

Celebrating Holy Week & Easter at Home with Children



2020

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Holy Week 2020

Dear People of God,

We have entered a wilderness most of us could not have imagined when we set out on our Lenten journey back in February. Who could have envisioned sheltering at home, trying to hold an invisible enemy at bay? Who could have imagined not being together for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter?

We will spend this year apart, but we will not be alone. Jesus Christ promises never to leave us. In baptism, we were made part of him. We are therefore part of one another, so *we* are never truly apart, either—never truly isolated.

The song *We are the church* composed by Jim Yackel says “The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is a PEOPLE!”

And one of the primary places that people have always been with and worshipped God is in their homes. The liturgies of the church, designed for the gathered people of God, were not intended to be the church’s only—or even primary—expressions of worship. Perhaps one of the enduring gifts of this period of exile from our buildings and gatherings will be the recovery of worship at home.

This little booklet is designed to encourage you to celebrate Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Sunday—the holiest week of the Christian year in your home as a family.

You are invited to use the bits that work for you, and tailor them to your needs and circumstances.

There will be some opportunities for us to worship together virtually—some live-streamed, and some prerecorded. But these virtual worship services are designed to supplement the praying, reflecting, singing, reading and contemplating you will do at home this week.

As this goes to print, Bishop Gutiérrez plans to live stream worship from the Philadelphia Cathedral on Easter Day for the entire diocese.

Know you are in my heart and in my prayers, especially now at this holy time of year.

In faith and hope,
Pastor Nancy+

Creating a Sacred Space at Home

Setting aside time and space to be with God is an important part of growing in faith. Perhaps you already have a time of day that you devote to being with the Holy One. Many people choose the beginning or ending of the day for prayer time.

Perhaps you already have a special place in your home devoted to God. Some people have a special place they sit, or a special picture or a cross that helps them to draw near to God. Sometimes meaningful objects, like prayer beads, or candles or books, like a Bible or Prayer Book can help us prepare to be with God. Just seeing these objects and spaces can be a reminder to turn towards God throughout the day.

If you have never thought about having a special time or creating a sacred space in your home, perhaps you'll want to do it this year, since access to the shared sacred spaces at Trinity is restricted. Invite your children to participate in choosing a sacred space and what should be in it.

A sacred space need not be elaborate. Indeed, simplicity is desirable. A small table, a cleared bookshelf, a tray table or window sill will do. Here are some things you might include:

- A cloth of some sort. Purple is the color of Lent. White is always appropriate—a reminder of baptism.
- A candle, or a battery operated candle. Lighting the candle at the beginning and extinguishing it at the end helps mark the time as dedicated to the one who is the Light. If you have your baptismal candles, this is a great time to light them.
- A small bowl of water, as a reminder of baptism.
- A cross as a symbol of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- A prayer book or a bible
- An object from nature—like a stone or a shell or an acorn. God's first self-revelation is Creation!

It is best if this sacred space can be in a place you are not in and out of all the time, and one that is not always interrupted by the television. It's great if this space can always be available to whoever lives in your home when they want to dedicate some intentional time to being with God. But not everyone can dedicate a space like this. You may need to make your sacred space a pop-up space—one that you set up and take down again. You could keep a cloth, candle and special object in a small box or a bag and set it up when you are ready to pray.

Take a picture of yourselves in your sacred space and shared it with me!

Lectio Divina:

an approach to praying with scripture

The phrase *lectio divina*, is the Latin for “sacred reading.” It is a slow, contemplative praying of the Scriptures. In sum, *lectio divina* may be said to be a kind of divine picking or choosing of a given sentence, phrase or word through which God wishes to speak right now. It is undertaken not with the intention of gaining information but of using the texts as an aide first to contact the living God and secondly, to sustain that contact.

How to Practice Lectio Divina

Choose a text of the Scriptures that you wish to pray. The readings in this booklet are taken from *God's Word, My Voice: A Lectionary for Children* by Lyn Zill Briggs. You can use *lectio divina* alone, or as a family.

Gather in your sacred place and light your candle(s). Take a few deep breaths and allow yourself to become quiet. You might want to sing “I am calm, I am still, as I wait on the Lord.” Or pray “Come, Lord Jesus, speak to us through your Word.”

