

# twelvebaskets

*FREE TO DUPLICATE AND DISTRIBUTE*



## **EASTER SUNDAY C**

20th April 2025

A short act of worship and daily devotions

A Free resource funded by donations from Individuals, churches and **twelvebaskets**.

If you would like to help fund this resources [click here](#).

For more information <https://theworshipcloud.com/terms/free-weekly-resource>

## Opening Prayers

Christ is risen!  
He is risen indeed, alleluia!  
Happy Easter to all around you!

Today is the day Christians around the world celebrate the resurrection,  
The day we recognise the potential for new life,  
The day we get to look for the miracle of God overcoming evil and darkness,  
In the Jesus story, but also in our own lives.  
May I use this time to turn aside and come to worship God,  
Amen.

**You may now wish to say the Lord's Prayer in a version or translation with which you are familiar.**

**Reading:** Luke 24: 1-12 – [Click for reading](#)

## Responding to the reading

As dawn breaks on Easter Sunday, may you find yourself immersed once again in the profound story from Luke's gospel, where women disciples arrive at Jesus' tomb to find it empty. This story, bursting with themes of surprise, revelation, and divine intervention, invites us to explore the transformative power of God's grace in our lives, particularly through the resurrection.

The women, carrying spices to anoint Jesus' body, are met not by the finality of death but by an astonishing emptiness and a divine message: "He is not here; he has risen!" This unexpected turn of events underscores the nature of grace—it often catches us unawares, overturning our expectations and opening new paths where we anticipated dead ends. Reflect on moments in your own life when grace has surprised you, transforming your despair into hope, or your uncertainty into clarity. How have these experiences shaped your understanding of God's work in your life?

The angelic messengers prompt the women to remember Jesus' words, that he would be crucified and rise again on the third day. Their reminder points us to the importance of grounding our faith in the promises of Christ, even when they seem impossible from a human standpoint. In the light of the resurrection, we are invited to trust deeply in what we cannot yet see, assured by what we have been promised. As you celebrate Easter, consider the promises of Jesus that you need to hold onto more firmly. How does the resurrection empower you to trust in these promises?

Upon hearing the angels' message and remembering Jesus' words, the women respond with action: they return from the tomb and tell the apostles what they have seen and heard. This action illustrates a key aspect of discipleship: encountering God's grace compels us to witness. Easter challenges us not only to revel in the joy of the resurrection

but also to share this foundational truth with others. Reflect on how you can bear witness to the resurrection in your daily life. Who needs to hear this message of hope from you?

The apostles' initial response to the women's testimony is skepticism. They consider the story "nonsense." This reaction is a stark reminder that the message of grace, though powerful, is not always easily accepted. It runs counter to human nature, which is often selfish and tends towards meritocracy. It invites us to be patient and persistent in our witnessing, trusting that the truth of God's grace will eventually take root. Consider times when your own faith or the faith you've shared has been met with skepticism. How can you continue to faithfully witness to the resurrection, embodying grace and patience?

This Easter, let the empty tomb remind you that God's grace defies expectations, transforming endings into new beginnings, and sorrow into joy. Embrace the surprise of grace, remember the promises of Christ, and respond by sharing the incredible news of the resurrection. May you find fresh ways to live out and proclaim the transformative power of grace, inviting others into the hope and renewal that Easter represents.

May your celebration be filled with the awe and joy of the women at the tomb, and may your heart be renewed in the promise that life, indeed, triumphs over death.

### **Hymn:**

There are a whole host of fabulous Easter hymns in the hymn book, and available to listen to online. You might like to start with one or more of these three recorded by Matt Beckingham, but why not spend some time this week looking up some of the Easter music available, and use it to aide your worship.

305 STF – Low in the grave he lay – [YouTube](#)

151 STF – This is the day the Lord has made – [YouTube](#)

313 STF – Thine be the glory - [YouTube](#)

### **Blessing**

A poem written for Easter, and drawing on this year's Soul Food resources from the Methodist Church:

Life springs  
Forward all around and things  
Burst from buds and soil.  
Creation spills bubbling  
Over valleys and hills and  
Fills me with unexpected  
Unlooked for wonder.  
  
This season of living  
Is giving  
My soul a fresh hope,  
Fresh food for the journey.

So come, tuck in, flavours abound  
Like the grace all around  
That flows from above and below,  
Pouring out of the ground.

Come join us at the table,  
Come see what we've found:  
A story that's satisfying  
About an undying,  
Unifying,  
Dignifying,  
Love.

A love that's around, and within,  
And above,  
A love that emerges like a glistening white dove,  
Seeking peace  
Finding rest  
Sharing joy  
And putting hope within reach  
Of each and every one of us.

Amen.

---

## Prayers and Prayer Pointers

### Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April

- Today is Easter Monday, a bank holiday in many places, and a day to change the rhythm slightly from the typical 'Monday morning routine'.
- How will you live today differently?
- How could today be a day where you break out of any unhealthy, unhelpful or painful rhythms and routines?
- Pray about this and see if there is something you are being invited to change about your own life.

### Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

- Do you have a body of water near you? A lake, loch, pond, or river?
- Can you get there today, or picture one in your mind and think about the ripples, the reflections, the soothing impact water has on the mind.
- Pray for all who need to have their minds soothed from stress and anxiety today. If that is you, pray for yourself.

### **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April**

- Living, loving God,  
The world is alive with potential and possibility,  
And yet everywhere greed and self-service get in the way of us fulfilling that potential.
- Come, by your grace, O God, and inspire actions of grace all over your world.  
Amen.

### **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April**

- Today, may you give thanks for those in your community who provide food for the rest of us – for the farmers, the supermarket workers, the delivery drivers, the chefs and cooks, the person who takes responsibility for family tea-time.
- Thank you Lord, for the food we eat and the people who prepare it.

### **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April**

- Pause a moment. Create a specific time of prayerful stillness. Is God speaking to you in the quiet?

### **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April**

- Holy God, it is almost a week now since Holy Week came to an end – thank you for the amazing story of the gospels, which continue to inspire actions of love, grace, peace and humility today.
- May I be inspired by those stories this weekend and beyond, to be an advocate of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in all I say and do.  
Amen.