

CELEBRATING THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD JESUS

Alleluia!

This holy and blessed day is the first of the week,
the king and master of all days,
the feast of feasts
and the season of seasons.

On this day we bless Christ forever and ever.

O faithful, come,
celebrate the glorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus the Christ.

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad.

Alleluia!



Now that we have seen
the resurrection of the Christ,
Let us adore the all-holy Lord Jesus,
the only sinless One.
We bow in worship
before Your cross, O Christ.
We praise and glorify Your resurrection
for You are our God
and we have no other.
We magnify Your name.
All Your faithful come.
Let us adore the holy resurrection
of the Christ.
Behold, through Your cross
joy has come to the world!
Let us always bless the Lord.
Let us sing His resurrection.
By enduring for us the pain of the cross,
He has crushed death by His death.

- Orthodox Liturgy

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

A reading from Mark 16: 1-8

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome brought perfumed oils with which they intended to go and anoint Jesus. Very early, just after sunrise, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked, they found that the stone had been rolled back. (It was a huge one.) On entering the tomb they saw a young man sitting at the right, dressed in a white robe. This frightened them thoroughly, but he reassured them: "You need not be amazed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, the One Who was crucified. He has been raised up. He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. Go now and tell His disciples and Peter, "He is going ahead of you to Galilee, where you will see Him just as He told you." They made their way out and fled from the tomb bewildered and trembling; and because of their great fear, they said nothing to anyone.

O Day of Resurrection

Let us beam with festive joy!

**Today indeed is the Lord's own Passover,
For from death to life, from earth to heaven**

Christ has led us

As we shout the victory hymn!

Christ has risen from the dead!

Let our hearts be spotless

As we gaze upon our dazzling Christ:

See His rising – a brilliant flash of light divine!

Let us listen,

Clearly hear Him greeting us:

As we shout the victory hymn!

Christ has risen from the dead!

Let all heaven burst with joy!

Let all earth resound with gladness!

Let all creation dance in celebration!

For Christ has risen:

Christ our lasting joy!

Christ has risen from the dead!

-Saint John of Damascus

Reflection *1 Corinthians 5: 7-8; Romans 6: 9-11*

Our Passover feast is ready now that Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed. Let us celebrate our feast then, not with bread having the old yeast, the yeast of sin and immorality, but with the bread that has no yeast, the bread of purity and truth. For we know that Christ has been raised from death and will never die again. Death has no power over Him. The death He died was death to sin, once and for all; and the life that He now lives is life to God. In the same way you are to think of yourselves as dead to sin but alive in God in union with Christ Jesus.

Christ has been raised from death, as the guarantee that those who sleep in death will also be raised. For just as death came by means of a man, in the same way the rising from death comes by means of a man. For just as all die because of their union to Adam, in the same way, all will be raised up to life because of their union to Christ.

Reflection -Nathan Nettleton

God came back.

Friday didn't take anybody by surprise. Not anybody who knew anything about the ways of death anyway. If you knew the way the religious-political-economic establishment works, then you knew that Jesus was doomed from the start. He disregarded too many social conventions, associating with the wrong people. He invited too many disreputable outcasts into the sanctuary. Went to too many parties with publicans and whores. And the public insults He cast at the clergy. Friday's bloody business at "The Place of the Skull" came as no surprise. You can't fight the Legislative Assembly. Caesar had the troops. The crowd turned against us. The one who came inviting us all to life finds Himself nailed to the cross. Death adds another trophy to its cabinet.

"The campaign went well but we didn't get Him elected Messiah," we said. We told the women, "You go on out to the cemetery and take these flowers to show our last respects to Jesus. We'll come out later in the day." And so the women went out to death's memorial park and peered into the tomb. Surprise!

God came back!

And on the way back from the cemetery Jesus meets them and says "Greetings!" The funeral wreaths they're holding look a bit silly at that point, and they fall down and worship. God came back.

The joyous shouts of the women had been heard before. In Miriam's song as the sea surged back over Pharaoh's chariots. In the tambourine dances of the homecoming exiles promised by Jeremiah. In the war chant lullaby of the pregnant Mary. It's been heard before. God came back. What else can you do? Sing, celebrate, worship. God came back.

When will we stop adapting to the ways of death and begin to expect God to come back and overthrow the powers of death and tyranny? When will we get it into our heads that God is the Come-back King, that resurrection is God's way and that Easter Sunday was not the opening shot but the climactic victory of God's war against death?

Look at the stories of Jesus' life. All the way through you can see that death is losing its grip. Every time somebody once crippled stands and walks, or blind eyes begin to see, or prisoners of fear break free, or the outcast dance in the temple, death is being pushed onto the back foot, and fullness of life is having its way over deathliness and despair. Every time Jesus is confronted with the finger prints of death, life breaks through. By the time we get to Easter, how could the tomb be anything but empty?

