

# twelvebaskets



## EASTER 2C

A complete Sunday service ready to use  
for worship and inspire ideas in your church

Produced by twelvebaskets. Subscription available from [theworshipcloud.com](http://theworshipcloud.com)



## Order of Service

Call to worship

**Hymn:**

**148 STF – Come, let us with our Lord arise OR**

**295 STF – Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord**

Opening Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

All Age Talk

**Hymn:**

**314 STF – This joyful Eastertide OR**

**310 STF – Sing a song, sing a joyful song**

Readings: Acts 5:27-32; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

Reflections on the readings

**Hymn:**

**593 STF – Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour OR**

**305 STF – Low in the grave he lay**

What are you being called to?

**Hymn:**

**354 STF – Jesus is the name we honour OR**

**421 STF – Empty, broken, here I stand, Kyrie eleison**

Intercessions

Offering / collection

Blessing the offering

**Hymn:**

**347 STF – Crown him with many crowns OR**

**94 STF – To God be the glory, great things he has done!**

Blessing

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The Vine Services are compiled and produced by twelvebaskets.

Many more resources and inspiration for this week's lectionary, leading worship and other church use are available on [www.theworshipcloud.com](http://www.theworshipcloud.com).

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## **Call to worship**

As we journey day by day, deeper in to your love, O Lord, may our worship today be a leap deeper in to you, may our prayers be part of a loving conversation and made the words we hear draw us into a deeper understanding of who you are and who we are in you.

Amen.<sup>1</sup>

## **Hymn:**

148 STF – Come, let us with our Lord arise OR

295 STF – Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord

## **Opening Prayers**

Living and life-giving God,  
You spoke, and light dawned.

You breathed, and life flourished.

By your words and hands creation burst with colour and vibrancy,  
and we praise you.

From your words, the stars shone.

By your goodness, the mountains rose, and the waves crashed.

You ordained all things that we may see a glimpse of your glory and power,  
and we adore you.

Through your grace, we were made in your image,  
From your great love, your son came.

In him, your revealed yourself and we saw love made man,  
and we thank you.

We praise the works of your hands and the love that you lavish upon us. Your love shines into each part of our lives, bringing light and warmth wherever it reaches.

Lord God,  
You are grace and you love mercy.

In the face of our sin, you breath out forgiveness.

We confess those times Lord, when our lives have not reflected love into the world.  
We confess the words that we have said, the things that we have done and thought  
that have lacked love.

We confess  
when we have knocked others down and not built them up.  
when we have not shared all that you have given  
when kindness has been an afterthought and we have loved in hindsight.

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<sup>1</sup> Call to Worship written by Phil Jackson

We give thanks that it is your very nature to be forgiving and ask that you renew your love and light in our lives.

Amen.<sup>2</sup>

## We say together the Lord's Prayer

### All Age Talk

In this reflection, we are going to think about waiting. I'm now going to invite you all to close your eyes, and then I want you to raise your hand after you think one minute has passed.

*[Time this using a watch or phone].*

What do you notice? Many of us want to put your hands up long before a minute has passed – it can feel like time is really dragging when you are waiting, can't it?

It can be really hard to wait... even when you know what you are waiting for. What are some of the things we have to wait for?

And how does that waiting make us feel?

*[Take suggestions, and maybe suggest something like test results, or Christmas day].*

Waiting carries all sorts of different emotions, doesn't it?

Later in our service we are going to hear about a time the disciples had to wait, they were waiting in a locked room, worried about what was going to happen next. Jesus had died and they were scared that the people who had killed Jesus were going to come for them next.

What do you think it was like for them to wait? How would they have been feeling?

*[Take suggestions].*

We live in a time of uncertainty too, don't we? There are always things we don't understand and can't predict – amongst all the waiting, can we look out for Jesus' surprise coming?

Let us find ways to 'wait for the Lord', to be a people who are always looking out for our God and the things that we know God values – love, hope, joy, peace, kindness, patience. Can we bring those things to other people too? Others who are waiting?<sup>3</sup>

### Hymn:

314 STF – This joyful Eastertide OR

310 STF – Sing a song, sing a joyful song

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<sup>2</sup> Opening prayers written by Phil Jackson

<sup>3</sup> All Age Talk written by Tim Baker

**Readings:** Acts 5:27-32; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

**Hymn:**

593 STF – Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour OR

305 STF – Low in the grave he lay

**Reflections on the reading**

We call him “Doubting Thomas” for a single mistake that he made. Thomas, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus, was not there when the Lord appeared to the rest of them after his resurrection.

As many of us might do if we have missed out on something good, Thomas disparaged the disciples’ claim to have seen Jesus. And furthermore, it would not be enough now for Thomas just to see the risen Lord. He would have to touch the wounds, put his finger into the holes made by the nails and his hand into Jesus’ side where the sword had pierced him (John 20:25).

Thomas doubted – he did not believe – and who can blame him? People did not come back to life, especially not someone who had been crucified, bound with grave-cloths and loaded with spices, then sealed into a tomb.

