

An Order of Worship for Use at Home

Easter Day

April 12, 2020

Before you begin, choose a place for your devotion with a table or other flat surface and seating where you are comfortable, whether alone or gathered with your family.

Assemble the following:

A Candle to represent the presence of Christ

A Bible that you can place near the candle

A Cross

If you have others who can share in leading the worship, assign tasks for the reader, the intercessor, and the worship leader. When all are settled, the leader says:

Leader Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
People **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

As the candle is lit, the leader says:

Leader Dear friends in Christ: This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ was raised gloriously from the dead, crushing the power of sin and destroying the sting of death. Throughout the world Christians celebrate the mighty power of God as Christ calls us out of darkness to share in his marvelous light.
People **Amen.**

The Collect for Easter

Let us pray

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Read together or take turns

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; *
his mercy endures for ever.

- 2 Let Israel now proclaim, *
“His mercy endures for ever.”
- 14 The Lord is my strength and my song, *
and he has become my salvation.
- 15 There is a sound of exultation and victory *
in the tents of the righteous:
- 16 “The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! *
the right hand of the Lord is exalted! the right hand of the Lord
has triumphed!”
- 17 I shall not die, but live, *
and declare the works of the Lord.
- 18 The Lord has punished me sorely, *
but he did not hand me over to death.
- 19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; *
I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord.
- 20 “This is the gate of the Lord; *
he who is righteous may enter.”
- 21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me *
and have become my salvation.
- 22 The same stone which the builders rejected *
has become the chief cornerstone.
- 23 This is the Lord’s doing, *
and it is marvelous in our eyes.
24. On this day the Lord has acted;
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

The First Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he 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."

Wonder for a moment: how do we hear the message of God? Are you confident in going forth to preach the gospel yourself? What does it mean to be a witness to all that Christ did?

The Second Reading is from John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take

him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Wonder for a moment about this story of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Why does Mary Magdalene wait outside the tomb? Do we need to see in order to believe? What part of the story speaks to you? Focus on that word or phrase and invite God to reveal a deeper meaning for you from God’s word today.

If you have time, please also read the Easter homily from St John Chrysostom.

The Apostles' Creed

All say together

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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 the life everlasting. Amen.

Benedictus

**All The Lord is risen from the tomb
who for our sakes hung upon the tree.**

- 1 Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, •
who has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty Savior, •
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets God promised of old •
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,
- 4 To show mercy to our ancestors, •
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: •
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear, •
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
- 7 And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, •
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation •
by the forgiveness of all their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God •
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, •
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**All The Lord is risen from the tomb
who for our sakes hung upon the tree.**

Intercessory Prayer

Leader:

Alleluia! What was dead shall live; what was dark shall shine; what was forgotten shall be remembered, for the Lord is risen and walks among us. Let us confidently bring before God the needs of all our world, asking God for renewal, saying Christ is risen, Christ is risen indeed.

Intercessor God of life, in gratitude and great joy we laud you for the gifts of Christ's resurrection. On this day give us hope, for Christ is risen:
People **Christ is risen indeed.**

Intercessor On this feast day which brings joy to all Christian believers, may we commit ourselves to work toward the unity of the church, that Christ's body may be one, for Christ is risen:
People **Christ is risen indeed.**

Intercessor Honoring the gift of Christ's risen body, may we rise to serve all those whose needs keep them from seeing themselves as the image of God; for Christ is risen:
People **Christ is risen indeed.**

Intercessor For all who have a need of the gift of Easter; for all who journey from illness to health, from despair to hope, from grief to consolation, from loneliness to love; and those we hold in our hearts...; for all our brothers and sisters, that death may have no more power over us, for Christ is risen:
People **Christ is risen indeed.**

Intercessor For all who suffer and mourn, especially..., that today the Lord God will wipe away all tears, for Christ is risen:
People **Christ is risen indeed.**

Intercessor May we have the persistent faith of Mary Magdalene and the surprised belief of Peter and John. May we long to be God's sign of life in our world, for Christ is risen:
People **Christ is risen indeed.**

People add their own prayers either silently or aloud

Intercessor May we be one faith with all who have died in Christ, for our life is hid with Christ in God; for Christ is risen:
People **Christ is risen indeed.**

Concluding Collect

The Leader says

Heavenly Father, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: grant that, as his death has recalled us to life, so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

A Prayer During this Time of Separation

Lord of the Feast, we thank you for gathering us as your people. We call to remembrance the many times we have been fed at your table and we lament our distance now. Be present Lord Jesus as you were present with your disciples, be known to us in the breaking of the bread, and may your Holy Spirit sustain us and all your Church until we can gather together again. We ask this for the sake of your love. Amen.

The Conclusion

May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life.
All Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.
All Thanks be to God.