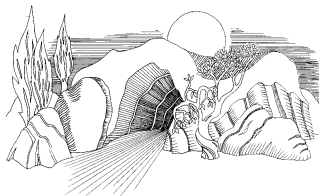


# THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

'Seek those things which are above'



Like a young plant that defiantly emerges from winter's cold earth, the first Easter Day was the sure sign that a new chapter had begun in the human quest for God. The resurrection of Jesus Christ gives us hope that all may rise from spiritual darkness into a new relationship with God, 'seeking' – as today's Collect puts it – 'those things which are above' – the coming of his Kingdom on earth as in heaven.

## The Gathering

### THE GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

(A HYMN may be sung)

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead:

If we have died with him,  
**we will also live with him;**  
if we endure,  
**we will also reign with him;**  
if we deny him,  
**he will also deny us;**  
if we are faithless,  
**he remains faithful.**

The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly Kingdom.

**To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.** (2 Tim. 2:8, 11-13; 4:18)

(SONGS may be sung)

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### PENITENCE

In a moment of quiet reflection, let us honestly examine our lives, remembering where our attitudes have been wrong, where love has grown cold, where hurts have not been forgiven, or where cries for help have not been answered ...

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

**Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole  
heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as  
ourselves.  
In your mercy  
forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly,  
love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God.**  
**Amen.**

May Almighty God have mercy on us,  
forgive us our sins  
and bring us to everlasting life,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(The GLORIA, the VENITE, a SONG or  
RESPONSES may be used)

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray ... (silent prayer)

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ  
Is the resurrection and the life:  
raise us, who trust in him,  
from the death of sin  
to the life of righteousness,  
that we may seek those things which are  
above, where he reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### THE SCRIPTURE READING(S)

(After the reading)  
This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM/HYMN or EASTER ANTHEMS

#### THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to N.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

(After the reading)  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### THE SERMON

#### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of  
our Lord Jesus Christ:

#### INTERCESSIONS

(Special thanksgivings and prayers ...)

Our Father in heaven, we pray for all people,  
in the name of your Son Jesus Christ:

We pray for the Church, for bishop N., and  
for all who lead, teach and minister in  
Christ's name ... Grant that we may be  
nourished in our faith and understanding,  
and bear daily witness to Christ's love.  
Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

We pray for the nations of the world and for  
those who take authority to serve the cause  
of justice and human well-being ...  
Strengthen our Queen and the leaders of the  
nations with gifts of wisdom, courage and  
integrity, that your will may be done on earth  
as it is in heaven.  
Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

We pray for those who are afflicted by  
natural disasters, or caught up in brutal  
conflicts ...  
Fill them with the resurrection hope that  
good will prevail, and bless all who stand  
with them in finding solutions to their  
difficulties.  
Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

**Christ died for our sins  
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he was buried; he was raised to life on  
the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**afterwards he appeared to his followers,  
and to all the apostles:**

**this we have received,  
and this we believe.** (1 Cor. 15:3-7)

This is the faith of the Church:  
**This is our faith.  
We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

(A HYMN may be sung)

## The Prayers

We pray for the people we are called to  
serve, in the home, the neighbourhood and  
at work ... Help us to work hard at building  
good relationships, and to strive for  
reconciliation when they break down.  
Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

We pray for all who suffer from illness,  
loneliness or loss ... Raise them from  
despair to hopefulness and health.  
Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

We remember with thanksgiving those who  
have died ... Strengthen all who mourn, with  
the sure hope that, in Christ, their loved ones  
are raised to fullness of life.  
Lord of life, **in your mercy, hear us.**

**Accept all these prayers  
for the sake of your Son  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

(A HYMN may be sung)

### CONCLUDING PRAYER

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

(The BLESSING or the GRACE is said)