

## **Easter Day**

St Barnabas Church, Thatcham

Service Companion

### **Opening Prayers**

Christ yesterday and today,

**All the beginning and the end,**

Alpha and Omega,

all time belongs to him,

and all ages;

**All to him be glory and power,**

**through every age and for ever. Amen.**

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life.

Throughout the world Christians celebrate the awesome power of God.

As we hear his word and proclaim all that God has done,

we can be confident that we shall share his victory over death

and live with him for ever.

*We take a moment to light a candle*

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,

banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

**All He is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

God of glory,

by the raising of your Son

you have broken the chains of death and hell:

fill your Church with faith and hope;  
for a new day has dawned  
and the way to life stands open  
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**All Amen.**

## Reading

John 20:1-18 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

**20** Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. **2** So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." **3** Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. **4** The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. **5** He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. **6** Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, **7** and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. **8** Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; **9** for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. **10** Then the disciples returned to their homes.

**11** But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look<sup>[a]</sup> into the tomb; **12** and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. **13** They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." **14** When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. **15** Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." **16** Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew,<sup>[b]</sup> "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). **17** Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" **18** Mary Magdalene went and

announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

## Prayers



Jesus, Lord of Life,  
We rejoice and we celebrate that you are Lord over all things,  
Over our lives, our hopes, our fears, our challenges and our joys.  
We rejoice at what we now know about you through the Easter story,  
The depth of your love for us and the extent of your victory  
**We thank you and we praise you.**

Jesus, Lord of Life,  
We rejoice that you are Lord over the whole world,  
You know what it is to suffer and you know what it is to overcome.

We pray for the world, and for all those suffering from the corona virus pandemic.

We thank you for the innovation and dedication of those who are serving our communities and pray that your blessing would be upon them.

We pray for an end to this pandemic and for the wisdom to learn from it.

**We thank you, Lord and we praise you**

Jesus, Lord of Life,

We pray for our community here in Thatcham. Giving thanks for every act of generosity and self sacrifice that we have seen in the last few weeks.

We pray for those areas of our community where light desperately needs to break in.

We pray for those who are in their own Good Friday, that your light, your hope and your victory might break in.

We thank you Lord for your boundless offer of life and we pray that this life would grow in our community.

**We thank you Lord and we praise you.**

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
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.

Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## **Final Prayer**

All our problems

**All we send to the cross of Christ.**

All our difficulties

**All we send to the cross of Christ.**

All that is evil

**All we send to the cross of Christ.**

All our hopes

**All we set on the risen Christ;**

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**