

# Inspiring Easter



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# Song Suggestion

Forever

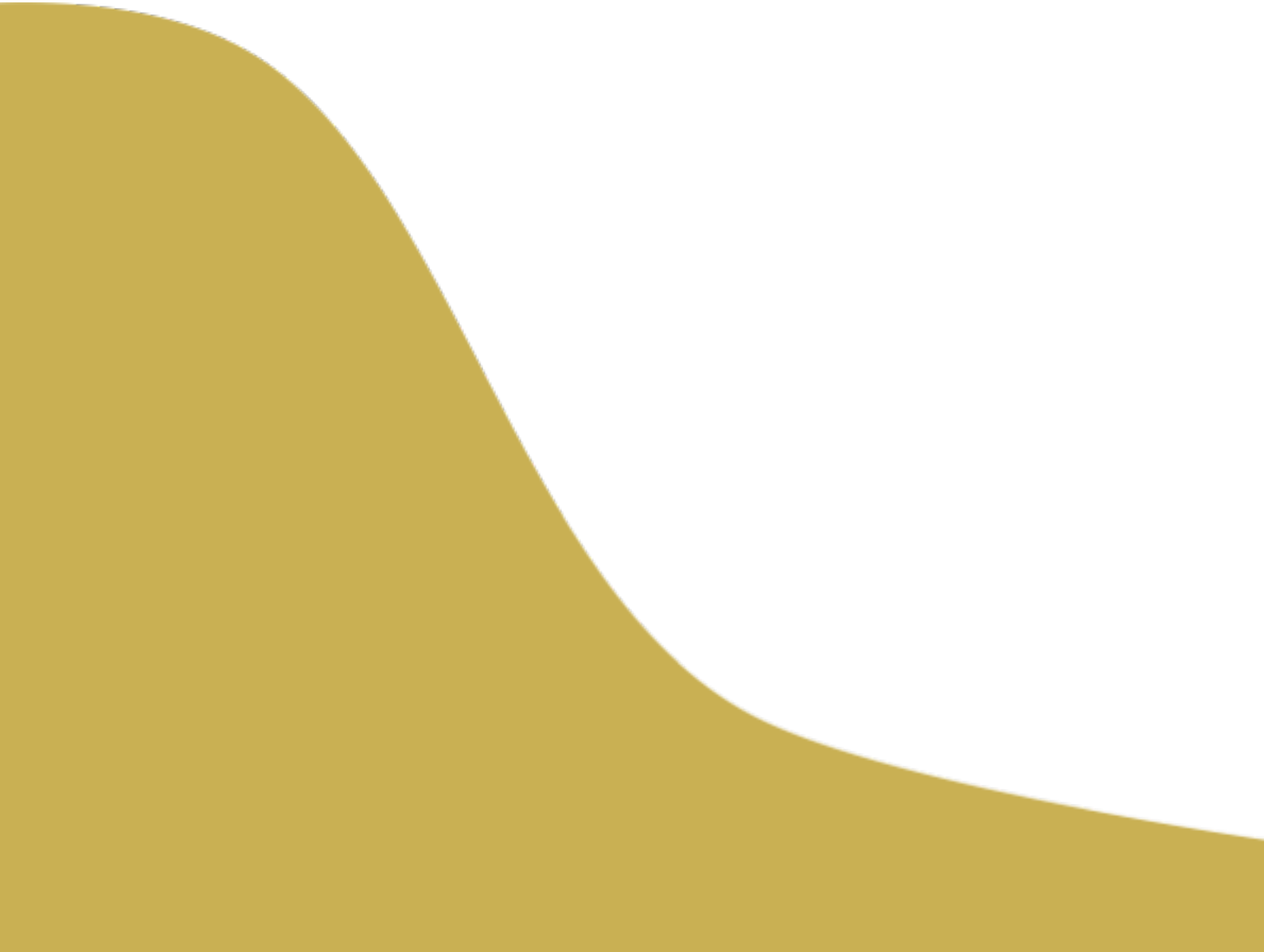


# Welcome

The Bible Reading for today's service is: **Matthew 28 v. 1 - 20**

The theme for our service today is: **Inspiring Easter - Travelling To New Life!**

We hope that you will be able to engage with everything that has been produced for this Easter Sunday Celebration Service and that you would be able to **Be Inspired By The Events Of Easter and Know The New Life That Jesus Offers You!**



**Easter Sunday** is the opportunity for us to bring together all that has Inspired us during this Easter time.

This year we have been looking at '**Travelling With Jesus**' through different stages of his journey during the last week of his life.

