

# Easter Day

Readings: Acts 10:34–43,  
Colossians 3:1–4

The Resurrection of Jesus:  
John 20:1–18

There is a priceless, intimate moment rarely mentioned or portrayed but it's captured beautifully in this painting by Eduard Manet. The sun has not yet risen. The silence of the tomb is broken only by the breath of angels, the whisper of linen cloths being gently unwound, the scent of spices wafting into the air. One angel weeps at the sight of his wounds, while the other cradles his body; but if you look carefully,

you can see the angel's hair and robes billowing as the Spirit flows into the space, filling the lungs of our Lord once more. In this moment, Jesus will inhale, sit forward, stretch his limbs and stand. The angels will carefully fold his shroud, laying the linen neatly to one side, and will watch in awe as he steps through the open doorway into the early morning mist, to greet a weeping Mary. This is His glory; He is our hope.



Christ with angels, Eduard Manet

## The voice of Christ

Each one of us meets with Christ, hears Him and communicates with Him differently. Our own journey of faith is unique, precious, and filled with highs and lows, challenges and gifts, yet our mission is the same. The voice of Christ tells us:

*“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself’”<sup>11</sup>*



The voice of Christ has become our voice, tasked with sharing the hope that we have in our risen Lord – the hope of forgiveness, of love, and of the peace that passes all understanding. Alleluia!

<sup>11</sup>Matthew 22:37–39.

# Easter Day prayers



Ever-living God,  
Help us to celebrate our joy  
in the resurrection of the Lord  
and to express in our lives  
the love we celebrate.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

May the risen Lord Jesus watch over  
us and renew us as he renews the  
whole of creation. May our hearts  
and lives echo his love. Amen.



The whole bright world rejoices now:  
With laughing cheer! With boundless joy!  
The birds do sing on every bough:  
Alleluia!

Then shout beneath the racing skies:  
With laughing cheer! With boundless joy!  
To him who rose that we might rise:  
Alleluia!

God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost:  
With laughing cheer! With boundless joy!  
Our God most high, our joy, our boast:  
Alleluia!

*May the God who shakes heaven and earth, whom death could not contain,  
who lives to disturb and heal us,  
Bless us with power to go forth and proclaim the gospel.*

