

Resurrection Sunday  
A Liturgy for use at Home

Notes:

*This liturgy may be used at home or in small groups. Feel free to adapt it as you see fit. Children present might enjoy lighting candles, reading scriptures and leading some of the prayers. Words in italics are instructions. Words in **bold** are said by all.*

---

Call to Worship

*Light a candle*

Christ is risen!  
**He is risen indeed!**

*Make a noise*

*(shout "Christ is risen" and make a joyful noise with tambourines or improvised instruments)*

I was right on the cliff-edge, ready to fall,  
when GOD grabbed and held me.

**GOD's my strength, he's also my song,  
and now he's my salvation.**

Hear the shouts, hear the triumph  
songs in the camp of the saved?

**"The hand of GOD has turned the tide!**

The hand of GOD is raised in victory!

**The hand of GOD has turned the tide!"**

Swing wide the city gates—the righteous  
gates!

**We'll walk right through and thank GOD!**<sup>i</sup>

Sing "Christ the Lord is risen today"<sup>ii</sup>

Opening Prayer<sup>iii</sup>

Glory to you, O God:

You raised Jesus from the grave,  
Bringing victory over death  
And giving us eternal life.

Glory to you, O Christ:  
For us and our salvation  
You overcame death  
And opened the gate to everlasting life.

Glory to you, O Holy Spirit:

You lead us into the truth  
And breathe new life into us.

Glory to you, Father Son and Holy Spirit,  
Now and forever. **Amen**

Confession

If we've doubted your power

**Lord forgive us**

If we've fallen into despair

**Lord forgive us**

If we've failed to hope in you

**Lord forgive us**

If we've been fearful of death

**Lord forgive us**

If we've forgotten the victory of Christ

**Lord forgive us**

*Silence*

May the living God  
Raise us from despair,  
Give us victory over sin  
And set us free in Christ.  
**Amen.**

Scripture

John 20:1–18 or Matthew 28:1–10

Collect

Lord of all life and power,  
Who through the mighty resurrection of your  
Son  
Overcame the old order of sin and death  
To make all things new in him:  
Grant that we, being dead to sin  
And alive to you in Jesus Christ,  
May reign with him in glory;  
To whom with you in the unity of the Holy  
Spirit  
Be praise and honour, glory and might,  
Now and in all eternity. **Amen**

Reflection

- A written reflection is appended to these notes.
- The Sunday Sermon is online (video, audio, in various formats)<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://durbanvillemethodist.co.za/category/sermons/>

### Response

We should be able to worship together on the  
19<sup>th</sup> April, the Second Sunday of Easter.  
Prepare to offer the body of Christ the gift of  
your presence, the gift of your songs and  
prayers, the gift of your service. What can you  
do to enrich worship for us all?

### Prayers of Supplication and Intercession

#### *Dedication*

I will praise you, O Lord, with my whole heart.  
My whole heart I lay upon the altar of your  
praise. Let the flame of your love set my  
whole heart on fire; that nothing in me may  
be left to me but may I wholly burn towards  
you, wholly be on fire towards you, wholly  
love you as though set on fire towards you,  
wholly love you as though set aflame by you  
(St. Augustine)

#### *For the extension of Christ's Kingdom*

King of all and master of our lives, entering  
into your glory by your cross, to whom is  
given all authority both in heaven and earth:  
Come Lord Christ and enter into your  
Kingdom; subdue the world by the power of  
your love and be known and adored to all the  
ends of the earth.

### **Our Father...**

Sing "Thine be the glory"

### Benediction

**And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus  
Christ, and the love of God, and the  
fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all,  
now and forever more. Amen**

### **Christ the Lord is risen today**

Christ the Lord is risen today: *Alleluia!*  
Sons of men and angels say  
Raise your joys and triumphs high;  
Sing, ye heavens and earth, reply

Love's redeeming work is done,  
Fought the fight, the battle won;  
Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;  
Christ hath burst the gates of hell.

Lives again our glorious King;  
Where, O death, is now thy sting?

Once He died our souls to save;  
Where's thy victory, boasting grave?  
Soar we now where Christ hath led,  
Following our exalted Head;  
Made like Him, like Him, we rise;  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies

King of Glory! Soul of bliss!  
Everlasting life is this,  
Thee to know, Thy power to prove,

### **Thine be the Glory**

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering son,  
Endless is the victory; Thou over death hast  
won

Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone  
away  
Kept the folded grave clothes where Thy  
body lay

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering son,  
Endless is the victory; Thou over death hast  
won

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb  
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and  
gloom

Let the church with gladness hymns of  
triumph sing  
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its  
sting

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering son,  
Endless is the victory; Thou over death hast  
won

No more we doubt Thee, glorious prince of  
life;

Life is naught without Thee; aid us in our  
strife

Make us more than conquerors, through  
Thy deathless love

Lead us in Thy triumph to Thy home above

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering son,  
Endless is the victory; Thou over death hast  
won

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering son,  
Endless is the victory; Thou over death hast  
won

## Reflection New Creation

### Most Significant Number?

What do you think is the most important number in the bible?

