



Easter Morning Prayer 2026

Fear and Great Joy

St Laurence Anglican Church

Livestreamed Morning Prayer · 6 to 17 April 2026

Whatever you are carrying from the world today, you are welcome here. The resurrection has been proclaimed. But fear and great joy can live in the same heart, and God knows it. We gather in that honest place, one morning at a time.

A moment of silence to arrive.

OPENING PRAYER

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us. Let us pray with one heart and mind.

In the light of this day, and in the light of what this season proclaims, may we know you near, now and throughout all the hours ahead. Amen.

OPENING SENTENCE

See the Daily Guide (page 4) for each day's sentence.

EASTER BREASTPLATE — A PRAYER OF GROUNDING

I arise today through the grace of God, who was sealed in the tomb and would not stay there, who left the grave cloths folded, who met them on the road before they knew who he was, who opens his hand when every power says: it is finished.

I arise today through God's strength to pilot me, God's wisdom to guide me, God's eye to look before me, God's open hand to hold me.

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me.

PSALM

Week One (6-10 April): Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-11

Week Two (13-17 April): Psalm 116:1-4, 12-14, 17

Full psalm text on page 4.

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

THE READING

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

See the Daily Guide (page 5) for each day's Gospel passage.

Full text at biblegateway.com (NRSVue).

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Silence

REFLECTION

A brief reflection on the reading.

CANTICLE

Week One: A New Life — Colossians 3:1-4

Week Two: A Living Hope — 1 Peter 1:3-6

Full canticle text on page 4.

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Daily intercession themes on page 4.

Let us pray.

We hold before you, O God, the weight of this world. The places of pain and conflict, the suffering we hear about and the suffering we do not. We name them aloud or in the silence of our hearts.

Silence

Presider: Faithful God, meet us there.

All: Faithful God, meet us there.

We hold before you those on our hearts today. Those who are ill, frightened, grieving, or struggling in ways we may not fully know. We name them aloud or hold them quietly before you now.

Silence

Presider: Faithful God, meet them there.

All: Faithful God, meet them there.

We hold before you our own needs this morning. What we carry into this day. What we hope for, worry about, or are not sure how to face. We offer that to you now, aloud or in silence.

Silence

Presider: Faithful God, meet us here.

All: Faithful God, meet us here.

Receive these prayers, and receive us.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

All: Abba, God in heaven, holy is your name, may your kingdom come, may your will be done, here on earth as it is in heaven. Give us what we need for today. Forgive us as we forgive others. Save us from times of trial, and deliver us from all evil. For all authority and power and glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

CLOSING COLLECT

Weekly collect on page 4. Used daily throughout that week.

CLOSING PRAYER

Weekly closing prayer on page 5 & 6.

THE DISMISSAL

The tomb is empty. Go gently into this day. God goes with you.

Presider: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Daily Guide

Readings at: biblegateway.com/passage/?version=NRSVUE

Week One · 6 to 10 April · The Locked Room

John 20:19-31 · Psalm 16 · Colossians 3:1-4

Day	Reading	The passage
Monday	John 20:19-20	Jesus appears in the locked room and shows his wounds
Tuesday	John 20:21-23	He breathes the Spirit and sends the disciples out
Wednesday	John 20:24-25	Thomas is absent and holds his ground in doubt
Thursday	John 20:26-27	Jesus returns for Thomas: reach out your hand
Friday	John 20:28-31	Thomas confesses; the Gospel states its purpose

Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-11

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy.

Canticle · Colossians 3:1-4 · A New Life

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.

For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Intercession Themes · Week One

Monday: Those in locked rooms — fear, isolation, the doors that will not open

Tuesday: Those carrying doubt, and the communities that hold them anyway

Wednesday: Those who need to touch the wounds — honest faith in a suffering world

Thursday: Those sent out, and our courage to carry the commission

Friday: Those still catching up — grasping what they have always been saying

Closing Collect · Week One

Risen God, you come into our locked rooms and breathe peace into the places we have sealed against you. Open in us what we have kept closed. Loose in us what we have bound tight. And give us courage to be sent, as we have been found. Through Jesus Christ, who carries his wounds into the new world. Amen.

Closing Prayer · Week One

Keep our hearts open to what we cannot yet see. Through Christ, who is risen and still walking. Amen.

Week Two · 13 to 17 April · The Road to Emmaus

Luke 24:13-35 · Psalm 116 · 1 Peter 1:3-6

Day	Reading	The passage
Monday	Luke 24:13-16	Two walking away from Jerusalem; a stranger joins them
Tuesday	Luke 24:17-24	They explain their dashed hopes to the stranger
Wednesday	Luke 24:25-27	He opens the scriptures to them on the road
Thursday	Luke 24:28-30	They urge him to stay; he takes bread and breaks it
Friday	Luke 24:31-35	Their eyes open; he vanishes; they turn back to tell

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-14, 17

I love the Lord, who heard my voice; the Lord inclined an ear to me.

Because the Lord listened to me, I will call on God as long as I live.

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, save my life."

What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.

Canticle · 1 Peter 1:3-6 · A Living Hope

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who by great mercy has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.

In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials,

so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Intercession Themes · Week Two

Monday: Those walking away, carrying grief or disappointment

Tuesday: Those who do not yet recognise Christ in the stranger beside them

Wednesday: Hearts that are burning and do not know why

Thursday: The breaking of bread, and all who gather at tables of fellowship and loss

Friday: Those who turn back, and begin again

Closing Collect · Week Two

God of the road, you walk beside us in the days when hope has gone quiet, when we are walking in the wrong direction and do not know it. Stay with us as you stayed with those two on the way to Emmaus. Break open our seeing. And when we recognise you, give us the grace to turn back and to tell. Through Jesus Christ, who is known in the breaking of bread. Amen.

Closing Prayer · Week Two

Were not our hearts burning? Go gently. Through Christ, who is known at the table. Amen.