



Easter Sunday

Today we celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus from the dead. To begin your prayer you may like to light a candle as a symbol of the Light of Christ. It reminds us of the Easter Candle carried in procession as a sign that Christ our Light has overcome the darkness of sin and death.

Opening Prayer: God of undying life, by your mighty hand you raised up Jesus from the grave. Grant to us who have been baptised into his death the power flowing from his resurrection, that we may proclaim near and far the pardon and peace you give us. Through Christ our Risen Lord... Amen.

1st Reading: [Acts 10:34A, 37-43](#)

Peter proceeded to speak and said: "You know what has happened all over Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached, how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power. He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness, that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God

Te Kupu a te Ariki
Whakamoemiti ki te Atua.



Psalm of Praise

Psalm 118

R. Alleluia.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his mercy endures forever.

Let the house of Israel say,
"His mercy endures forever."

R. Alleluia.

"The right hand of the LORD has struck with power;
the right hand of the LORD is exalted. I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD."

R. Alleluia.

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.

R. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading

John 20:1-18

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him."

So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in.



When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.

Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead. The disciples then went back home.

But Mary was standing outside near the tomb, weeping. Then, as she wept, she stooped to look inside, and saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, the other at the feet.

They said, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' 'They have taken my Lord away,' she replied, 'and I don't know where they have put him.' As she said this she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, though she did not realise that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said, 'Sir, if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and remove him.' Jesus said, 'Mary!' She turned round then and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbuni!' -- which means Master.

Jesus said to her, 'Do not cling to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to the brothers, and tell them: I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' So Mary of Magdala told the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord,' and that he had said these things to her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Te Rongopai a te Ariki

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Kia whakanuia ra koe e te Ariki



Reflection:

Here we are in lockdown. We are limited as to where we can go or who we can be with physically. Yet despite that we can still rejoice. Jesus was in lockdown too in the tomb but God's power enabled him to break loose. In John's gospel he tells of the Lord's instructions to Mary of Magdala not to touch him...physically he was practicing social distancing but spiritually he had unleashed something entirely new on the world. He was mistaken as the gardener....which in one way is strange but in another way is entirely correct. Jesus is the gardener of the new creation....we are being taken back to the garden of Eden when Adam and Eve sinned and Jesus now is the gardener of a new garden. He is reshaping and renewing the original plan of Creation devised by the Father and Creator. Despite the limitations of our situation, the message of Easter is that new life can spring from death and desperation. There will certainly be a new springtime after this winter of lockdown and self-isolation. We will have discovered new things about ourselves and our communities from this experience, new creations will emerge from it. We can await with excitement and expectation the fruit of death and hardship. May the joy and peace of the Risen Lord be with you and those you love. *Fr Peter*

Prayers of Intercession:

R/ Lord hear our Prayer.

For those who are alone...may they know the joy of Christ alive...Lord hear us

For those who are sick...may they find healing..Lord hear us

For those afraid..give them hope .Lord hear us.

Add your own personal intercessions.....

Concluding prayer: Gracious God, we celebrate with joy that your Son Jesus Christ

has overcome the darkness of death and brought new life into our world.
May we continue to live in that joy and spread that joy to all around us.

This prayer we make through Christ our Risen Lord Amen

Blessing Kia whakapaingia tatou e Te Atua Kaha Rawa
Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu
Amene.