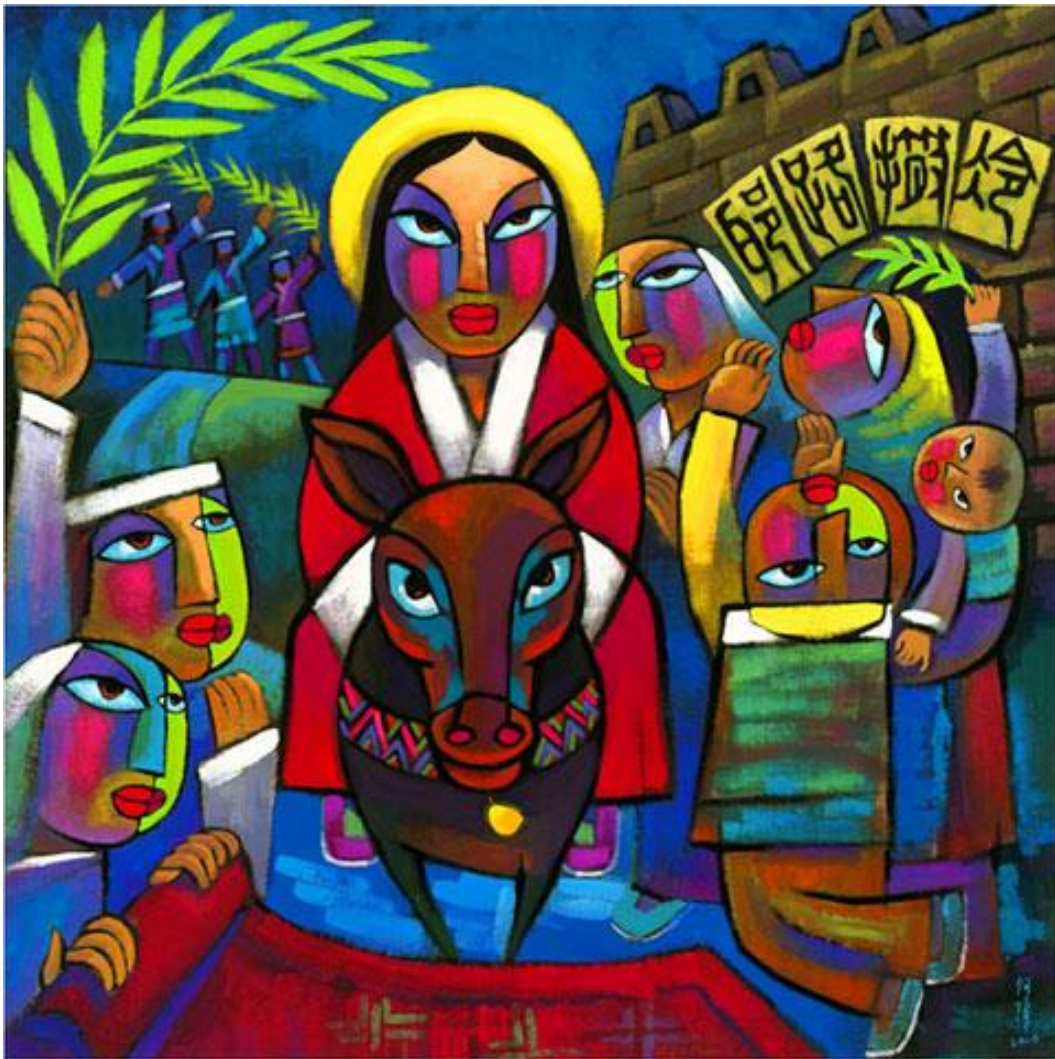
Turn to the text and read it through slowly, gently. Read it again and listening for the “still, small voice” of a word or phrase that somehow says, “I am for you today.” What fascinates you, bothers you, troubles you, thrills you, haunts you, disturbs you, interests you, or otherwise jumps up to meet you? Where is the Spirit saying “Stop and dig here!”? This is a great way to read the Bible with your child(ren). Allow them to choose what attracts their attention. Talk about it. Wonder about their questions. You don't have to have the answers!