This morning enter with us into the wonders of what Easter Sunday is all about, and be '**Inspired By Jesus In your Own Life This Easter Morning**'.

# Greeting

Greet the congregation with the words of **Psalm 86 v. 10, 12, 13** (GNB):

I will praise you with all my heart, O Lord my God;

I will proclaim your greatness for ever.

How great is your constant love for me!

You have saved me from the grave itself.

For you are mighty and do wonderful things;

You alone are God.

# Responding In Praise

People say that God is dead,

**Let us praise the risen Lord,**

We know we can shout instead,

**Let us praise the risen Lord,**

Mary looked inside the tomb,

**Let us praise the risen Lord,**

Left confused and full of gloom,

**Let us praise the risen Lord,**

Jesus came to her to say,

**Let us praise the risen Lord,**

I'm alive! It's Easter Day!

**Let us praise the risen Lord**



# Resurrection

# Video

The Resurrection Of Jesus



# HOLY WEEK



Palm  
Sunday



Maundy  
Thursday



Good  
Friday



Easter  
Sunday



# Prayer For Easter Sunday

Jesus you are alive in the midst of your people here today! Lord, we pray this day that you would help us to be sensitive to your presence; give us ears to hear your word; give us hearts to feel your love; give us minds to understand your truth; give us wills to practise what you preach; and all to your glory, we pray!

Thank you Lord for giving us new life, strengthen us in our loving, and help us to see your way in life. Refresh us today, we pray. Refresh our tired lives, releasing us from all that hinders us in our growth with you and guide us to a new peace that is only found in you.

Lord Jesus, on this special day, introduce us to God the Father, encourage us grow to be more like you, and help us to continue to praise you all the days of our lives.

**Amen**

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# Song Suggestion

See What A Morning



# An Easter Egg

## Illustration

Have an Easter egg in colourful packaging to show the congregation.

Get excited that you have an Easter Egg with you and that you are going to share the egg with everyone during the service. As the excitement builds, open the Easter Egg Box and look inside. Begin to show your disappointment when you find that the box is empty and exclaim your sadness that there is nothing inside the Easter Egg Box.

Invite all the children or adults to hunt for the missing chocolate Easter Egg. Tell them that you were sure there was an Easter Egg in the box at the beginning of the service and that you wonder if someone has come and 'stolen' your Easter Egg out of the box.

***(Place Mini Easter Eggs around the church and Children and Adults need to find them - there should be enough Easter Eggs hidden for each person to have an individual Easter Egg each).***

When the Easter eggs has been found, have the children and adults to retaken their seats.

**Ask people how they are feeling now that they have found the Easter Eggs.**

Share with everyone that Mary and the other women had gone to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus. There would have been excitement and anticipation, but when they got there and found that the tomb was empty their emotions changed and there was fear and uncertainty.

Compare this disappointment that the Easter Egg Box was empty that with the shock that Mary and Peter must have felt on that first Easter Day discovering that the tomb in which Jesus had been laid was empty. What they did not realise was that something had happened overnight which was to change their disappointment to joy, completely and for ever.

**That is why we celebrate on Easter Sunday.**

Now tell everyone that Jesus doesn't hold anything back from us. He gives us everything that he can - New Life in Him.

# Tithes, Gifts & Offerings

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No matter wherever you are, whatever you do, whoever you are, together we can grow as Church Together here at Salendine Nook.

If you feel that your are able to, then please keep on giving with a cheerful and grateful heart, praising God for all that he has given to you and share in the finances of the church.