This is what resurrection faith is all about. It's got nothing to do with theories and doctrines and speculations about the nature of Jesus's post-Easter body. It is a radical trust in the God who keeps coming back when everything seems lost. A willingness in the face of overwhelming odds, of oppressive power-mongering and the might of dollar and dictator, to entrust ourselves to the ways of life and love. To sing and dance and celebrate in the face of those who would stifle joy and measure out existence by the spoonful. To rejoice even in the face of our own doubts, because as Matthew said, even face to face with the risen Christ some still doubted. So used have we become to the inevitability of the ways of death that we suspect we've lost our grip when we see with our own eyes that it is not so. But it doesn't say they were kicked out of the church.

Life is bigger than our doubts. Bigger than our accommodation to the ways of the lifeless. Bigger than any army or dictator or power monger who would stand over you and wrest your life from you hands. Even if they kill the body, they have no power to stop the one who keeps coming back and resurrecting us body and all back to life and life to the full.

Easter Sunday is not an isolated event. It is unique in its climactic nature, but we had glimpses of it over and over again as God repeatedly responded to people faced with the power of death and led them forward to freedom and fullness of life. Easter is everywhere, wherever the Spirit of God comes back in the hearts of downtrodden people and they begin the dance of life, with futures resurrected as they follow the resurrected Lord of life and become part of God's great movement of raising life from the midst of death when all hope seems gone.

We are here today, singing and celebrating because in the face of it all, God came back.



Response: *We remember You, O Risen Lord!*
We remember You, O Risen Lord, firstborn of the dead.
Your resurrection destroys the power of sin and death
And changes tears of agony into cries of joy.
Blessed are You!
Response: *We remember You, O Risen Lord!*

**We remember You, O Risen Lord
New springtime in our life.
Your resurrection covers the fields with flowers
And brings new creation and renewed hope into our hearts.
Blessed are You!
Response: *We remember You, O Risen Lord!***

**We remember You, O Risen Lord
New Exodus from the land of sin.
Your resurrection gives us a new beginning
For a new departure to a new life in grace.
Blessed are You!
Response: *We remember You, O Risen Lord!***

**We remember You, O Risen Lord
Prophet, Teacher, Messiah.
Your resurrection invites us to fuller life in You
As Your renewed or newly committed followers.
Blessed are You!
Response: *We remember You, O Risen Lord!***

**We remember You O Risen Lord
In Word, Sacrament and One Another.
Your resurrection reminds us again of Your real presence among us.
Blessed are You!
Response: *We remember You, O Risen Lord!***



**You are God, we praise You;
You are the Lord; we acclaim You;
You are the Eternal Father;
All creation worships You.**

**You Christ are the King of glory,
The Eternal Son of the Father.
You became man to set us free.
You overcame the sting of death
And opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that You will come and be our Judge.**

**Come, then, Lord, sustain Your people,
Bought with the price of Your own blood.
Bring us with Your saints
To everlasting glory.
Amen.**



Jesus is Life

Let the trumpets blast, let the cymbals crash,
Let the dancing begin!
Let everything that breathes proclaim: **Jesus is Life!**

Praise Him with blasts of the trumpet!
Praise Him with lyre and harp! Praise Him with drums and dancing!
Jesus is Life! Jesus is Life!

Praise Him with clashing cymbals!
Praise Him with strings and reeds!
Praise Him with clanging cymbals!
Jesus is Life! Jesus is Life!

Orchards and forests, mountains and hills,
Birds and living creatures dance in praise of His name!
Praise Him the Sun of Justice!
Praise Him the King of kings!
Praise Him our Risen Lord!
Jesus is Life! Jesus is Life!

Old men and children too!
Young men and girls!
Men and women everywhere dance in praise of His name!
Jesus is Life! Jesus is Life!

Blessing

**Christ, the Glory of Spring,
Risen and present,
Echo the Alleluia of freedom and fresh hope in our lives.**

**Passover Lamb, You delivered Your people.
Make us strong.
Help us to overcome tyranny, oppression, and evil.
Bring us new life and help us shape a peaceful world.**

**Liberating God,
You sent the Anointed One Who died our death
And then You raised Him from the prison of our tomb.
Bring us new life through our Redeemer
and may we share in all the joy that the Resurrection promises.**

**Faithful and Loving Friend
All the signs of Your compassionate presence
Surround us here on this Easter day.
Our hearts thrill to the ancient words:
Christ is Risen!
Indeed the Anointed One is risen and
Lives in our hearts and in our lives.**

**May we use our talents and gifts in loving service
For the good of our neighbors and the poor,
For the building up of Your kingdom.
We desire to be Your people of spring,
of freedom, of fresh hope, and of resurrection.
In the name of God our Father and Creator,
And Jesus His Son, our Brother and Savior,
and the Spirit Inspirer of wholeness and holiness. Amen.
Alleluia!**

**Saint John Baptist de La Salle
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
help us to bring the peace and joy of the Resurrected Christ to others.**

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!