



*~ Easter mosaic coloured by Highland Learning for Life kids ~*

## **Scattered Prayers**

**~ April 4, 2021 ~**

**Easter Sunday**

*You are invited to light a candle as a sign that Jesus is present with you in Spirit.  
You are also encouraged to have a candle for each person.*

*Feel free to **print off the image on the last page** for you and your children to colour.*

*Please read the **bold print**.*

#### WELCOME

The light of the risen Son,  
the love of the Great Gardener,  
the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit,  
and the fellowship of God's resurrection people—  
the first fruits of the kingdom of heaven—  
be with you all.

#### SINGING ~ *Who Will Roll Away the Stone?*

Early in the morning, the sun already risen,  
Three women came bearing spices, the Lord's body to anoint.  
Standing outside the tomb, they asked each other saying,  
"Who will roll away the stone?"

Looking up they realized, the stone had been removed  
And to their amazement, a young man sat before them.  
"Do not be afraid, for Jesus the Nazarene,  
Who has been crucified, here you will not find.  
For he has risen from the grave."

You'll find him on the road.  
You'll find him at your table.

He has risen from the dead!

—*Ordinary Time*

GREETING PRAYER (adapted from Psalm 118:21-29 and the Te Deum, a prayer dating back to the 4th century)

Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up and offered his life for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. And having been raised from the dead on the third day, he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of light.

—John 13:3-4, Ephesians 5:2, Colossians 1:12-13

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” The One who once died but now lives forever holds the keys of death and evil. A new day has dawned and the way to life stands open. Let us walk in the light! —John 8:12, Revelation 1:17-18

### **Father of Light,**

**let my soul rise up to meet you as the day rises to meet the sun.**

**We want to know Christ—yes, to be completely united with him.**

**All those things that we might count as profit we reckon as garbage**

**for nothing is as valuable as having a part with him in his pains  
and a share in his righteousness.**

**As we take these steps in worship,**

**we want to know the power of Christ’s resurrection.**

**Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,**

**we press on toward the reward: knowing Jesus more fully,**

**and knowing more deeply that we belong to him.**

**Amen.**

Brothers and sisters, on this most holy day, together with the Church throughout the world we celebrate: Christ is risen!

*Singing:*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Rejoice! The Light of the World is risen. Those who believe in him shall never die.

**We praise You, O Christ.**

**Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life:**

**Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

SINGING ~ *And Can It Be?*

And can it be that I should gain  
An interest in the Savior's blood?  
Died He for me, who caused His pain—  
For me, who Him to death pursued?  
Amazing love! How can it be,  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?  
Amazing love! How can it be,  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left His Father's throne above  
So free, so infinite His grace—  
Emptied Himself of all but love,  
And bled for Adam's helpless race:  
'Tis mercy all, immense and free,  
For O my God, it found out me!  
Amazing love! How can it be,  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Long my imprisoned spirit lay,  
Fast bound in sin and nature's night;  
Thine eye diffused a quickening ray—  
I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;  
My chains fell off, my heart was free,  
I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.  
Amazing love! How can it be,  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

No condemnation now I dread;  
Jesus, and all in Him, is mine;  
Alive in Him, my living Head,  
And clothed in righteousness divine,  
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,  
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.  
Amazing love! How can it be,  
That Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

—Wendell Kimbrough

WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE ~ MATTHEW 28:1, 5-8; MARK 16:1-8; LUKE 24:1-12; JOHN 20:1-3  
(read by Kendra Janzen)

When the sabbath was over, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome took spices that they had prepared to anoint him. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. 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? Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you."

So they left the tomb quickly, for terror and amazement had seized them. Returning from the tomb, the women told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb.

*This is the Gospel of Christ.*

SINGING ~ *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own:  
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
And hail him as thy matchless king through all eternity.

Crown him the Son of God before the worlds began,  
And ye, who tread where He hath trod, crown him the Son of Man;  
Who every grief hath known that wrings the human breast,  
And takes and bears them for His own, that all in him may rest.