Give whatever rises up in you during this time to God and listen for God's response. Speak to God as one who you know loves and accepts you. Offer to God whatever has presented itself during your meditation on God's word. Ask God to continue to be with you and speak to you.

Rest in God's embrace. Give thanks that God is with you in both words and silence, in spiritual activity and inner receptivity.

If you wish, end your time with the Lord's Prayer.

Palm Sunday



He Qi Palm Sunday

The Liturgy of the Palms

For this service you will also need palms, or branches from your yard.

Pray:

It is right to praise you, Almighty God, for the acts of love by which you have redeemed us through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. On this day he entered the holy city of Jerusalem in triumph, and was proclaimed as King of kings by those who spread their garments and branches of palm along his way.

Read:

Matthew 21:1-11

When Jesus and his disciples were at the Mount of Olives just outside Jerusalem, Jesus called two of the disciples and said, “Go into town. Right away you will see a donkey tied up, with a colt. Untie them and bring them here. If anyone asks you what you’re doing, just say, ‘The Lord needs them,’ and he will let you take them.” (The prophets had said that the king would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey and a colt—so this pointed to Jesus as the king.”

So they went as Jesus asked them to, got the donkey and colt and Jesus rode into town. There were lots of people around when they heard Jesus was in town. They began to spread their coats on the road in front of them, and cut down branches from the trees, and put them on the road for him to ride on like a carpet. The crowd was shouting “Hosanna to the Son of David! He is so blessed. Hosanna way up in heaven!” when they finally reached Jerusalem, everyone was abuzz. “Who could this possibly be that is causing such excitement?” Of course the crowds answered, “It’s Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth!”

Hold up palms or branches from your yard and pray

Let these branches be for us signs of his victory, and grant that we who bear them in his name may ever hail him as our King, and follow him in the way that leads to eternal life; who lives and reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Say this several times, maybe the adults will say the first part and the children the second part:

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Try this: Process with your branches around your home (or face in the direction of different rooms and spaces. Talk about how you might make Jesus welcome in each of these places. For example, in the dining room you might talk about inviting someone who is lonely to have dinner with you after we are done with social distancing.

This is probably enough for today. Palm Sunday also includes the story of Jesus' arrest, trial, crucifixion and death. We read the passion story ("passio" is Latin for "suffering") on Palm Sunday as a sober reminder that to proclaim Jesus king is to refuse to give anything or anyone else ultimate rule in our lives. Palm Sunday is not simply about cheering for King Jesus—it is also about the cost of being obedient citizens of his kingdom and following him in truth-telling, justice-doing, peace-making, forgiving and loving. Doing those things cost Jesus his life, and they might cost us ours as well. You might want to tell the rest of the story briefly. Say something like this:

Not everyone liked what Jesus said and did. If he was king, then other leaders were not. After Jesus came into Jerusalem on the donkey and the colt, he taught in the Temple, and he told his disciples some important things. We'll hear more about them this week. But then the leaders who did not like Jesus came and arrested him. They made fun of him, bullied him, and hurt him. They took everything from him, even his clothes. And they nailed him to a cross. Then Jesus died. His disciples took him down from the cross and buried him. We know that's not the end of the story, because on Easter Day the women came to the place where he had been buried, and they found it was empty. Jesus was alive. Just wait until next Sunday when we get to read that story!

Pray:

Almighty and everliving God, in your tender love for the human race you sent your Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our nature, and to suffer death upon the cross, giving us the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may walk in the way of his suffering, and also share in his resurrection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Pray the Lord's Prayer

The Great Three Days:

