

Sunrise Service

EASTER DAY

INTRODUCTION

It's a tradition within the Christian faith to do a sunrise service on Easter for it was early in the morning that the women and the others found the tomb of Jesus Christ was empty. The sunrise not only reminds us of the raising of Jesus Christ, the light of the world, from the dead but also the call on all believers to share that light so that all may see it and know that Jesus Christ is Lord and his resurrection is for all people.

The service should begin before dawn, so that the sunrise can be part of the worship. The Easter Light should be lit at the first signs of dawn to emphasise the power of the light of Christ.

It is suggested that alongside this liturgy and a means to listen to the suggested hymns you bring with you a candle to light as the sun rises reminding us of the light of the world that can never be put out, our Lord Jesus Christ.

The service is designed to be led by two people with one reading the words of the liturgy, the other reading the passages of scripture, and both joining together with everyone else present for the sections marked for all. If there is only one person reading then say all the words of the service sheet.

The sections in *red italics* are rubrics: these explain what needs to happen at various points.

SUNRISE SERVICE

LORD OF CREATION

Lord God,
early in the morning,
when the world was young,
you made life in all its beauty and terror;
you gave birth to all that we know.

¹ In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth... ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and with the host of them. ² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.

Genesis 1:1, 31; 2:1-2

HYMN: ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING

[Listen here](#)

All **Lord God, we give thanks for your creation.**

Silence is held

LORD OF THE INCARNATION

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

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:9-13

HYMN: HERE I AM TO WORSHIP

[Listen here](#)

All **Lord God, we give thanks for your incarnation.**

Silence is held

LORD OF THE CRUCIFIXION

Lord God,
early in the morning,
surrounded by respectable liars,
Religious leaders,
anxious statesmen
and silent friends,
you accepted the penalty for doing good,
for being God:
you shouldered and suffered the cross.

⁵ *Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,*
⁶ *who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality*
with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking
the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And
being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming
obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Phil. 2:5-8

HYMN: BROKENESS ASIDE

[Listen here](#)

All

Lord God, we give thanks for your crucifixion.

Silence is held until the sun starts to rise.

A candle is lit as the sun rises. The service then continues.

LORD OF THE RESURRECTION

Lord God,
early in the morning,
a voice in a guarded graveyard
and footsteps in the dew
proved that you had risen,
that you had come back
to those and for those
who had forgotten, denied and destroyed you.

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!*
According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again
to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the
dead, ⁴ to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and
unfading, kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who by God's power are being
guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the
last time.

1 Peter 1:3-5

HYMN: CHRIST OUR HOPE IN LIFE AND DEATH

[Listen here](#)

All **Lord God, we give thanks for your resurrection.**

Christ is risen!

All **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

LORD OF ALL

Lord God,
early in the morning,
your followers gather,
your Church on earth and in heaven,
to celebrate your creation, your life,
your death and resurrection.

Christ yesterday and today,
the beginning and the end,
Alpha and Omega,
all time belongs to you,
and all ages;
to you be glory and power;
through every age and for ever.

All

Amen

⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain. *1 Cor. 15:57-58*

HYMN: O PRAISE THE NAME (ANÁSTASIS)

[Listen here](#)

BLESSING

May God the Father,
by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.

May God the Son,
who in bursting from the grave has won a glorious victory,
give you joy as you share the Easter faith.

May God the Holy Spirit,
who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord,
empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among us and remain with us always.

Amen.

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