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# Song Suggestion

Low In The Grave He lay



# Bible Reading

## Matthew 28 v. 1 – 20 NIV

### Jesus Has Risen

28 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. 4 The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

8 So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

### The Guards' Report

11 While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. 12 When the chief priests

had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, 13 telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' 14 If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." 15 So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

### **The Great Commission**

16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."



# Church Together

## Thought

Jesus has suffered a brutal and humiliating death. We are told in **Matthew 28 v. 1** that Mary Magdalene and a fellow companion, called Mary, head to the tomb where Jesus had been placed, before sunrise. Why were they going to his tomb? The answer is simply, to anoint the body of Jesus with oil. To touch him one last time. They had been awake for hours and felt compelled to say a final farewell one last time to the one they loved. But when they arrive, the stone is no longer covering the entrance to the tomb. In Matthew's account of the Resurrection both women are told: 'Do not be afraid . . .' When we are afraid, we often cry. John in his account of the Resurrection, as we read in **John 20 v. 1 – 18**, focuses on Mary Magdalene and her response to what was happening. John doesn't spell out Mary's full response, but we can probably fill in some of her thoughts and some of her feelings. Maybe her thoughts and feelings were:

Why am I weeping? Because my heart is aching – the one who always knew the right thing to say to lift my spirits is gone.

Why am I weeping? Because I'm confused and disoriented – the one who helped me make sense of things is no more.

Why am I weeping? Because I'm furious! Injustice and cruelty win again, and I am sick of it!

Why am I weeping? Because I feel so lonely – the one who

made me laugh and think, the one who supported me and gave me confidence, the one who made me want to do the right thing has departed.

Why am I weeping? Because the one who gave me hope that what is ahead will be better than what is, has been snatched away and I doubt that I can go on without him. We see in the passage that the angel doesn't dismiss the women's fear, The angel didn't just pat them on the shoulder and say in a voice brimming with distain, 'There, now, everything will be just fine', but reassures them by inviting them to look for themselves into the tomb where Jesus would have laid. The angel then instructs them to go and tell the disciples about what had happened. What a wonderful commission for these two women – to be able to tell others of the Good News of the Resurrection. We know that on the Friday afternoon when Jesus was killed, his disciples fled and went into hiding afraid that the authorities would come after them next. Yet within a short time of abandoning Jesus – and in Peter's case, even denying that he knew Jesus – something life - altering transformed them.

Something filled them with such courage that nothing could deter them from proclaiming that Jesus had been raised from the dead. Most of the original 12 disciples would eventually be persecuted and killed for their tenacious faith in the resurrection. What could have so radically transformed them, if not the appearance of Jesus after he died?

On that first Easter morning, Matthew tells us that both women ran from the tomb so that they could find the disciples and tell them what had been told to them. As they did this, Jesus himself, appeared before them,

greeting them in a way that caused both women to recognise who he was, which made them worship him. Jesus' mission to them and to us as well is not for us to hold

onto him, but to go and tell others of the Good News of his Resurrection, to share with others that in Christ there is New Life! As Jesus said to the women: 'Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'

**Matthew 28 v. 1 – 20** also tells us that Jesus turns fear and sadness into joy and elation. We are told in **John 20 v. 15** and his account of the meeting between Jesus and Mary Magdalene, that Jesus gently spoke to her, when he said: 'Why are you crying . . . who are you looking for'?

Assuming it must be the gardener, Mary replied: 'Sir, if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him'. Then, Jesus simply replied and said: 'Mary'! Her reply was: 'Teacher'!

On seeing his presence and hearing those words spoken to her, Mary was filled with hope and joy, surprise, and elation. The risen Lord Jesus would appear to the disciples and many other followers assuring them that the Creator of heaven and earth is a God of resurrection who loves us not only in this life, but also in a continued existence beyond death; and it is that love which will triumph over everything, it is that love that allows us to experience the New Life that is offered to us through Jesus.

Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans: 'Where, O Death, is your sting'? 'Where, O Death, is your victory'? And the answer is, 'Not here'. We must travel along the road of faith and keep choosing life, in all its fullness. We must move ahead in our faith in the One that will, one day,

banish all death forever, the day when we will meet Jesus' face to face and know that all of this life's sadness and failings are behind us, and love has won once and for all.

