The Easter Mass for Schools

**Prayers & Readings**

Below are the official *Roman Missal* texts for the Mass of Easter together with alternative prayers for use in Masses with children according to the provision of the *Directory on Masses with Children* (1973) that, “since these prayers were composed for adult Christians, the principle simply of choosing from among them does not serve the purpose of having the children regard the prayers as an expression of their own life and religious experience, the text of prayers of the *Roman Missal* may be adapted to the needs of children, but this should be done in such a way that [preserves] the purpose of the prayer and to some extent its substance as well . . .” (n.51)

Collect (Opening Prayer)

Father,

three days after he died on the cross,

your Son, Jesus, rose to new life from the tomb.

As we celebrate this great feast of Easter,

may we live as children of the light,

always bringing the good news of the resurrection of Jesus Christ

to those we meet through our faith, our hope and our love.

Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

*Alternative Collect*

Father,

you son Jesus died on the cross

and was buried in a tomb in the rock

with a big stone rolled over the entrance to the tomb.

After three days,

Jesus rose to new life

and the disciples found the tomb empty.

Today, we rejoice in Jesus’ resurrection

and we share in his new life.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Scripture Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then Peter began to speak to them: ‘We are witnesses to all that Jesus of Nazareth did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.’

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

This day was made by the Lord,

we rejoice and are glad.

**This day was made by the Lord,**

**we rejoice and are glad.**

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,

for his love has no end.

Let the sons of Israel say:
‘His love has no end.’

**This day was made by the Lord,**

**we rejoice and are glad.**

The Lord’s right hand has triumphed;

his right hand raised me up.

I shall not die, I shall live,

and recount his deeds.

**This day was made by the Lord,**

**we rejoice and are glad.**

The stone which the builders rejected

has become the corner stone.

This is the work of the Lord,

a marvel in our eyes.

**This day was made by the Lord,**

**we rejoice and are glad.**

Gospel

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**This day was made by the Lord,**

**we rejoice and are glad!**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy gospel + according to N.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*You will find the gospel readings for Years A, B and C on the Jesuit Institute website. Also alternative dramatic readings and settings of the gospel.*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

O Lord,

we offer you these gifts of bread and wine

which will become for us the body and blood of Jesus,

crucified and risen for us.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Easter Preface

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation

at all times to acclaim you, O Lord,

but in this time above all to laud you yet more gloriously

when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed.

For he is the true Lamb,

who has taken away the sins of the world;

By dying he has destroyed our death,

and by rising, restored our life.

Therefore, overcome with paschal joy,

every land, every people exults in your praise

and even the heavenly powers, with the angelic hosts,

sing together the unending hymn of your glory,

as they acclaim:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts . . .**

*Alternative Easter Preface*

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right and just.**

We give you great thanks, O Lord,

as we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection.

He was dead and buried in a tomb

but you raised him to new life.

He died to put an end to death

and you give all your people the gift of new life.

And so, as we celebrate this great feast of Easter,

and rejoice at Jesus’ resurrection,

we join our voices with the angels

as we sing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts . . .**

Prayer after Communion

Keep safe, O Lord, we pray,

those whom you have saved by your kindness,

that, redeemed by the passion of your Son,

they may rejoice in his resurrection.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Alternative Prayer after Communion*

Lord,

we are your Easter people

and Alleluia is our song.

May we always be joyful in the resurrection of Jesus,

your Son,

and proclaim the good news to the people we meet.

Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Easter Dismissal

Go in the peace of Christ, alleluia, alleluia!

**Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!**

Prayers from the *Roman Missal* (2010)

Scripture reading – Jerusalem Bible translation (1966)

Psalm – Grail translation (1963)

Alternative prayers – Jesuit Institute (2018)