

**Easter**

**Life**

**Entrance music** - Choose a suitable piece of music

**Introduction**

Life and death are the two most important events for everybody. Jesus, who died on the Cross for us, rose up again alive on Easter Day. We reflect today on life and pray with thanksgiving.

**Focus or symbol** –

* Plant or goldfish
* Poster depicting life, such as a baby, nature, animal, plants
* Overhead with words, ”I am the Way, the Truth and the Life” (John 14:6)

**Sign of the Cross**

It is through the Cross of Jesus that we come into new life, and so we begin, “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

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**Hymn or song**

*CFE* *O&N*

513 Now the green blade riseth 376

543 Centre of my life

New daytime is dawning 370

**Reading** *Romans 6:4*

By our baptism, then, we are buried with him and share his death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead, by the glorious power of the Father, so we too might live a new life.

**Comment on reading**

Life is all around us, in gardens, on patches of ground, in the sky. When something is alive, we see that it moves and grows. We begin to move and grow as Christians with baptism. We are brought into new life. Our life grows when we try to follow the way of Jesus Christ, who wants to lead us to himself, since he is the Way, the Life and the Truth. We are called to support life, to avoid being cruel to others, to oppose bullying, to be kind to animals, to respect plants and flowers.

**Response to reading**

The wonder of life… What can I do to promote life?

**Prayers**

We give thanks for the gift of life.

That we may never take the gift of life for granted.

***Response: We thank you for the gift of life.***

That those whose life is threatened may be saved.

***Response: We thank you for the gift of life.***

That people would take more care for life on the roads.

***Response: We thank you for the gift of life.***

That those who care for life, especially doctors and nurses, parents and social workers may be generous and loving.

***Response: We thank you for the gift of life.***

That we may respect all life, especially those who are helpless and weak, and also all birds, animals and plants.

***Response: We thank you for the gift of life.***

[Other prayers]

***Response: We thank you for the gift of life.***

**Our Father…**

**Thought-Word-Phrase for the day**

**Open our eyes to see the wonder of life around us.**

**Blessing**

May the Risen Lord of Life bless us this day with all good gifts and fill our hearts and minds with new life. Amen.

**Concluding song or music**

*CFE O&N*

95 Bread of Life

275 Lord of the Dance

New life! New life! 371

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