Maundy Thursday

Good Friday

The Great Vigil of Easter



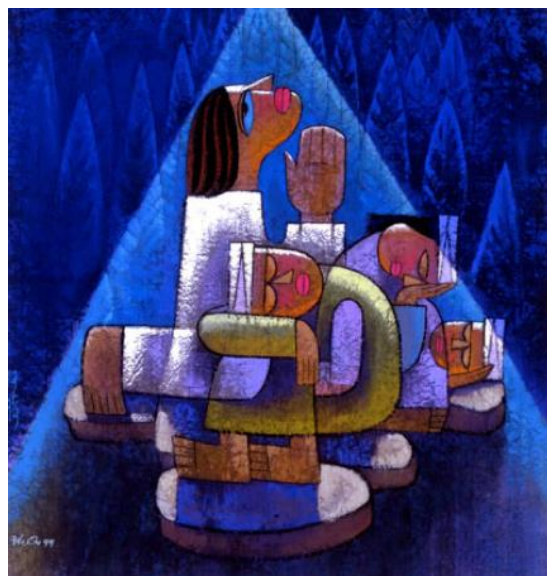
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The Triduum—the Great Three Day feast of Easter—which includes Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil can be thought of as an intensive course in what it means to be a Christian. The whole thing is a post-resurrection celebration—an *Easter* liturgy. Our intentional hearing, singing, washing, eating and praying on these days teach us what it means to be a people of the cross *and* resurrection. These services are really all *one* single service, and we are not dismissed until Saturday night, when, raised with Christ, we are sent forth into the world, on fire with the good news of the resurrection.

Maundy Thursday: We remember Jesus' command or mandate (in Latin *mandatum*...becomes *Maundy* in English) that we love one another as he has loved us, a command enacted in serving others and made sacramental in washing another's feet.

Good Friday: Why do we call this day on which Jesus died on the cross "good"? Perhaps it is the Anglicized (English) version of God's Friday—*Gottes Freitag*. But there is more. We read from the passion according John, which proclaims Jesus as a triumphant king who reigns from the cross. We ought not to mourn on this day, but to give thanks. On the cross, Christ draws the whole world into God's reconciling love. We find strength, hope and salvation in the tree of life.

The Great Vigil of Easter: This is *the* night to be immersed in who we are as God's people. Around a candle lit from a new fire, we are filled to the brim with the stories of God's saving acts on our behalf—stories which both refresh and perplex us. Just as Good Friday contains elements of both suffering and triumph, so does the Vigil. This is our Passover with Christ from darkness to light, from bondage to freedom, from death to life.



Maundy Thursday



Maundy Thursday

Before you begin the service, set out a bowl of water and a clean towel. It would be wonderful to wash one another's feet tonight. You will need a bowl or basin big enough for this. You might want to add some bubble bath. If you choose not to do this, put out a smaller bowl to wash one another's hands. Begin by becoming quiet and looking at the bowl and towel for a moment.

Pray:

Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was servant of all, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Read:

Gospel Lesson

John 13: 1-15

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus knew his time was short, and he loved his disciples now even more, right until the end. Judas was ready to hand Jesus over to the authorities so that could arrest him. During supper Jesus took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around his waist like a servant would. He poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet and wipe them with the towel he had wrapped around himself. He came to Simon Peter, who was shocked and said to Jesus, "What are you doing? Are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus answered him, "I know you don't know what I'm doing now, but you will. You'll understand later." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered "Unless you let me wash you there is no point in following me." Simon Peter said to him "Lord, okay. Don't just wash my feet, then. Wash my hands and my head too, please!" Jesus said to him, "You are already clean, Peter. But not all of you in this room are clean." Jesus said that because he knew what was in Judas' heart.

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you understand what I have just done? You know I'm your teacher. So if I, your teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.

I just gave you an example that you should follow, that you also should do what I just did for you. You will be blessed if you follow my example. If you love each other, everyone will know by looking at you and how you treat each other that you are my disciples.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Here you may wish to wash the feet of those who are with you in your home. Talk about what Jesus meant when he said that we should love one another and serve one another. If you wish to wash hands instead as you remember Jesus washing his disciples’ feet, talk about what St. Teresa of Avila said: “Christ has no body but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body.”

Prayers after the Washing

The Lord Jesus, after he had supped with his disciples and had washed their feet, said to them, “Do you know what I, your Lord and Master, have done to you? I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done.’

Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.

I give you a new commandment: Love one another as I have loved you.

Peace is my last gift to you, my own peace I now leave with you; peace which the world cannot give, I give to you.

By this shall the world know that you are my disciples: That you have love for one another.

Prayers for the church and the world

Father, on this the night he was betrayed, your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples’ feet. We commit ourselves to follow his example of love and service.