Can anyone hazard a guess?

Some say #7: We think of creation and the Sabbath day, the number of “perfection”).

Others suggest #40: The number of weeks in womb, a metaphor for the time taken for a something new to be born; Moses, Jesus etc).

Perhaps some say #12: 12 tribes, 12 apostles.

Here is a clue: how many sides on our baptismal font? **8**

I think most important number is 8. Yes 8!

8 isn't obvious but it makes important appearances:

- 8 people were saved from the flood to restart the human population.
- There were 8 frames in the Tabernacle Moses made
- Boys were circumcised on the 8th day
- Jesse had 7 sons, 7 often represents perfection, completion but David was the 8th son— 8 is beyond perfection, unexpected, a new thing.
- Every 7th year was a Sabbath year, the land was rested,
- After 7 Sabbath years, at the start of the 8th Sabbath year, it was a Jubilee year, debts cancelled, all land returned to the original owner, everything was reset....
- The most joyous feast in ancient times was the feast of Tabernacles. It lasted 7 days and then came the 8th day, the greatest day of the feast, a special Sabbath, no work was done, the people held a holy assembly and offered gifts.
- In Jn. 7:37, on the last and greatest day of the feast of Tabernacles, the 8th Day, Jesus *“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him”*
- Pentecost, the birth of the church, is celebrated in 8th week after Easter.

So, what has this got to do with John's gospel? Where do we see 8 in Jn's Gospel?

John's Gospel speaks of signs. The signs are ways God reveals God's glory and power. John numbers the first two signs and then he stops counting. That's a hint for us to start counting. Here are the signs:

1. Changing water into wine (2:1–11)
2. Healing The official's son (4:46–54)
3. Healing The paralysed man at the pool (5:2–9)
4. Multiplication of loaves (6:1–14)
5. Healing the man born blind (9:1–7)
6. The raising of Lazarus (11:1–44)
7. The crucifixion (19:1–37)

Seven is the number that symbolises “creation”:

*And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done (Genesis).*

But there is an 8th sign! It is:

8. The resurrection (20:1–29)

If 7 is creation 8 must be ...**New Creation**

*(This is not my own clever insight. I learned this from New Testament Scholar, NT Wright)*

John's Gospel starts:

*In the beginning...* like *Genesis* it is a book of **creation**

On the cross Jesus says "*it is finished*".

The work of New Creation is finished. We are in the 8th day!

For John the work of Jesus was about New Creation

That is why John keeps speaking about the garden:

Jesus was betrayed and arrested in a garden.

Jesus was buried in a garden.

Mary mistook Jesus for a gardener.

Actually, He is *THE* gardener...

*In the beginning was word and word was with God... through him all things made.*

So now we understand that, in the Garden, through Jesus, New Creation has started. The 8th day. We Christians worship on the 8th day!

All things are being made new...if anyone in Christ he is a *New Creation*...

And this explains the big question you have in this Garden of New Creation – why did Jesus tell Mary not to cling on to him?

Isn't that one of the burning questions we ask when listening to John's account of the resurrection?

Perhaps the answer is that Mary, like us, finds it very difficult to let go of old creation and enter the new creation.

We are used to how things work 24/7. Adding an 8th day is confusing and perhaps a little scary...

We struggle to let go of the old. Scholars tell us, for example, that the wonderful Old Testament concept of Jubilee may never have actually been practised...forgiving debts is a radical concept.

But now we are in Jubilee time, the 8th day, and we pray each day forgive us our debts as we forgive debtors....

Old Creation holds grudges but New Creation forgives

In the original creation man and woman were given task of looking after creation...things went wrong

In new creation man and woman are given back the tasked of tending new creation until Jesus returns.

The reason Mary can't cling on to Jesus is she has a *new* task:

*"Go to my brothers and tell them.... 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God'" (Jn 20:17).*

In the old creation women were kept subservient and a court of law would not regard their testimony. But, in New Creation, women are witnesses. Yes, also apostles ...(an apostle is one who is sent)

In old creation, the temple, sacrifices, priests continually reminded people of sin.

In the New Creation the lamb of God takes away sin and we become children of God.

Clinging to Jesus is a picture of fear.

But Jesus says ***do not be afraid...***

So, friends, on this Easter Morning, this 8th day of the week, The day of worship, the day of New Creation,

Are we clinging to the way things were?

Will we return from "lockdown" and remain "locked in" to old ways of being? Will it be "business as usual"?

Or are will we work toward the way that things will one day be?

Amen.

---

<sup>i</sup> Peterson, E. H. (2005). The Message: the Bible in contemporary language (selected and adapted from Ps 118).

<sup>ii</sup> Words appended

<sup>iii</sup> Opening prayer, confession and Collect adapted from *The Methodist Worship Book*