

# Dawn Service

Waiting for the dawn

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul,  
and why so rebellious within me?  
Put your trust in God,  
patiently wait for the dawn,  
and you will then praise  
your deliverer and your God.

**Reading Psalm 30: 1-5**

From the depths of despair I cried out,  
seared with pain and with grief.  
Where are you O God?  
How long must I suffer?  
**God of healing, you are making us whole.**

You drew me up from the deeps  
like a prisoner out of a dungeon.  
A flesh-body touched by your hand  
flickering and trembling with life.  
**God of healing, you are making us whole.**

You brought me out of a land full of gloom;  
a place of hollow silence and cold.  
You melted my paralyzed fear;  
the warmth of your Sun coursed through my veins.  
**God of healing, you are making us whole.**

The wrath of your love lasts but a moment,  
for a lifetime your mercy and healing.

heaviness and weeping last through the night,  
yet day beareks into singing and joy.

**God of healing, you are making us whole.**

I will praise you O God  
for you are making me whole.

I will give you great thanks  
in the midst of your people.

**God of healing, you are making us whole.**

### **Lighting of the fire**

Creator God, holy is your name among us,  
and blessed is Jesus Christ, our hope of glory.

Come Holy Spirit of love and fire,  
bearing witness to Christ in warmth and light,  
breaking the dread chains of hell,  
shattering all our tombs of fear.

Go before us now  
transform our darkness into light  
and illuminate our hearts and minds,  
that we may go forward into exodus  
freed from oppression and slavery,  
this night and forever. **Amen.**

## Greeting the dawn

### **Gospel: John 20:1-11**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.<sup>2</sup> So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

<sup>3</sup> So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, <sup>7</sup> as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. <sup>8</sup> Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. <sup>9</sup> (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

This is the gospel of the Lord  
**Praise to you O Christ**

**The lighting of the Easter candle** (*candles at home may be lit at this point*)

Christ, yesterday and today,  
the beginning and the end,  
Alpha and Omega,  
all time belongs to him,  
and all ages;  
to him be glory and power,  
through every age and forever. **Amen.**

## The Alleluias

*The people bash their pots and pans with each Alleluia*

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

You are risen O Christ

let the gospel trumpets speak,

and the news, as of holy fire,

burning and flaming and inextinguishable,

run to the ends of the earth.

**Christ is risen: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

You are risen O Christ,

let all creation greet the good news with jubilant shout,

for its redemption has come.

The long night is past

the ancient trap is sprung.

**Christ is risen: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Death and life have engaged each other

in a wondrous struggle:

Death is swallowed up in victory.

**Christ is risen: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Death yield strange gifts to life,

its colours deep and radiant,

life more solid and more real.

**Christ is risen: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

All you that sleep, awake, rise from the dead,

the Light of Dawn will shine upon you.

**Christ is risen: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

We bless you,  
God of love and glory,  
utterly giving of your very self in Jesus.

**Christ is risen: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

In your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope  
by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

**Christ is risen: Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **Blessing and dismissal**

May Christ,  
who out of defeat brings new hope and a new future,  
fill you with his new life;  
and the blessing...

Christ is risen! The Son has dawned upon us. Take his light out  
into the world.

**Christ has risen! We go to share the good news (and have  
breakfast). Amen.**

Liturgy mostly Jim Cotter adapted from *Darkness Yielding* Cotter, Percy, Sands,  
Williams 2001 and 2007.