Lord, hear us, and humble us.

On this night he prayed for his disciples to be one. We pray for the unity of your church. **Lord hear us, and unite us.**

On this night, he prayed for those who were to believe through their message. We pray for the mission of your church. **Lord, hear us, and renew our zeal.**

On this night he commanded them to love, but suffered rejection himself. We pray for the rejected and the unloved. **Lord, hear us, and fill us with your love.**

On this night, he reminded them that if the world hated them it hated him first. We pray for those who are persecuted for their faith. **Lord, hear us and give us your peace.**

Here other intercessions may be offered, either silently or aloud.

O God, into your love we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

After Jesus washed his disciples' feet, he went out and was arrested. Remembering Jesus is going to his death you may wish to remove all of the things that adorn your sacred space and put them away until the Easter proclamation at the Great Vigil.

The service will continue tomorrow night.

Good Friday



Good Friday

Your sacred space should be empty for this service. Place a cross on your table, or a picture of a cross. Sit with the cross in silence and when you are ready, begin.

Pray:

Almighty God, look with mercy on your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Read:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

The Passion of our Lord

John 18:1-19:42

(This narrative is taken from "The Easter Story" by Brian Wildsmith.

As Jesus was praying, suddenly a crowd of people came into the garden. They were led by Judas, one of Jesus' friends, and they seized Jesus and dragged him away. Judas had betrayed his friend.

The rest of Jesus' friends ran away. Simon Peter didn't run away but followed the crowd through the city. Three times Simon Peter was stopped. "You are a friend of Jesus," people said.

Simon Peter was afraid. "No," he said. "Not I."

At last they came to the house of Caiaphas, the High Priest of the Temple. Caiaphas asked Jesus, "Are you the Son of God?"

"I am," Jesus replied.

The High Priest said, "How can any man speak this way of God? What do you say?"

"He deserves to die," everyone cried.

The crowd left Caiaphas's house and took Jesus to Pilate, the Roman governor, to see that he was punished.

Jesus stood in front of Pilate, the chief priests from the temple, and a huge crowd of people.

“Are you the King of the Jews?” asked Pilate.

“Those are your words,” said Jesus.

The priests then accused Jesus of many things. “Have you no answer to make to them?” said Pilate. But Jesus didn’t answer.

“What shall I do with him?” Pilate asked the crowd.

“Crucify him,” everyone shouted.

“Take him and crucify him, then,” said Pilate. “I wash my hands of him.”

So the soldiers took Jesus away. They put a crown made of thorns on his head and made fun of him. “Hail King of the Jews!” they said. They gave him a huge cross of wood and forced him to carry it.

They led Jesus to a hill outside the city. There they crucified him between two thieves.

Then Jesus knew that his work was finished, and he bowed his head and he gave up his spirit.

A rich man named Joseph asked Pilate for the body of Jesus. He wrapped the body in a clean linen sheet. And he carried it to a new tomb, which had been cut out of a rock. Joseph laid the body inside and rolled a huge stone in front of the entrance.

Reflect Jesus’ cross is the great a tree of life in which we all may shelter. You may shelter there today. And all those things in all the world that we pray for today, God holds together in Jesus Christ.

Our prayers for the world are drawn into Jesus’ saving action on the cross: “When I am up from the earth, I will draw the world to me” John 12:32

Pray:

Dear Members of God’s family we pray for

The church throughout the world

We pray for the Jewish people, the first to hear the word of God

We pray for those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ

We pray for those who do not believe in God

We pray for God’s creation

We pray for all our leaders

We pray for those in any need or trouble

We pray for those who are afflicted by corona virus and those who care for them.

Turn your focus to the cross and contemplate the mystery of Good Friday: an instrument of shameful death has become the Tree of Life.

Pray:

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, we pray you to set your passion, cross, and death between your judgment and our souls, now and in the hour of our death. Give mercy and grace to the living; pardon and rest to the dead; to your holy Church peace and concord; and to us sinners everlasting life and glory; for with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The service will continue tomorrow night.

