



31B EASTER DAY ON LINE LITURGY (HC)

Touching points

Abstract

she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

15 He asked her, "Woman, 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."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

John 20:14b-16

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FIRST READING*Acts 10:34–43ⁱ*

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak: ‘I now realise how true it is that God does not show favouritism ³⁵ but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. ³⁶ You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. ³⁷ You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

³⁹ ‘We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, ⁴⁰ but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. ⁴¹ He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ ‘Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptised with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.’ ⁴⁸ So he ordered that they be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days. ⁱⁱ

GOSPEL*John 20:1–18*

20 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. ² 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!”

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ 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.” ¹⁴ At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵ He asked her, “Woman, 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.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

¹⁷ Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ ”

¹⁸ 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.

respond

For the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

31B Easter Day On Line Liturgy (HC) Touching points

Sunday, April 4, 2021 | Easter | Resurrection of the Lord | Easter Day | Year B

On the same date: Resurrection of the Lord, Easter Evening

First Reading Acts 10:34–43 or Isaiah 25:6–9

Psalm Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24

New Testament 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 or Acts 10:34–43

Gospel John 20:1–18 or Mark 16:1–8ⁱⁱⁱ

John 20.1-18

This familiar passage recounts the joy and mystery of the first Easter morning. It happens at a time of great uncertainty for the followers of Jesus, with their teacher dead the disciples must have felt adrift. In their grief, three visit Jesus' tomb and find him gone. Two leave, believing the body has been taken, but Mary remains, perhaps looking for something to hold onto in this time of upheaval, and Jesus is revealed to her. She runs to tell the other disciples that Jesus is alive.

Easter is one of the times during the year when, through our church communities, we have an opportunity to reach out to many people. It is a touching point between the secular (social, commercial) and sacred worlds. It offers a chance to step into the Easter story, and to explore the truth of this wonderful mystery that is at the very heart of the Christian story.

This week we enter the mystery of Easter.

1 Min silence	Pre-Service Tibetan Bell (60 Secs) <i>Phyllis can we have silence till the bells go quiet pls.</i>
Verse 1, Verse 2, Verse 3,	Introit TIS #370 (AHB 290) – “Christ the Lord is risen today” Wesley V1,2,3
	Greeting May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ The Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all and also with you
	We Gather We come from varied lives, each with our own experiences of sadness and happiness, of the ups and downs, the challenges and responses, of life. How this can all be held in God’s hand is a mystery. But we come with faith and hope that God does hold all things together, and that darkness leads to a new dawn.

Acknowledgements

Let us pray

Lord, we come to you as children to their loving parent.

We share the ups and downs of our lives with you.

When we cry on your shoulder, may we know
the comfort of hearing you call us tenderly by name,
and the new dawn of resurrection in our lives.

As we come into God's holy presence,
we confess our complete dependence on
the grace of God in Jesus Christ.

We say sorry.

Let us pray.

We say sorry

Lord, we love the joy of Easter Sunday,
but we may not have walked through Holy Week.

We may not have been humbled by Jesus' hands washing our feet.

We may not have tasted the bread and wine of his last shared meal.

We may not have known the primal fear of Gethsemane,
or the bewilderment of the disciples at his betrayal.

We have not known the way of sorrow to Golgotha,
the blood, sweat and tears of a crown of thorns
and the weight of a cross that will bear our dying body.

Therefore, Lord, we confess our failure to feel at one with Jesus
in his dying as well as in his resurrection life.

As we celebrate our risen Lord, we remember the man of sorrows
who died for our sins, and we bow our heads in penitence.
Amen.

Words of Assurance

Lord, in the warmth of your hands washing human feet,
we are forgiven.

Lord, in your willingness to drink the cup of suffering for us,
we are forgiven.

Lord, in the wide embrace of your arms upon the cross,
we are forgiven.

Risen Lord, in your emerging from the tomb,
death is defeated.

We are forgiven.

Alleluia! Amen!

<p>Chorus 1, Verse 1, Chorus 1, Verse 2, Chorus 1, Verse 3, Chorus 1, Verse 5, Chorus 1,</p>	<p>Hymn/song TIS #390 - Alleluia alleluia give thanks” Fishel</p>
	<p>Welcome</p> <p><i>Lost Sheep</i></p> <p><i>Let us pray</i> In our mind’s eye, we behold our feet in sandals, heads bowed in sorrow as we walk a dusty path in cool morning air. The scent of the embalming spices we carry wafts around us, the texture of the linen rolls clamped between arm and body smooth to the touch. Ahead of us looms the tomb. We lift our eyes to face the cold stone at its mouth, the boundary between life and death.</p> <p>But it is not there – the boundary has been breached. He is risen! Alleluia! Amen</p>
	<p>Readings</p> <p><i>Acts 10:34–43 - Peter’s testimony Gentiles Hear the Good News</i> <i>John 20:1-18 - The Resurrection of Jesus</i></p> <p><i>respond</i> For the word of the Lord Thanks be to God</p>
<p>Verse 1, Verse 2, Verse 3, Verse 4,</p>	<p>Hymn/song/video TIS #202 (AHB #299) – “I know that my Redeemer lives” Tune: Church Triumphant use AHB words</p>

