

An Order of Worship for Use at Home

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 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

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,
to you be praise and glory for ever.
As once you ransomed your people from Egypt
and led them to freedom in the promised land,
so now you have delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your risen Son.
May we, the first fruits of your new creation,
rejoice in this new day you have made,
and praise you for your mighty acts.
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People **Amen.**

The Collect for the Third Sunday of Easter

Let us pray

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people;
Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who
calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with
you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever
and ever. **Amen.**

Psalm 23

Read together or take turns

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
- 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
- 3 He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
- 4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- 5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
- 6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

The First Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Wonder for a moment: how would you respond to the works of the apostles? With awe or skepticism? The early Church was communal, with all goods and possessions shared. Can we return to a more communal model today? If not, why not?

The Gospel Reading is from John 10:1-10

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

Wonder for a moment about this story of Jesus teaching his followers. Do you listen to the voice of Jesus? What is he saying to you at the present time? What do you think Jesus means by "abundant life?"

If you have time, please also read the sermon from St Gregory the Great.

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:

On this day that the Lord has made,
let us pray for the people he has redeemed.

That we may live as those who believe in the triumph of the cross:
Lord, hear our prayer.

That all people may receive the good news of his victory:
Lord, hear our prayer.

That those born to new life in the waters of baptism
may know the power of his resurrection:
Lord, hear our prayer.

That those who suffer pain and anguish
may find healing and peace in the wounds of Christ:
Lord, hear our prayer.

That in the undying love of Christ
we may be united with all who have died in the faith of Christ:
Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us commend the world, in which Christ rose from the dead,
to the mercy and protection of God.

Open prayer may be offered and silence is kept.

Concluding Collect

The Leader says

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,
that we may seek those things which are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
let us pray with confidence as our Savior 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. Alleluia. Alleluia.
All Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.