;  
lovingly he greets us,  
scatters fear and gloom;  
let the Church with gladness  
hymns of triumph sing,  
for her Lord now liveth,  
death hath lost its sting:

*chorus*

<sup>3</sup> No more we doubt thee,  
glorious Prince of Life;  
life is naught without thee:  
aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conquerors  
through thy deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan  
to thy home above:

*chorus*

Edmund Budry (1854-1932)  
*translated by* Richard Birch Hoyle (1875-1939)

### **A blessing**

\*God the Father,  
by whose glory Christ was raised from the  
dead, strengthen us to walk with him in his  
risen life; and may almighty God bless us,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Alleluia!

Go in joy and peace to love and serve the  
Lord.

In the name of Christ. Alleluia!