

## Prayer and worship at home

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter, 2021**



*If a household are praying together, one person may act as leader and the others as the congregation and they join in the words in bold type.*

*If alone, read all the words aloud.*

*You may want to light a large candle before you begin, and have a Bible, cross or crucifix to look at.*

*You might prepare for this act of worship by listening to some music, or by being still*

### Preparation

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed, Alleluia!**

### Prayers of Penitence

*The Easter Faith is not about life-limiting and rule-keeping but is about reassurance, relationship, peace and trust. Even doubting Thomas is given all these gifts. Pray today that we can share these gifts of the spirit of Jesus with others even in the isolation of this current pandemic.*

*As we pray today, we give thanks for the gifts of healing and wholeness*

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins.

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you feed us by your hold word.

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

### Words of forgiveness

May the God of love and power  
forgive us and free us from our sins,  
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,  
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### The Special Prayer for this week

Risen Christ,  
for whom no door is locked, no entrance barred:  
open the doors of our hearts,  
that we may seek the good of others  
and walk the joyful road of sacrifice and peace,  
to the praise of God the Father. **Amen.**

### The Word of the Lord

**FIRST READING:** Acts 2. 14a, 22-32

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

On the day of Pentecost, Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, 'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know – this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence." Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, "He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh

experience corruption.” This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.’

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

**THE GOSPEL:** *John 20.19-31*

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John*  
**Glory to you, O Lord**

When it was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.’ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.’ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you.’ Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.’ Thomas answered him, ‘My Lord and my God!’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.’ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Affirmation of faith**

Let us declare our faith  
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Christ died for our sins  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he was buried;  
he was raised to life on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
afterwards he appeared to his followers,  
and to all the apostles:  
this we have received,  
and this we believe.  
Amen.**

### **Prayers of intercession**

*(Here you may wish to offer prayer in your own words,  
or be prompted by the words here)*

*We pray for the Church of God throughout the world:  
for the Diocese of Blackburn and for Julian, Philip and  
Jill our bishops...*

*We continue to give thanks for the resurrection of  
Jesus Christ and for the hope and light He brings into  
the world...*

*We pray for the Diocesan Coronavirus Task Group...*

*We pray for all living with Covid-19... for those caring  
for them and for all who are anxious or worried...*

*We pray for our NHS and all doctors and nurses...  
We remember those who have died in recent days, and  
all whom we love but see no longer... may they rest for  
ever in the light and peace of Christ.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Joining with Christians throughout the world,  
we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven....**

*or*

**Our Father in heaven....**

### **The Grace**

*We conclude our prayers*

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the fellowship of the  
Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen.**

Alleluia. Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

### **Readings for the coming week:**

Monday	Psalm 19	John 3.1-8
Tuesday	Psalm 8	John 3.7-15
Wednesday	Psalm 30	John 3.16-21
Thursday	Psalm 146	John 15.18-21
Friday	Psalm 61	John 6.1-15
Saturday	Psalm 148	Mark 13.5-13