Response

I Have Seen the Lord
John 20:1-18

Glad you’re all here this Easter morning
 as we celebrate the greatest event in human history,
the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the tomb!

I hope you came here this morning ready to celebrate.

Ironically, on that first Easter Sunday morning,
the women came to Jesus' tomb expecting to do nothing like celebrate.
They expected nothing but death and grief and painful memories.
The surprise they experienced that morning changed their lives
and the course of human history.

The time was Sunday morning just before dawn. In a garden
close to where Jesus had been cruelly crucified, was a tomb—freshly hewn from rock.
The giant stone that once sealed the sepulchre had been rolled aside.
Some grief-stricken women made their way to that lonely spot.
They brought spices with which to anoint him.

It must have been frightening to discover the stone already rolled away and the tomb empty.
He wasn't there. What did that mean? Had someone desecrated his grave?

The women quickly scattered to tell their families and friends of this disturbing event.
Mary rushed to inform Peter and John.
They hurried back to the tomb with her,
but they were as mystified as she was, and returned to their homes.
Mary was alone now with her grief.

Imagine her dismay when she saw two angels in white,
sitting where the body of Jesus had lain.
They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"
She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord,
and I do not know where they have laid him."

As she said this, she was suddenly conscious of a man standing near her.
He said to her, "Woman, why are weeping? Whom do you seek?"
Mary assumed that this was the gardener.
She said with deep anguish in her voice,
"Sir, if you have carried him away,
tell me where you have laid him,
that I may reclaim his body."

When he called her name, there was a sunrise in Mary's heart.
"Rab-boni!" she answered in Hebrew, which means "teacher."
With a sudden surge of love and emotion, she sought to embrace him,
but Jesus stopped her with the explanation that he had not yet ascended to the Father.

Mary Magdalene would have to be content to hold him in her heart.
That is exactly what she did.
Later she would testify to his disciples, "I have seen the Lord."

But what does Mary Magdalene's experience on that first Easter Sunday
have to do with your life and mine?
Are there empty tombs in our lives into which we may be peering
with a sense of helplessness and despair?
And so, it is a relevant question:
is there a sense in which each of us can also come through a crisis of doubt and uncertainty
and be able to proclaim victoriously, "I have seen the Lord."

We should note the sense of hopelessness of Jesus' followers after his crucifixion.

If actions speak louder than words,
those first disciples made it abundantly clear
that they no longer believed that Jesus was the hope of the world.

Easter Sunday is a day of bright colours, joyful music, enthusiastic worship, even Easter eggs for us.

But the first Easter was born in total darkness.

His disciples had believed that Jesus was the Messiah who had come to deliver Israel,
but now he lay in a borrowed grave
his side with a deep gash from a spear,
his hands and feet disfigured with the mark of nails,
his brow a tangled mess of hair and blood where the crown of thorns
mocked his supposed kingship,
his back a terrifying gridwork of open wounds from the 39 lashes.

There was no dignity to die like Jesus died.

He hung there naked while soldiers jeered him and spat upon him.

Where were the 10,000 angels who could come at his beck and call?

His followers cowered now behind closed doors
their emotions a mixture of cynicism and despair.

Perhaps you have been there.

Maybe you have lived for a while behind closed doors during COVID.

Grief, fear, hopelessness cause us to retreat, causing loneliness and isolation.

In the end, we don't want to face the world.

The two nights following Jesus' crucifixion

were the longest nights that those who loved him would ever endure.

Perhaps you have gone through your own long night.

The words of a doctor, "I'm sorry, it's malignant. There is nothing we can do."

A phone call in the night, "There's has been an accident. Could you come to the hospital?"

Many of you have had your own dark night.

Easter was not born in the brightness of the day.

The women came to the tomb while it was still dark.

But we need to know that help is closer than we think.

The darkness of the moment and our tear swollen eyes

may blind us to a friend who is standing quietly in the shadows nearby.

Softly, he asks us, "Woman, why are you weeping? Sir, why are you in such despair?"

After listening to our complaint, he whispers our name,

"Mary, Jack, John, Cindy."

And we recognize that he has been there all the time.

