

THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

EASTER SUNDAY - 12th April 2020



If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish, this Sunday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the “leader” parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your Sunday prayers. **The two symbols of Easter are water and fire: you might want to place a bowl of water and a candle in your prayer space today, to remember your Baptism and the Resurrection of the Lord.**

SIGN OF THE CROSS

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

INTRODUCTION

Leader: I have risen, and I am with you still, alleluia. You have laid your hand upon me, alleluia. Too wonderful for me, this knowledge, alleluia, alleluia.

Today, after the long journey of Lent, we celebrate the moment of great joy when Jesus rose to life again. Even though we are still living in challenging times, we pray that the joy of the resurrection may help us and give us hope, today and always. We praise God's glory as we say:

GLORIA

All: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray. O God, who on this day, through your Only Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life. 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.

All: Amen.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, and towards dawn on the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala and the other Mary went to visit the sepulchre. And all at once there was a violent earthquake, for the angel of the

Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled away the stone and sat on it. His face was like lightning, his robe white as snow. The guards were so shaken, so frightened of him, that they were like dead men. But the angel spoke; and he said to the women, 'There is no need for you to be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said he would. Come and see the place where he lay, then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has risen from the dead and now he is going before you to Galilee; it is there you will see him." Now I have told you.' Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell the disciples.

And there, coming to meet them, was Jesus. 'Greetings' he said. And the women came up to him and, falling down before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION

Leader: After the days of Lent we burst forth with joy at Easter! This may not seem that easy this year – there is uncertainty all around us, and we may not feel particularly joyful. Remember how the disciples took some time fully to realise the truth of his rising from the dead – not surprisingly! Jesus patiently helped them to believe in him, and to find a joy that nothing else could give. Whatever else is in our minds or hearts today, let us allow that glimmer of joy, that flash of hope that is Easter to speak to our hearts.

A THOUGHT FOR OUR YOUNGER FRIENDS:

Did you get an Easter egg this morning? If you haven't eaten it yet, you should get it out of its box and ROLL IT. Go on, do it now! This is to remind us of what happened to the stone in front of the place where Jesus was buried on Good Friday – it was ROLLED AWAY by the angels, so that Jesus could walk out of his tomb, ALIVE AGAIN. Today is a day to be happy and joyful – that might not always be easy, but we remember that Jesus has done an amazing thing: he gave his life for us, and rose again – not for himself, but for all of us,



so that when we are sad, we can remember the stone that rolled away!

PROFESSION OF FAITH



I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is

seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

Leader: Let us pray that the joy of the resurrection may help and sustain all people

Leader: Let us pray for our holy Father Pope Francis, that he may lead us in faith and charity. We pray:

All: Living Lord Jesus, hear us!

Leader: We pray for our parish family, our own families and our friends, that we may have joy. We pray:

All: Living Lord Jesus, hear us!

Leader: Jesus died and rose again to bring us eternal life: let us pray for anyone we know who has died, or those who mourn, that Easter may bring hope. We pray:

All: Living Lord Jesus, hear us!

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Leader: Exultant with paschal gladness, O Lord, we offer these prayers; grant that we may be wondrously reborn and nourished by your grace. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

PREPARATION FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Leader: Loving Father, it is our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but on this day 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. At the Last Supper he showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION



All: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

THANKSGIVING PSALM

Leader: 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.'

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Leader: The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up. I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Leader: The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

All: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING

Leader: Let us pray. Look upon your Church, O God, with unfailling love and favour, so that, renewed by the paschal mysteries, she may come to the glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: May the Lord ✠ bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord, alleluia, alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!