The Great Vigil of Easter



Place an unlit candle and a bowl of water on the table. When you are ready, light the candle and begin:

Pray:

The light of Christ rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.
Thanks be to God.

Sing:

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT
(Easter Vigil text)

Bernadette Farrell

Verses



1. This is the night of new be - gin - nings. This is the
2. This is the night Christ our re - deem - er rose from the
3. Now will the fire kin - dled in dark - ness burn to dis -
4. Sing of the hope deep - er than dy - ing. Sing of the
5. In - to this world morn - ing is break - ing. All of God's



1. night when heav - en meets earth. This is the night _____
2. grave tri - um - phant and free, leav - ing the tomb of
3. pel the shad - ows of night. Star of the morn - ing,
4. pow'r _____ strong - er than death. Sing of the love _____
5. peo - ple, lift up your voice. Cry out with joy, _____



1. filled with God's glo - ry, prom - ise of our new birth!
2. e - vil and dark - ness, emp - ty for all to see.
3. Je - sus our Sav - ior, you are the world's true light!
4. end - less as heav - en, dawn - ing through - out the earth.
5. tell out the sto - ry, all of the earth re - joice.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.



Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light!



Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.

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Pray:

O God, you are the creator of the world, the liberator of your people, and the wisdom of the earth. By the resurrection of your Son, free us from our fears, restore us in your image and ignite us with your light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Read:

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, how God saved the people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

Choose any or all of these five Old Testament lessons to read. Or you may watch Pastor Nancy tell them on YouTube or you may watch on Facebook Live at 7 pm on April 11.

Genesis 1:1-2:4a *The Story of Creation*

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so.

God made the two great lights--the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night--and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Reflect: Especially now we long for an ordered world. In spite of Death and sorrow, the resurrection of Jesus Christ contains the promise of a new creation. Baptized into his death and resurrection, we are made witnesses to God's new creation, and it is very good.

+ + +

Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13 *The Story of the Great Flood*

The LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." And Noah did all that the LORD had commanded him.

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, on the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep burst forth, and the windows of the heavens were opened. The rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights. On the very same day Noah with his sons, Shem and Ham and Japheth, and Noah's wife and the three wives of his sons entered the ark, they and every wild animal of every kind, and all domestic animals of every kind, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth, and every bird of every kind-- every bird, every winged creature. They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the LORD shut him in.

The flood continued forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it rose high above the earth. The waters swelled and increased greatly on the earth; and the ark floated on the face of the waters.

At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening,

and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more.

In the six hundred first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the waters were dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and saw that the face of the ground was drying. In the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry. Then God said to Noah, "Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons' wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh-- birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth-- so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth." So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives.

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Reflect: Despite the many ways we have marred the good creation, God does not give up on us. In baptism we are washed clean, stood on dry ground and sent forth to be signs of God's covenant of love.

+ + +

Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, 'Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." But Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom

you see today you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for you, and you have only to keep still."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers."

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing. And Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
horse and rider he has thrown into the sea."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Reflect: We are held captive by many things. We long for freedom from fear and confusion, sin and death. The resurrection of Jesu Christ delivers us from all that seeks to enslave us and brings us through the sea to new life. The water of baptism is the water of our Exodus.

+ + +

Ezekiel 37:1-14 The Valley of Dry Bones

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and

bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Reflect: We are the dry bones. The Spirit of God, poured out from Christ's death and resurrection makes us alive together with him, a whole people standing together in new life, even when we feel beyond hope, even when we are separated from each other.

+ + +

Jonah 1:1-2:1 Jonah runs away from God

Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, 'Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me.' But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD.

But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up. Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried to his god. They threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the ship and had lain down, and was fast asleep. The captain came and said to him, 'What are you doing sound asleep? Get up, call on your god! Perhaps the god will spare us a thought so that we do not perish.'

The sailors said to one another, 'Come, let us cast lots, so that we may know on whose account this calamity has come upon us.' So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. Then they said to him, 'Tell us why this calamity has come upon us. What is your occupation? Where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?' 'I am a Hebrew,' he replied. 'I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.' Then the men were even more afraid, and said to him, 'What is this that you have done!' For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them so.