He is not dead, he is alive!

Christ is alive and because he is alive,

we discover that the sun rises again, and birds sing,

and joy begins to creep back into our life.

There was a man called Leo Ryan
 who was named chair of the state's commission to reform prisons.
In order to understand the actual conditions inside the prisons,
 Leo asked to be admitted to a Prison,
 at the time one of the worst maximum-security prisons there was.
He was arrested, strip-searched, had his mug shot taken.
He was confined to a prison cell.
 Leo spent a week in prison,
 living like a prisoner so that he could understand.
He gave up his own freedom and dignity and rights to ensure a better future for others.

As one of his closest friends said of him,
 “He would march into the heart of hell to see it firsthand.”^{iv}

“He would march into the heart of hell . . .”
 We know someone else who was willing to march into hell
 to rescue those he came to save
 one who was willing to give up his own power and divinity to walk in our shoes
 one who gave up his life on the cross to save us from the power of death.
Easter reminds us that Jesus came to save us.
 Help and hope are closer than we think.

The poet wrote that “hope springs eternal.”
 Hope is another way in which God whispers our name.
Your greatest ally in any long, dark night is your faith and your hope.
 “I am here,” he says, “I will never forsake you.”

The victory of Easter is a gift available to anyone who will receive it.

 The most remarkable story in all of history
 is the change that took place in the lives of those early Christians
 after their encounter with the risen Christ.

They became absolutely fearless and unstoppable. And why not?
 Those early disciples knew that Christ had conquered death.
Wouldn't you like to have that kind of confidence in the power and purpose of God?
 You can, you know.
It is God's free gift to all who will receive it.

Are you peering anxiously into an empty tomb this morning? Don't give up.
 There is a Friend closer than you think.
He is calling your name.
He is offering you a gift
 it is the gift of abundant and eternal life.
And it is available to all who will receive it.
Amen



	<p>Offering</p> <p>Lord, On Easter Day, you show us that anything is possible. Receive our gifts of love in the money we offer and in the way we use our gifts and graces to reveal your love.</p> <p>Through them, help make what seems impossible to us happen, for the sake of all who cry out for justice and help. In the name of Christ, we pray, Amen.</p>
	<p>Notices</p>
	<p>Prayers for all people</p> <p><i>This text will be updated</i></p> <p>Let us pray: Resurrection God, to you this Easter Day we bring our prayers for those whose lives touch ours however constantly or fleetingly, for all are your children and for all of them you gave your life and this day give your rising. We, with the world's people, have travelled a tough and painful pandemic year, sharing burdens, pains, fears, confusion, anger and death, and through it all you have walked with us. For all those who have not felt your presence, who do not feel your presence, did not feel your guiding hand, the warmth of your breath, the calming of your words, the sureness of your step,</p> <p>For them all in this moment: Resurrection God, we pray.</p> <p>For those who have struggled with journeys: - actual journeys that have had to be made, for health and well-being, for escape and survival. - faith journeys that have been sorely tested, with familiarity of surroundings changed, with companionship parted, new worship methods explored. - spiritual journeys and encounters that have inspired lives or taken them way beyond their comfort zone. - relationship journeys of loving or being loved, of not loving or not being loved, of changed roles and responsibilities.</p> <p>For them all in this moment: Resurrection God, we pray.</p> <p>For those who have struggled to simply hold life together, emotionally or financially. For those who have been on reduced hours, laid off, made jobless, those who have had to work longer, harder, deeper.</p> <p>For them all in this moment: Resurrection God, we pray.</p>

For those who have worked tirelessly through the year to provide us with the care we need across the health services and beyond. For scientists and doctors, nurses and auxiliary staff, porter, cooks, cleaners, admin staff.

For them all in this moment:

Resurrection God, we pray.

For all those who are grieving the loss of family or friends whether through Covid or not. The pain of loss compounded by the pain of restrictions and isolation.

For them all in this moment:

Resurrection God, we pray.

As we have read of political decisions that send Jesus to the cross, so we think of political decisions taken here, near and far away. In a global world of wealth and poverty, greed and generosity, may politicians be helped and supported, guided and strengthened to think not just of their own needs but the many needs of the wider world.

For them all in this moment:

Resurrection God, we pray.

For countries torn apart by war and violence, insurrection, exploitation, natural disaster and deliberate destruction, for all their people caught up in events and conclusions way beyond their control. We think especially at this time of Myanmar and Mozambique and all their peoples.

For them all in this moment:

Resurrection God, we pray.

For all people of faith, especially at this Eastertide, striving for peace and companionship, striving for harmony and meaning.

For them all in this moment:

Resurrection God, we pray.

