

Liturgy for Resurrection Day Sunrise Service

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made,
People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!
Leader: Christ is risen!
People: He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee.
Holy, holy, holy, Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy, all the saints adore Thee;
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea.
Cherubim and Seraphim falling down before Thee
Who wert and art and evermore shall be.

Holy, holy, holy, though the darkness hide Thee
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see.
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee;
Perfect in pow'r, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea!
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty;
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

RESURRECTION READINGS

John 20:1-18
1 Corinthians 15:1-6, 12-26, 50-58

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord! Christ is risen!
People: He is risen indeed!

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavn'ly hosts
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

HOMILY:

Isaiah 25:6-9

The Paschal Homily of St John Chrysostom
(Archbishop of Constantinople)
Written around 400 AD

If one be a lover of God, even more if one be loved by God, then let him come this morning and partake with gladness from this fair and radiant feast, the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! If any be a forgiven and faithful servant, looking to Jesus as your true hope and life, then let them enter rejoicing into the joy of the Lord and his resurrection. If any have wearied themselves with fasting and with following Jesus, then let them now enjoy their reward, the reward of knowing Christ and knowing his love and light and life. If any have labored from the first hour, then let them receive this day in goodness. If any have come after the third hour, then let them celebrate the feast with thankfulness. If any have come after the sixth hour, then let them not be in doubt, for he will suffer no loss. If any have delayed until the ninth hour, then let them not hesitate but draw near to the throne of grace. If any have arrived only at the eleventh hour in service to Jesus, then let them not be afraid because they come so late. For Jesus is generous and he accepts the last even as he accepts the first. He gives rest to him who comes at the eleventh hour in the same way as to him who has labored from the first hour. He accepts their faith, and praises their desire.

Enter then, all of you, this day, into the joy of your Lord. First and last, receive his great grace. Rich and poor, dance together. You who have fasted and you, who have not fasted, rejoice together. The table of his life and love is fully laden: let all enjoy it. The calf is fatted: let none go away hungry. Instead, receive this day the riches of his grace and loving-kindness. Let none lament his poverty; for his holy and healing Kingdom has been revealed in the resurrection of Jesus. Let none get stuck on their sins; for the light of his forgiveness has arisen from the tomb. Let none fear death; for the death of the Savior has set us free from condemnation and death. Christ has destroyed death by undergoing death. He that was held prisoner of death has annihilated death. For he has desecrated the grave by descending into Hades, the realm of the dead. He vexed and embittered it even as it tasted of His flesh.

Isaiah, the prophet, foretold this when he declared: Death was filled with bitterness when it met you face to face; Death was filled with bitterness, for Christ has brought it to nothing; Death was filled with bitterness, for Christ has mocked it in his triumph; Death was filled with bitterness, for Christ has overthrown it; Death was filled with bitterness, for Christ has put it in chains, binding it up forever! When death received his body; it encountered God; it confronted Heaven when Christ the Holy One died and in his death he gained the victory over death! O death, where then is your sting? O Grave, where is your victory? For Christ is risen! And you, O death, are annihilated!

Christ is risen! And the evil one has been cast down! Christ is risen! And the holy angels rejoice! Christ is risen! And life is given! Christ is risen! And the tomb is emptied of its dead; for Christ having arisen from the dead, has become the first-fruits, the beginning point and foundation of those who have fallen asleep; he has become the guarantee of New Creation, the guarantee that death cannot and will not have the final word, for in Christ life reigns!

For as he said, I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, though he die yet shall he live and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die! To Jesus, then, be all Glory and all Power, now and forever and ever, from all ages to all ages.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Amen!

HYMN

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His Throne!
Hark how the heav'nly 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 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 peace, whose pow'r a scepter sways
From pole to pole that wars may cease absorbed in prayer and praise
His reign shall know no end and round His pierced feet,
Fair flow'rs of paradise extend their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
Who rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save.
All hail, Redeemer, hail, for Thou hast died for me,
Thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity!

BENEDICTION

Leader: The LORD shall reign forever and ever!

People: For he has triumphed gloriously!

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Amen!