

# **An Order of Worship for Use at Home**

## **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

### **May 17, 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 Sixth Sunday of Easter*

Let us pray

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## Psalm 66:7-18

*Read together or take turns*

- 7 Bless our God, you peoples; \*  
make the voice of his praise to be heard;
- 8 Who holds our souls in life, \*  
and will not allow our feet to slip.
- 9 For you, O God, have proved us; \*  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.
- 10 You brought us into the snare; \*  
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
- 11 You let enemies ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and water; \*  
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
- 12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings  
and will pay you my vows, \*  
which I promised with my lips  
and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
- 13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts  
with the smoke of rams; \*  
I will give you oxen and goats.
- 14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, \*  
and I will tell you what he has done for me.
- 15 I called out to him with my mouth, \*  
and his praise was on my tongue.
- 16 If I had found evil in my heart, \*  
the Lord would not have heard me;
- 17 But in truth God has heard me; \*  
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, \*  
nor withheld his love from me.

*The First Reading is from the Acts of the Apostles 17:22-31*

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

*Wonder for a moment about this story of Paul speaking to the Athenians. Notice how he cleverly quotes the inscription on an altar. The Athenians were highly educated and skeptical. How did they react to Paul's speech? (Acts 17:32). How would you preach the gospel to a group of educated people?*

*The Gospel Reading is from John 14:15-21*

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

*Wonder for a moment about this story of Jesus speaking to the disciples. We do not instinctively associate the concept of love with the demand to be faithful to a series of rules. Why are they related? How does the Holy Spirit - the Advocate - help us to live righteous and moral lives?*

*If you have time, please also read the commentary from St Cyril of Alexandria.*

## **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*

God our redeemer,  
you have delivered us from the power of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:  
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,  
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us  
to eternal joy;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and 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.