When Jesus appeared a second time, however, Thomas was there, and it was to him that Jesus spoke, inviting Thomas to touch his wounds and believe. It was a wonderful demonstration of grace; it addressed and met Thomas’ needs, and it revealed God’s mercy to one whose faith had been weak. God is not sparing in sharing love; God does not turn away from those who fail once or many times; God is ready always to give another chance.

Thomas had no doubt, this time, that Jesus was alive. Nor had he any doubt about who was speaking to him. In one instant of time he outpaced the other disciples in belief, faith and confidence when he declared to Jesus, “my Lord and my God!”.

Thomas is barely mentioned again in the scriptures, but we can be certain he was with the disciples when, with Peter as their spokesman, they confronted the Sanhedrin and testified to the resurrection of Jesus. With them, Thomas could declare, “We are witnesses of these things”. Tradition states that Thomas eventually took the gospel to India, but whether or not that is true, Thomas can be counted among those who spent - or even gave - their lives for the propagation of the gospel and the establishment of the Christian Church.

Nicknames are unkind things; rarely if ever are they complimentary. It is unfortunate that Thomas is distinguished for one failure, rather than for his great statement of faith and for his future witness. In recognising Jesus as Lord and God, Thomas provided one of the clearest statements of Jesus’ divinity. Could it have been Psalm 118 that was running through his mind as he faced Jesus? In meeting such love and grace, might he have thought, “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, his love

endures for ever" (118:1)? And perhaps he then remembered how the psalm ends; "You are my God, and I will give thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you". (118:28).

What about us? Do we make our faith as plain and unequivocal as did Thomas? Do we preach a clear message? In these "post-modern" times when truths are frequently seen only as relative, we can become ashamed of making absolute statements. Certainly, we as individuals are not qualified to do so. However, when we have the authority of the Scriptures, we have every reason to proclaim a doubt-free gospel. Of course we must be sensitive to the occasion and the audience, and we must not be selective with our use of scriptures, having already decided what our message will be; we must be free of personal prejudices.<sup>4</sup>

The truth that Thomas encounters is the same truth we must preach and live and share so that God's grace can continue and be at work in the world around us. What are we waiting for?

Belief is not a tick-box exercise. It's not just about 'mental assent' as Tom Wright puts it. Belief is transformative – it changes everything. Perhaps we hover on the edge of belief, like Thomas, because changing everything sounds scary. What do we stand to lose? What might we be asked to give up? Are we willing to make the sacrifice?

If we are 'Easter people', a people of the resurrection', followers of Jesus, Christians – then that isn't just about what we say when the census comes round, or what we happen to do on Sunday mornings. It is about our whole lives, it is about committing ourselves to discipleship.

It isn't easy – as the frightened disciples learned in that locked room, and as Thomas knew when he felt it was easier to deny and turn aside – but it is thoroughly rewarding and life-giving – as Thomas learned when he declared Jesus is Lord just a few days later.

Where are you this week – can you declare, with Thomas, that Jesus is Lord, and allow that to change and transform you from the inside out? Will you keep the light alive this week? Will you bring, be and practice good news? Will you champion new life and practice resurrection?

If you do, you are following Jesus' invitation. You are a child of the resurrection.

### **Hymn:**

354 STF – Jesus is the name we honour OR

421 STF – Empty, broken, here I stand, Kyrie eleison

### **Prayers of intercession**

God of all grace,

Today we pray for your resurrection spirit to be at work in each and every one of us, and in your world.

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<sup>4</sup> Taken from Meditation for the Second Sunday of Easter – Year C by Susan Thorne

Today we pray for all living in fear and with the threat of violence,  
Bring your peace, O God.

God of all love,  
Today we pray for all who feel lonely and isolated,  
All who wonder how they might be able to provide for themselves,  
Or even survive the week.  
Bring your comfort, O God.

God of all hope,  
In the midst of all that is wrong in our world,  
We are carrying the hope that a better world is possible,  
That we can overcome poverty and injustice.  
So we pray for all who are suffering today, in our own communities and around the world.

God of this community,  
We pray for each and every one of us – and those whom we are concerned about.  
We pray for wisdom and grace that we might be able to say the right things, to sit in silence when we need to, to extend a hand of love to those in need – this day, this week and on into the rest of this year.

In a moment of stillness, let us bring our own prayers to God, for those who are in need.

*[Quiet].*

Help us to be a people who practice resurrection, to be a people who are an answer to prayer for others.

We pray, through the name of Jesus,  
By the power of the Spirit,  
To the one who is Creator of all.

Amen.<sup>5</sup>

## **We will now take up the offering.**

### **Blessing the offering**

You Lord have given light and life, receive these our gifts to you.  
Bless these gifts that they may become light and life to others.

Amen.<sup>6</sup>

### **Hymn:**

347 STF – Crown him with many crowns OR  
94 STF – To God be the glory, great things he has done!

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<sup>5</sup> Prayers of intercession by Tim Baker

<sup>6</sup> Additional prayers by Phil Jackson

## Blessing

Step out from here in to the light and life of God,  
May his life be in your hearts,  
May his light be in your eyes  
and may life and light go from you to others.  
Amen.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Additional prayers by Phil Jackson