Crown him the Lord of life who triumphed o'er the grave,  
And rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save;  
His glories now we sing who died, and rose on high.  
Who died, eternal life to bring and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of love! Behold his hands and side—  
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:  
No angel in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
But downward bends his burning eye at mysteries so bright!

Crown him the Lord of heaven, enthroned in worlds above;  
Crown him the king, to whom is given the wondrous name of Love,  
Crown him with many crowns, as thrones before him fall.  
Crown him, ye kings, with many crowns, for He is King of all.

—Wendell Kimbrough

WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE ~ JOHN 20:11, 14-18 *(read by Avry Janzen)*

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

*Word of God, Word of Life.*

SINGING ~ *Grace Greater Than Our Sin*

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
Grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!  
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured—  
There where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
Grace, grace, God's grace,  
Grace that is greater than all our sin!

Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold,  
Threaten the soul with infinite loss;  
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,  
Points to the refuge, the mighty cross.

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,  
Freely bestowed on all who believe!  
You that are longing to see His face,  
Will you this moment His grace receive?

—*Julia H. Johnson & Daniel B. Towner;*  
*performed by Dee Van Meer with Rob Herrett*

## CONFESSION

The Pioneer of Salvation comes to meet us.  
Let's confess our fears, our faults, our infidelities to the Resurrected Creator of the World, who looks to make all things new, by praying the following words:

**We bless you, Christ our Saviour.  
You are not a king who is out of touch with our reality.  
You sympathize with our weaknesses,  
for in every respect you were tested as we are, yet without sin.  
Like the women who came to your tomb,  
we come quaking with confusion and sorrow.  
Mistakes and misfortunes imprison us,  
and we find ourselves cowering in empty, tomb-like places  
where you seem absent.**

**Let the immeasurable greatness of Your power  
transform the pain of death into the fullness of life;  
free from evil your turbulent and disfigured world  
and establish your reign of shalom;  
and work in us, so that, looking to You, we might set aside every weight  
and the sin that clings so closely,  
and run with perseverance the race that is set before us  
and receive our eternal inheritance.**

**Fulfill your ancient promises, and fill our barren lives with grace to overflowing.**

*Pause your playback device. In the silence, what does the Spirit stir in your heart and soul?  
As you quietly place before God those things that your attention is drawn to, listen for  
what God says...*

*Listening Silence*

## OFFERINGS OF RECONCILIATION *(based on John 20:19-23 & Luke 24:38-43)*

Brothers and sisters,  
Be at peace, and go forth refreshed and renewed rejoicing in the good news:  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

SINGING ~ *It Was Finished Upon That Cross*

How I love the voice of Jesus.  
On the cross of Calvary  
He declares his work is finished,  
He has spoken this hope to me.  
Though the sun had ceased its shining,  
Though the war appeared as lost,  
Christ had triumphed over evil!  
It was finished upon that cross!

Now the curse it has been broken,  
Jesus paid the price for me.  
Full, the pardon he has offered,  
Great, the welcome that I receive.  
Boldly I approach my Father,  
Clothed in Jesus' righteousness.  
There is no more guilt to carry,  
It was finished upon that cross!

Death was once my great opponent,  
Fear once had a hold on me,  
But the Son who died to save us  
Rose that we would be free indeed!

Death was once my great opponent,  
Fear once had a hold on me,  
But the Son who died to save us  
Rose that we would be free indeed!  
Yes, He rose that we would be free indeed!

Free from every plan of darkness,  
Free to live and free to love.  
Death is dead and Christ is risen!  
It was finished upon that cross!  
Onward to eternal glory,  
To my Saviour and my God,  
I rejoice in Jesus' victory.  
It was finished upon that cross!

—CityAlight



## PRAYING OUR STORY

I hand on to you as of first importance what I in turn received: that Christ died for our sins, that he was buried, and he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures. He appeared to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time.

Before he was taken up into heaven, Jesus blessed them. And he said to them, "Repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in my name to all nations. Beginning at Jerusalem, you are to be witnesses of these things.

