



DIOCESE OF ABERDEEN & ORKNEY

FROM ASHES TO FIRE: A JOURNEY FROM LENT TO PENTECOST

Monday 21st April 2025

The Resurrection

On Mondays, we delve deeper into the readings, picking up themes and seeking to explore more what they say, the words of Jesus, the Psalmists, Epistle writers and others. This week's theme is The Resurrection.

Some questions to think about as you read the Scriptures set for this week in the Revised Common Lectionary are suggested. You may wish to discuss these in a group, with a soul friend or record your thoughts in a journal.

This week - Easter Monday is slightly different with reflections on the scriptures from various writers to help you engage with The Resurrection and the readings for Easter Sunday.

There are different options for Easter Sunday - the Gospel (John or Luke) and whether to use Acts 10 (Peter's narration of the events of the Resurrection) in place of the Old Testament (Isaiah) or New Testament (1 Corinthians) readings.

Questions to Consider

- How would you have felt if you were one of Jesus' disciples visiting the tomb and found it empty?
- The disciples experienced a range of emotions from despair to joy upon discovering the empty tomb. Have you ever experienced a moment in your faith journey where doubt turned into belief or hope?
- How does the story of the resurrection inspire you to live out your faith today?
- After hearing the resurrection story, what emotions or thoughts are you left with?

From St John Chrysostom's
Easter homily

O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns. Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

From Sarah Coakley's 2013
Easter Sunday Sermon at
Salisbury Cathedral

So here is the great truth at the heart of Christian faith: resurrection. Stake your life on it, struggle with it, and everything will change. Die, turn, see ... and live in this mystical body, which is the blessed company of all faithful people, who, in its Salisbury manifestation, has turned out here this morning in the cold and dark to start you on this great adventure of the Christian life of redemption, joy and fulfilment, and will hold you in it in all your frailty and glory, unto your life's end. For Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia. Amen.



From Becca Steven's 2025 Easter
Vigil Sermon

Easter rituals begin by lighting a Paschal candle. Lit from a small fire in the darkness, then carried into church, it is kept burning all year. The Paschal candle keeps watch over consecrated elements and reminds pilgrims who cross this threshold of God's never failing presence.

People can walk in afraid or burdened and see candlelight dancing and feel the glow of God's love.

Once a year, on Good Friday, we blow out the candle and remember what it feels like to sit in darkness without assurance or warmth. Good Friday is the day it appears that love is in ashes, snuffed out by political violence, fear, and brokenness. Then three days later, before the sun rises, we ignite a new Paschal flame, celebrating that love didn't fail on Good Friday, it was love's crowning achievement.

