



Easter Day 2024

Greeter: *Roger T*

Meditation Song: *Holy holy holy* (TIS 723)
(please remain seated)

Holy, holy, holy.
My heart, my heart adores you.
My heart knows how to say to you:
Holy are you Lord.
(x3)

Welcome:

Greeting:

As we celebrate the risen Christ,
May the Lord be with you
And also with you

Moment of Stillness:

Let's take a moment to be still and aware of Christ's presence, within us and all around us.

Christ Candle:

We light this light to celebrate that Christ has risen!

Alleluia! Christ has risen indeed!

Acknowledgement of First Peoples:

This is God's land and God's Spirit dwells here. We pay our respects to the Gadigal and Wangal people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather today.

We are grateful for the grace they have shown in extending the hand of reconciliation to us in the call to pursue justice together for a better future for all. **May we walk together for justice and peace.**

Call to Worship:

We are an Easter people
Ours is an Easter faith
The joy of Christ is rising in our hearts
Christ's resurrection brings us hope

Christ is risen
Christ is risen
Risen in our lives

We are an Easter people
Ours is an Easter faith
Our tears are freed to flow and heal
our shattered hopes and hearts

Christ is risen
Christ is risen
Risen in our lives

We are an Easter people
Ours is an Easter faith
Our fears have died, we rise to dream
to love, to dance, to live!

Christ is risen
Christ is risen
Risen in our lives

Opening Prayer

Risen Lord
You love us

You call us
You change us.

Let us recognise your coming,
however gently or dramatically you approach us.
Let us recognise your coming,
whoever you use to make yourself known to us.
Let us recognise your coming,
whatever time or situation you use to approach us.

Let us recognise your compassionate emergence
into the dark places of our lives.
Your generous summons which you constantly utter.
Your transforming touch upon the bleak places of our world.

Lord of life, of hope, of resurrection,
We make our prayer in your name, Jesus
Amen

Hymn: Jesus Christ is Risen Today (TIS 362)

1. Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!

2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!

3. But the pain which He endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation hath procured, Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you have walked patiently with us
throughout our Lenten journey.
You have celebrated our growing understanding of your love;
and you know only too well our rejections of that healing love.

This day, as we celebrate the joy of Easter,
let us remember that we are to become “Easter People”,
people of the resurrection;
people who know that what was thought to be impossible
has been conquered.

**Forgive our disbelief and fears.
Fill us with your healing love
and help us to become the disciples
that you need to serve in this world.
For we ask this in the name of our
Risen Lord, Jesus Christ
Amen**

Words of Assurance:

Christ is Risen! The stone is rolled away, the tomb found empty.
Mary calls out, “I have seen the Lord!”
We have seen Christ, too,
in every hand, in every gift, in every choice to restore life in this world.
We are called to this new life, a life of forgiveness and reconciliation.

We are a forgiven people.
Thanks be to God!

Peace:

Know that God loves you and desires great joy for your life.
Walk forward on this journey of faith,
knowing your sisters and brothers are with you.

May the peace of the Risen Christ be with you
And also with you.

Hymn: Jesus lives (TIS 372)

1. Jesus lives! your terrors now
can, O death, no more appal us;
Jesus lives! by this we know
now the grave, cannot enthral us.
Hallelujah!

2. Jesus lives! for us He died;
then may we, for Jesus living,
pure in heart, in him abide,
glory to our Savior giving.

Hallelujah!

3. Jesus lives! our hearts know well
naught from us his love shall sever;
fame or hurt, or powers of hell
tear us from his keeping never.

Hallelujah!

4. Jesus lives! henceforth is death
not for us a gloomy portal
when we take our final breath,
but the gate to life immortal.

Hallelujah!

5. Jesus lives! to him the throne
over all the world is given;
may we go where he is gone,
rest and reign with him in heaven.

Hallelujah!

Moment for the young at heart: Gretta

Bible Reading: Marian

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible reading:

In this passage from the prophet Isaiah, God prepares a lavish feast on God's own sacred mountain. All peoples are invited: oppressors and oppressed, powerful and lowly, native and foreigner. The host of such a feast can only be a king. This is a feast that engages the senses and it establishes and strengthens relationships.

Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain

the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

John 20:1-18

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. ² 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." ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in.

⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² 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. ¹³ 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." ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" 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." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in

Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ 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.’” ¹⁸ 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.

Reflection: Rev Joy

Moment of Stillness:

Prayers of the People: Carolyn

The Lord’s Prayer:

**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 in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom the power and the glory are yours.
Now and forever.
Amen**

Community News:

Offering Prayer:

God of great gifts:
This morning we give you thanks and praise.
With resurrection humming in our hearts,
our minds are tuned to your song of peace.
We joyfully give these gifts to you,

a tangible chorus of thanksgiving,
a harmony of hope for your kingdom come.
Amen.

Song: Hosanna

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest,
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Lord we lift up Your name,
With our hearts full of praise,
Be exalted oh Lord my God,
Hosanna in the highest.

Glory, glory, glory to the King of Kings,
Glory, glory, glory to the King of Kings.
Lord we lift up Your name,
With our hearts full of praise,
Be exalted oh Lord my God,
Glory to the King of Kings.

Benediction & Blessing:

May the God whose power breaks through
the stone, break into your life and free you
from all that binds you;

May the Risen Christ whose love is
stronger than death, speak your name and
bring you new life and joy;

May the Spirit who walks the road with
you, give you wisdom to understand and
courage to share God's new life for the
whole world.

And the blessing of God Almighty;
Creator, Christ and Spirit
be upon you and remain with you always.

3-fold Amen

Acknowledgements:

Image: Easter Art - stushie art

Call to worship: adapted W.L Wallace – Let Justice Roll Down

*Opening prayer: Brentwood Diocesan Commission for Justice and Peace –
Let Justice Roll Down*

Prayer of confession: Nancy Townley – Ministry Matters

Prayers of the people: adapted from Geoffrey Duncan – Let Justice Roll Down

Blessing: Heather Pencavel – Let Justice Roll Down