For those who we wish we could share with on this Easter Day, for our family members and friends who find themselves, once again, home alone with no-one to crack open the Easter egg with, with no one to marvel at the autumn Leaves and transforming country side with, with no one to laugh with as they watch lambs and sweet chirruping birds

For them all in this moment:

Resurrection God, we pray.

For this is Easter and you are our risen God and in you we trust,
into your care we recommit ourselves and all those on our hearts day.
allelujah, alleluia, Amen.

Communion Liturgy

	<p>Communion Hymn TIS # 342 (AHB#342) – “When I survey the wondrous cross”</p>
	<p>Invitation (Jim)</p> <p>Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.</p> <p><i>Let us pray</i> Be present, risen Lord Jesus, as you were with your disciples, and make yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit. One God, forever</p>
	<p>Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (Laurenne)</p> <p>Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Lift up your hearts We lift them up to the Lord. Let’s give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.</p>
	<p>(Jim)</p> <p>Thanks and praise, glory and honour we give to you, most holy and worthy Lord and God. In time before our understanding, you created the light that gives revelation to what we see, In love too deep for words, you sent your Son Jesus into the heart of your creation. Fully human, yet divine, he brought the light of understanding to we, who are made in your image.</p> <p>Through Jesus, you bring us the gift of life eternal . Dying, he destroyed our death. Alleluia! Rising he restored our life. Alleluia!</p>
	<p>(Laurenne)</p> <p>And so we praise you with the faithful of every time and place, joining with choirs of angels and the whole creation in the eternal hymn:</p> <p>Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.</p>

	<p>Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest Amen</p>
	<p>(Jim) We thank you that you have called a covenant people to be a light to the nations.</p> <p>Through Moses you taught us your law. Through your prophets you teach us justice. Through Jesus Christ you teach us your ways of self-giving love, as he gave himself up for us on the Cross. In his resurrection, you offer us his life for our own and we made alive forever in him, finding his presence with us always and sharing in his peace.</p> <p>By water and the Spirit we are welcomed into your eternal kingdom. For by grace we are saved, through faith. Amen</p>
	<p>The Peace (Laurenne)</p> <p>The peace of the lord be always with you And also with you</p>
	<p>(Jim) Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.</p>
	<p>(Laurenne) Pour out the Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ.</p> <p>May we find him here in this unexpected place, as we are made one with him and each other in his love. May we feast with him here and now, and also at the great banquet with him in the kingdom on the day to come.</p>
	<p>(Jim) Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours for ever and ever. Amen.</p>
	<p>Lord's Prayer (Jim) Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.</p>

	<p>Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.</p> <p>Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. AMEN^v</p>
	<p>Breaking the Bread (Laurenne)</p> <p><i>The bread is lifted and broken</i> The body of Christ broken for you. The bread of Life.</p> <p><i>The cup is lifted</i> The life of Christ poured out for you. The cup of Blessing</p> <p>Then gifts of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.</p> <p><i>The elements are shared</i></p>
	<p>PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Laurenne) Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you that you are here in this unexpected place and in these elements that we have shared. Strengthened by bread and wine and your love, we can now worship you in the service of your kingdom.</p>
	<p>(Jim)</p> <p>Where you go, we will follow. Where you stumble, we will stop. Where we hear you crying, we will listen. Where you suffer, we will hurt and care Where you die, we will bow our heads in sorrow Where you rise in triumph and glory, We will share in your endless joy.</p>
<p>Verse 1, Verse 2, Verse 3, Verse 4,</p>	<p>Hymn/song (Jim)</p> <p>TIS #246 (AHB #191) – “Christ is the world’s light”</p>

	<p>We are sent out (Laurenne)</p> <p>God of new life and new beginnings, we have been drawn here today to encounter again the mysterious story of life everlasting. Help us, like Mary, to stay close to this mystery, to embrace our emotions, to hear you when you call us by name, and to experience new wonders. Amen.</p> <p>(Jim) May the Lord bless us and keep us May His face shine upon us and be gracious to us May he lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace Amen</p>
	<p>Benediction (Jim)</p> <p>TIS #209 – “And can it be” Wesley V1,2</p>
	<p>Thank you</p>

ⁱ [Revised Common Lectionary](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.

ⁱⁱ [The Holy Bible: New International Version \(Anglicised Edition, 2011\)](#). (2011). (Revised and updated edition, Ac 10:34–48). London: Hodder & Stoughton.

ⁱⁱⁱ [Revised Common Lectionary](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.

^{iv} “The Politician Who Went to Prison,” Now I Know! by Dan Lewis, July 27, 2020. Also some information from “Joseph Leo Ryan,” PBS,

^v English Language Liturgical Consultation, 1988