In **Matthew 28 v. 16 – 20** we are told that some Disciples received the news of Jesus' resurrection quite readily while others were more reticent. But Jesus' resurrection was not an end in itself, nor was it given to just his closest Disciples. The message of New Life through faith in the crucified and resurrected Christ was to be offered to all the nations of the world, to all who believe in him. Those who by faith trust Jesus for salvation are baptised to display their commitment to the risen Saviour.

This is why we gather in worship at Easter, to rejoice that the One who bolsters us and holds us together in our times of pain, our times of trial and our times of grief, will resurrect us to new life in God's eternal kingdom; that should be enough as we travel to New Life for our words this Easter Sunday to be words of proclamation that says: Jesus is Lord, he is not dead, he has risen, he is my saviour, Hallelujah!

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# Song Suggestion

Jesus Christ Is Risen



# Prayers Of Intercession

We rejoice today, Lord Jesus, in the great triumph which you won on the cross at Calvary. When you died on the cross, everyone thought that you had been defeated. All the hopes and dreams of your followers seemed ended. But now we know that they were wrong! The empty grave announced your great victory. Death had been conquered and sin broken, and you had risen! Thank you for doing that for us. Show us what this can mean for us so that we are able to share the full joy of your resurrection life with others that we meet.

**We ask this in your precious name, Risen Lord Jesus.**

Thank you Lord Jesus that on this Easter Day we can join with members of your family across the whole world in offering you praise and adoration. We cry out with all those who worship you that you are alive, powerful and victorious. We rejoice that in Jesus all that separates and injures and destroys has been overcome by what unites and heals and creates. Lord we want to be counted as your friends this Easter.

**We ask this in your precious name, Risen Lord Jesus.**

Loving Lord Jesus, on this joyous Easter morning, we remember that you promised to be with us always. You are present in times of happiness and times of sorrow. Be with those who need you the most today, those who have lost loved ones, those who are unwell, those who grieve. Guide us we pray, that when we turn to you for help, that

we may hear you speak to us clearly and so act upon what it is that you direct us to do.

**We ask this in your precious name, Risen Lord Jesus.**

Lord Jesus, on this your Resurrection Day, you promised to never leave us, you sent your Holy Spirit to be with us. Help us this day, to recognise when your Spirit is at work within us. Let the power of your Spirit flow through us that we may come alive in Christ on this Easter morning. Give us strength beyond our own, and enable us to witness for you wherever we may be this day.

**We ask this in your precious name, Risen Lord Jesus.**

We thank you this day Lord Jesus for all that you grant to us. Grant us the gift of wisdom, grant us the gift of healing, grant us the gift of prophecy, grant us the gift of your eternal love. May these gifts enrich the world in which we live and encourage us in the work of being your followers in these days.

**We ask this in your precious name, Risen Lord Jesus.**

Finally, Lord help us to celebrate that you are not dead, but very much alive. We cry out this day that Jesus Is Alive forevermore; Halleluiah, what a Saviour.

**Amen**

A photograph of a field of yellow flowers, possibly buttercups, in the foreground. The background is a soft, out-of-focus sunset or sunrise with warm orange and yellow tones. A thin black crosshair graphic is overlaid on the image, with a vertical line on the left and a horizontal line across the middle. The text "New Life" is written in a large, elegant, black cursive font, and "BECAUSE OF JESUS" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font below it. The text is centered within the horizontal line of the crosshair.

*New Life*

BECAUSE OF JESUS



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# Song Suggestion

You Raise Me Up



A religious illustration featuring a tomb on the left with a large, polished stone rolled away from its entrance. In the background, a cross stands on a hill under a dramatic sky with colorful, glowing clouds. The scene is set in a rocky, natural landscape.

**Travelling . . .**

*To New Life with Jesus*

# The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power  
And the glory, forever and ever.  
**Amen**

HE IS RISEN



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# Song Suggestion

Thine Be The Glory



# Blessing

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On this glorious Easter Day,  
May we go from this place  
Where we have worshipped,  
Knowing the blessing of God,  
Through Christ,  
By the power of your Holy Spirit,  
Until you come in glory once again.

**Amen**