



St Paul's

Easter Liturgy

Greeting

Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed, Hallelujah.

Invitation to Worship

Today, we gather and we celebrate.

What are we to make of this day?

When graves are opened...

When the dead awaken...

When life refuses to be contained...

Then nothing is impossible!

**Hope is never extinguished,
and love is never conquered.**

Today we celebrate you, risen Lord Jesus,

because You have made it clear

that death does not have the last word.

Because You have filled us again with hope and faith.

Because You have given us a vision of new possibilities,
new realities, and new ways of being.

Open our minds to believe what we cannot explain.

Open our hearts to hope for what we cannot see.

Open our lives to live and to love

in the midst of death and despair;

and let resurrection happen in us again, today.

Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness

Oh Lord our God, resurrection is not what we expect in our world.
On the face of things, life seems to be under threat;
our earth is grieving, our families are fracturing, our nations are at war,
and the light of our hope is growing dim.

**We need the stone to be rolled away again.
We need life to break out within us again.
We need love to consume us again.
Forgive us and all who have failed to honour
and preserve life in all its diversity and glory.
Forgive us and all who have allowed relationships
to become less important than riches or recognition.
Forgive us, and all, who continue to exalt our needs
and our desires over those of others,
and who are prepared to kill to prove it.
Forgive us, and all, who have grown blind
to the signs of resurrection that beckon us still.
We need the stone to be rolled away again.
We need life to break out within us again.
We need love to consume us again.**

Resurrect us today, oh Lord, and make us agents of your life
wherever the dying and grief hold sway, for Jesus Christs' sake.
Amen

Affirmation

**God made all that is, seen and unseen,
filling the universe with the life of God,
filling creation with the glory of God,
and filling history with the purpose of God.
We believe it.**

**God became flesh and revealed His glory in Christ,
showing the world, the character of God,
giving humanity the dignity of God,
ending death's tyranny by the resurrection of God.
We believe it.**

**God continues to work in the world by the Holy Spirit,
flooding the earth with the Presence of God,
teaching Christ's followers the truth of God,
drawing all people into the family of God.
We believe it.**

And, we proclaim it. Hallelujah!

We Feast at the Lord's Table

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed, hallelujah!

Let us celebrate this irrepressible life.
Let's open our hearts to the joy and wonder of infinite possibility,
of unquenched hope, of eternal resurrection.
We celebrate, we raise our voices and our hearts in worship
and thanksgiving to the God who lives.
Resurrection happened because Christ was first prepared to die.
Defying death, He refused to release His hold on life and love.

So now, as He encouraged us,
we choose to remember so that we too can truly live.
At supper on the night before He died
Jesus took bread and blessed it.
Then He broke it and gave it to His disciples saying:

**This is my body, broken so that you may know life.
Eat it and remember Me.**

After the meal Jesus took wine and blessed it.
Then He gave it to His disciples saying:

**This is my blood, shed so that you may know life.
Drink it and remember Me.**

So, now, Lord of Life, we share in this meal.
We celebrate together, and we remember You.
And we will continue to do this until resurrection
has flooded the whole creation.

Amen

May this bread and this wine become for us
in this moment your life-giving body and blood.
And may we who share this meal, be joined with you,
and with one another, as one body united in resurrection life,
and sharing with all of creation in your eternal salvation.

Amen

As we break this bread, we receive Christ's life.

**In all our diversity, in all our individuality,
as we share this one loaf we are one.**

After Communion

We thank You, O God, for Your life,
pulsing in creation revealed in Jesus,
renewed in resurrection and available to us now.

**Thank You for touching us again
with Your life through bread and wine;
for joining our lives with Yours through Jesus;
and for renewing resurrection
in our hearts through your Holy Spirit.**

Filled with life, we now offer ourselves
to be life-bringers in the world.
Touched by resurrection we pledge
to resist death wherever we find it.
Filled with hope we embrace the promise of eternity,
and the call to make it known at every opportunity.

**Through us may graves continue to be opened,
and may the dead continue to be awakened to new life.
In Jesus Name.
Amen**

The Lord's prayer

Let us pray for the coming of God's Kingdom on earth
in the way that Jesus our risen savior has taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, holy be your name,
Your kingdom come and your will be done,
On Earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread,
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us,
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
Now and forever.
Amen**

The Blessing

The Peace