

that you call us to walk with you into life.
By the power of your resurrection,
restore us to new life,
set us on new paths,
bring us from darkness to light.
In the name of Christ,
our risen Saviour and Lord. Amen.

And so today we celebrate the gift of new life:

**Thanks be to God for this new dawn,
this new beginning of a day and of our lives,
creations's re-creation through pain and sorrow
Life-giving strength bursts from the grave,
and from an ending comes the promise of a new
tomorrow.**

Let us go out now as God's chosen witnesses
to testify that Christ has been raised.
May Christ Jesus be our life,
and may the Holy Spirit empower us
for the life we live in him. **Amen.**



Lord God,
you created this world, in all its beauty and wonder
you gave birth to all that we know.

Early in the morning when the world least expected
a newborn child crying in a cradle
announced that you had come among us,
that you were one of us.

Early in the morning, surrounded by respectable
religious leaders, anxious statesmen and silent friends
you accepted their penalty for being good, for being
You shouldered and suffered the cross.

It is as if time had stood still since Jesus died.
People went into their homes, shutting doors and
Jesus' friends huddled together, some even afraid
lamps for fear the soldiers would come to take them
Mary Magdalene waited. She had done all she could
She had stayed with Jesus to the very end. She had
taken down from the cross. She had watched his body
being laid in the cold, lonely tomb. She had prayed
and cried and prayed until there were no more tears
Another day was about to dawn. The third day...

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 towards 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 wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a pile 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 round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' 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

In the early morning,
creation awakes with the sunrise.

**In the early morning as Easter people
we gather to declare the Son is risen.**

In the early morning
Jesus' resurrection is greeted with joy and wonder!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

This is the good news – Jesus Christ is risen.



Time of reflection and prayer

The Lord's Prayer