

**Easter Season**  
**Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021**

**Preparation**

O God, make speed to save us.

**All O Lord, make haste to help us.**

If I climb up to heaven, you are there;

**All if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.**

*Psalm 139.7*

**Praise**

Yesterday I was crucified with Christ;  
today I am glorified with him.

Yesterday I was dead with Christ;  
today I am sharing in his resurrection.

Yesterday I was buried with him;  
today I am waking with him from the sleep of death.

*Gregory of Nazianzus (389)*

**The Word of God**

*Psalm 118.14-24*

14 The Lord is my strength and my song,   
and he has become my salvation.

15 Joyful shouts of salvation   
sound from the tents of the righteous:

16 'The right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds;  
the right hand of the Lord raises up;   
the right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds.'

17 I shall not die, but live   
and declare the works of the Lord.

18 The Lord has punished me sorely,   
but he has not given me over to death.

19 Open to me the gates of righteousness,   
that I may enter and give thanks to the Lord.

20 This is the gate of the Lord;   
the righteous shall enter through it.

21 I will give thanks to you, for you have answered me   
and have become my salvation.

22 The stone which the builders rejected   
has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This is the Lord's doing,   
and it is marvellous in our eyes.

24 This is the day that the Lord has made;   
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

*Saving God,  
open the gates of righteousness,  
that your pilgrim people may enter  
and be built into a living temple  
on the cornerstone of our salvation,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Short readings*

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

*Colossians 3.1-4*

**Response**

Blessed are the peacemakers,  
**All for they will be called children of God.**  
*Matthew 5.9*

**Prayers**

God of life  
O God of life, of all life and of each life, we lay our lives before you.  
We give our lives to you,  
from whom nothing in us is hidden.

**Response A: You are before us, God, you are behind;**

**Response B: You are around us, God, you are within.**

O God of life,  
you know the secret thoughts of every heart.

**Response A: We bring the faith that is in us, and the doubt;**

**Response B: We bring the joy that is in us, and the sorrow.**

O God of life, you are in the light, and in the darkness.

**Response A: We bring the knowledge that is in us, and the ignorance;**

**Response B: We bring the hope that is in us, and the despair.**

O God of life, O generous Spirit,  
renew us with your life,  
today, tomorrow and always. Amen.

Christ yesterday and today,  
the beginning and the end,  
Alpha and Omega,  
all time belongs to you,  
and all ages;  
to you be glory and power  
through every age and for ever.

**All      Amen.**

*from the Easter Vigil*

***The Lord's Prayer***

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray  
**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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

**The Conclusion**

May the risen Christ give us his peace.

**All      Alleluia. Amen.**

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