

Prayer and worship at home

Sunday 26th April, 2020
3rd Sunday of Easter



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 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!

The Act of Penitence

Signs of Christ's resurrection presence may come at us at unexpected times and from unexpected people. Let us pray for eyes to see, ears to hear and hearts to believe.

As we pray, we reflect on the week that has passed and ask the Lord for his forgiveness and healing.

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 with the living bread.

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,
you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh
hope:
strengthen us to proclaim your risen life
and fill us with your peace,
to the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

The Word of the Lord

FIRST READING : Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

On the day of Pentecost, Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, 'Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.' Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added to their number.

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

On that same day, two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad.

Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' Jesus asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see Jesus.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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 our world, especially at this time of anxiety
 and fear...*

We pray for our nation and its well-being...

*We pray for our government and all those who have the
 responsibility of making decisions affecting our future...*

*We pray for neighbours, family and friends and we
 remember all those self-isolating at the moment...*

*We pray for families where there are growing tensions,
 for relationships under great strain and for those whose
 feelings of loneliness are exacerbated...*

*We pray for all who are sick, worried or anxious, and
 for those who feel cut off from friends and family...*

*We pray for those who have died in recent days, and all
 whom we remember with love and affection....*

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 96	John 6.22-29
Tuesday	Psalm 98	John 6.30-35
Wednesday	Psalm 105	John 6.35-40
Thursday	Psalm 136	John 6.44-51
Friday	Psalm 119.1-8	John 14.1-14
Saturday	Psalm 42	John 6.60-69