Then they said to him, 'What shall we do to you, that the sea may quieten down for us?' For the sea was growing more and more tempestuous. He said to them, 'Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quieten down for you; for I know it is

because of me that this great storm has come upon you.’ Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to bring the ship back to land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them. Then they cried out to the LORD, ‘Please, O LORD, we pray, do not let us perish on account of this man’s life. Do not make us guilty of innocent blood; for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you.’ So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the LORD even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows. But the LORD provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.**

Reflect: We often run away from our vocations as witnesses to new life, hope and forgiveness in Christ. His resurrection, like Jonah coming out of the fish after three days, and our baptism into that resurrection, renews and restores us to our vocation.

Now read this:

Matthew 28:1-10 The Empty Tomb

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Reflect: The women are weeping, and so are we. But do not weep. The Risen Christ calls his greetings to each of us and tells us not to be afraid. And remember the other readings: Jesus rescues us from floods and slavery, he restores our vocation, he makes our dry bones to live in his new creation.

Rejoice!

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

In remembrance of your baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, confess the baptismal creed:

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.

And with God's help, I will continue in the apostle's teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread and in the prayers. I will persevere in resisting evil. Whenever I fall into sin, I will repent and return to the Lord. I will proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ. I will seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving my neighbor as myself. And I will strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being.

Use the water in the bowl to trace a sign of the cross on your forehead as you remember your baptism.

Pray the PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

On this most holy night, we pray for the church, the earth, the world, those in need, and all the members of God's family.

We pray, O God, for all the churches around the globe:

O God, you are our Temple: in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray, O God, for the well-being of creation:

O God, you are our Rainbow of promise: in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray, O God, for peace and justice in the world

O God, you are our Mighty Fortress: in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray, O God for all who are facing the coronavirus:

O God, you are our Everlasting Arms: in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray, O God, for all in need: O God, you are the Healer of our every ill: in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray, O God, for the desires of our hearts: *A period of silence.*

O God, you are our Heart's Desire: in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Receive our thanks for all who died in the faith, and bring us at the final resurrection into your everlasting life, where sorrows will be no more.

O God, our Beginning and our End, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Into your gracious and mighty hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

The Lord's Prayer:

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.

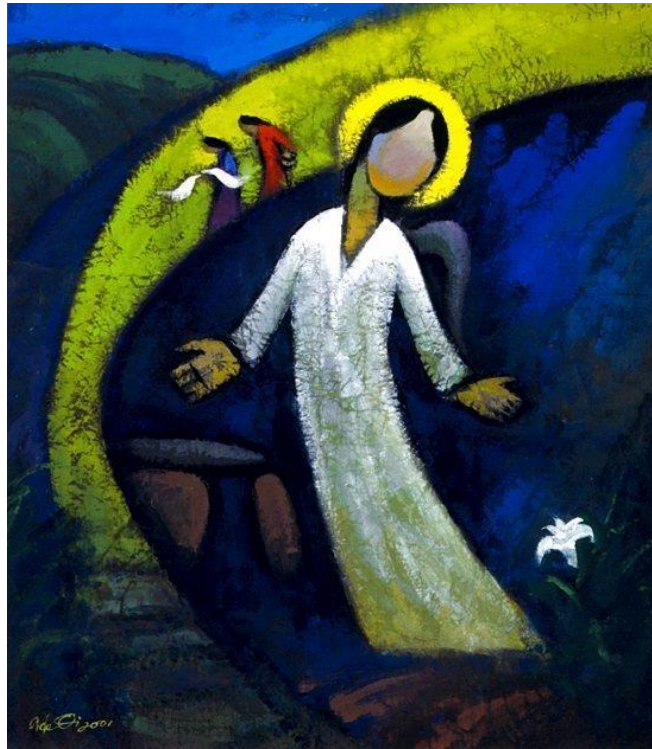
Pray this prayer and speak these final sentences:

Eternal giver of life and light, this holy night shines with the radiance of the risen Christ. Renew your church with the Spirit given us in baptism, that we may worship

you in sincerity and truth and may shine as a light in the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever. Amen.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!



Easter Day



If you are able, go outside and ring a bell at 10 am

Easter Day

Rejoice!