Brothers and sisters, together with those saints you are children of the Day, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's chosen people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Let's respond to the goodness of God with the following prayer:

**We bless you, Christ our Saviour.**

**On the first day you spoke creation into existence.**

**Early on the first day of the week,**

**your simple word of greeting calls forth new creation.**

**As you broke into Mary's grief with your death-shattering word,  
you call us by name.**

**With your love beating in our revived hearts,**

**may we follow you down the road to tend to the task of announcing Life  
to the world so that our families, neighbours, coworkers, and friends  
might flourish.**

**As we cultivate your kingdom on earth as it is in heaven,**

**bless the work of our hands so that not only are our needs satisfied,  
but your world is more fully reconciled.**

**Until that day when the old is made new,**

**empower us with the same Power that was at work  
when you were raised from the dead,**

**transforming all our days and nights,**

**making us a joyful people and a light in all the places of the world  
still subjected to the powers of sin, evil and death.**

**To you, Lord Jesus, who renovates our world in and through our workaday lives,  
be honour and glory, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

As regents of the risen King, let's offer up our prayers for the world. Take a moment to give a lit candle to each person. When you're ready, raise your candle after each acclamation or petition and declare: *Let our Light shine!*

*Acclamations*

Praise and honour and glory and power be to the Lamb upon the throne, the Lamp of the City of God.

**Let our Light shine!**

Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, the Lord is doing a new thing! For the day of the eternal Son that now rises,

**Let our Light shine!**

For blessing the poor in spirit with a home in the kingdom of heaven,

**Let our Light shine!**

For blessing the meek with an inheritance of land,

**Let our Light shine!**

For blessing the merciful with mercy,

**Let our Light shine!**

For blessing the pure in heart with visions of God,

**Let our Light shine!**

For blessing the peacemakers by recognizing them as children of God,

**Let our Light shine!**

For every good and perfect gift from our loving, generous God, now and forever,

**Let our Light shine!**

Pause your playback device and take a few moments to name those things for which you're grateful.

For each gift, raise your candle and declare:

*Let our Light shine!*



*Petitions*

For blessing with comfort those who mourn,  
**Let our Light shine!**

For blessing those who hunger and thirst for justice with complete satisfaction,  
**Let our Light shine!**

For blessing those who are persecuted in the cause of uprightness by granting them the keys to the kingdom of heaven,  
**Let our Light shine!**

For daily turning darkness into light, renewing your people and your creation,  
**Let our Light shine!**

In our watching and waiting, our work and worship,  
**Let our Light shine!**

For finding the lost, for awakening the dead, and for the coming of your kingdom at the end of time, when you will be all in all,  
**Let our Light shine!**

Pause your playback device and take a few moments  
to offer your concerns to God.  
For each petition, raise your candle and cry out:  
*Let our Light shine!*



Gather up all that has been spoken and unsaid and offer them and ourselves to God by singing the following prayer:

*SINGING ~ The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father in heaven,  
Reveal who you are.  
Set the world right;  
Do what is best—as above, so below.  
Keep us alive with three square meals.  
Keep us safe from the Devil and ourselves.  
Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.  
You are in charge!  
You can do anything!  
You are beautiful!

Amen.

—Sandra McCracken

BLESSING

Brothers and sisters, Christ is risen!

*Singing:*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

May God, the Creator of all life,  
Jesus Christ, the giver of eternal life,  
and the Holy Spirit, the power in each and every life,  
bless us now and forever.  
Amen.

*Singing:*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Go in peace to serve God in loving your neighbor,  
so that all people might see and praise our Father in heaven.

SINGING ~ *The Mystery of Faith*

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.  
Emmanuel! Emmanuel! Christ will come again!

—The Crossing Music

WHY IS DEATH YOUR STING?

WHY IS DEATH YOUR VICTORY?

I HAVE STRETCHED FOR YOU, MARY MAGDALENE

WHY DO YOU LOOK FOR HIM AMONG THE DEAD?

I AM THE RESURRECTION & THE LIFE.

CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!

HE IS NOT HERE  
HE HAS BEEN  
RAISED!

