



ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN! – HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

As we gather together as the body of Christ in our homes this blessed Easter morning, let us give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!

Reading: *Isaiah 53:1-6 Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

Video: [Easter Inspiration](#)

Reflection: *When everything was dark and it seemed that the sun would never shine again, your love broke through! Your love was too strong, too wide, too deep for death to hold. Gracious God, we praise you for the light of new life made possible through Jesus. We pray that this light of life, hope and joy, will live in us each day; and that we will be bearers of that light into the lives of others. Amen.* (Adapted from a prayer written by Rev M Youngson)

Song: [Thine Be the Glory](#)

Song: [Christ Arose](#)

Reading: John 20:1-30 *Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him! So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to their homes, but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realise that it was Jesus. "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher) Jesus said, **Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'**" Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.*

Prayer: Abridged from World Vision 3 May 2020 *Glorious Lord of Life we praise you, that by the mighty resurrection of your Son, you have delivered us from sin and death and made your whole creation new. Jesus, during your ministry on earth you showed your power and caring by healing people of all ages and stations in life; from physical, mental and spiritual ailments. Be present now to people who need your loving touch because of Covid 19. May they feel your power of healing through the care of doctors and nurses. Take away the fear, anxiety and feelings of isolation. Protect their families and friends. As more people get sick, renew the energy of healthcare workers and sustain them on long shifts. Bring your protection on them as they work. Multiply their supplies. Inspire and invigorate the research doctors developing better tests to diagnose the virus, create vaccines and identify protocols to eliminate the disease's spread. Father, be with the people making decisions that affect the lives and futures of our families, communities, country and the wider world. We pray that they communicate clearly, truthfully and calmly, with each other and us, and that their messages are received and heeded. Holy Spirit, as families adjust to business and school closures, we ask that you guide people in their new realities. Give spouses grace for each other. Prompt worn-out parents to speak words of kindness and encouragement to their children and grandchildren. Help children find creative ways to experience the beauty of all you have created and continue learning. As people feel financial strain, bring them comfort and peace and open our eyes to ways we can provide them support. Lord, we are so grateful for all the people that continue to work each day to provide essential services and products. Bless and protect them. All these petitions we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray saying;*

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For your is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen."

Song: [Lift Up Your Heads](#)

Song: [All Hail King Jesus](#)

Message: Find Graham's message on the MBC website milfordbaptist.co.nz

Song: [In Christ Alone](#)

[In Christ Alone](#)

Song: [Because He Lives](#)

Final Prayer: *Lord God, you loved this world so much, that you gave your one and only Son, that we might be called your children too. Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace of Easter Sunday, every day. Let us have hearts of thankfulness for your sacrifice. Let us have eyes that look upon Your grace and rejoice in our salvation. Help us to walk in that mighty grace and tell your good news to the world. All for your glory do we pray, Lord. Amen.*

Blessing: May the celebration of resurrected life bring new hope into your being. May the victory over earthly death turn our eyes to the promises of heaven. May the empty tomb help you to leave your sorrows at the foot of the cross. So that God's hope, promises and forgiveness reign in your life forever. Amen.