Alleluia. Christ is risen. **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

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.

Read:

Gospel Lesson:

John 20:1-18

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Early on Sunday morning, before the sun ever came up, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb where they had laid Jesus' body. She saw that the stone they'd rolled across the entrance had been removed. She wasn't sure what had happened so she ran to find Simon Peter and the other disciple that Jesus loved and said, "Someone has taken Jesus out of his tomb, and I have no idea where they've taken him."

Peter and the other disciple went running right away to check things out. The other disciple beat Peter to the tomb. He looked in the tomb and saw the cloths they had wrapped Jesus in, but no Jesus. Peter caught up with him and walked right into the tomb. He saw the cloths lying there too, but also saw the cloth that had been on Jesus' head rolled up in the corner by itself. Then the other disciple came in, and when they saw what was in there, he believed. At first they didn't understand what they'd been told in the scripture about Jesus rising from the dead.

They left the tomb and went home, leaving Mary standing there crying. When she looked inside the tomb, she saw two angels sitting where Jesus' body had been. They asked her why she was crying. She told them, "Someone took Jesus away and I have no idea where his body is." Then she turned around and saw Jesus standing right in front of her! But she didn't recognize him. Jesus said to her, "Why are you crying? What are you looking for?" at first she thought he was the man in charge of the garden, and she said, "Sir, if you took him somewhere else, let me know where he is and I'll take him away with me." The Jesus said, "Mary." She recognized his voice

and turned around and said “Teacher!” (That’s what she used to call him.) “It’s really you!” Jesus told her not to grab him to keep him there, that he was going to go to his Father. “Go tell my brothers that I’m going to be with our God, the father of us all,” he said. So she ran to find the disciples to tell them that she had actually seen Jesus and talked to him. And she told them what Jesus said.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Reflect: When have you heard love call your name? When did you first know that God’s love for you was real? What word of hope do you need today? How can you be a word of hope for others?

God, Creator, Sun maker, Moon maker, Star maker,
In love you made us. Thank you God.

THANK YOU GOD.

God in Jesus, Storyteller, Healer, Teacher,
In joy you came for us. Thank you God.

THANK YOU GOD.

God here among us, Comforter, Listener, Disturber,
In justice you beckon us. Thank you God.

THANK YOU GOD.

Prayers of the People for Eastertide

Let us pray for the church, the world and one another saying “Awake, O Sleeper,
rise from death, **and Christ will give you life!**”

Bring newness and change to your church, O God, that we might serve you with
courage and grace.

Awake, O Church, rise from death, **and Christ will give you life!**

Bring newness and change to your world, O God. We pray especially in this time of
vigil and anxiety surrounding the corona virus:

for the thousands who have contracted the virus

for all who mourn their dead

for all who are quarantined

for those who are stranded away from home

for those who have lost their employment

for those who fear the present and the future

for children who cannot assemble for school

for parents with needs for child care
for physicians, nurses, and home health aides
for hospitals and clinics
for volunteers who are serving their communities
for medical researchers
for the World Health Organization
for adequate and wise governmental policies. .

Awake, O World, rise from death, **and Christ will give you life!**

Bring newness and change to our nation, O God, that all might care for and honor the other.

Awake, O People, rise from death, **and Christ will give you life!**

Bring newness and change for the suffering, O God, that they might know your saving help. We pray for the dying, that they may know the joy of you
Resurrection.

Awake, O Sorrowful, rise from death, **and Christ will give you life!**

Bring newness and change to even the departed, O God, that they might forever grow in your likeness.

Awake, O Saints, rise from death, **and Christ will give you life!**

Bring newness and change to our hearts, O God, that we might grow larger in faith and hope.

Awake, O Soul, rise from death, **and Christ will give you life!**

Awake, O sleeper rise from death, for Christ has burst forth from the tomb, making all things new. Rise and live says the Lord. This day God has made for life and all joy! Amen, Alleluia! **Alleluia, amen!**

The Lord's Prayer:

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.

The peace of Christ be with us always!

Pray this prayer and speak these final sentences:

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us children through the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord, bestow upon us the riches of his blessing.

God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make us holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever.

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring us to your eternal inheritance.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

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