

Sunday Prayers for the Second Sunday of Easter

11 April 2021

*The Gathering*¹

Alleluia, Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia, Alleluia!

May Christ's grace and peace be with you.

May Christ fill our hearts with joy!

*Thanksgiving for Baptism*²

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God,
now and forever.

Amen.

The Easter Anthems³

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us:
so let us celebrate the feast,
**not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.**

1 Corinthians 5.7b, 8

Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:
death has no more dominion over him.
**In dying he died to sin once for all:
in living he lives to God.**

See yourselves therefore as dead to sin:
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6.9—11

Christ has been raised from the dead:
the first fruits of those who sleep.
**For as by man came death:
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;**

for as in Adam all die:
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15.20—22

**Glory to God,
Source of all being, Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever.
Amen.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.
Amen.

The First Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Acts 4.32—35

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

Oh, how good and pleasant it is, •
when God's people live together in unity.

**It is like fine oil upon the head •
that runs down upon the beard,**

Upon the beard of Aaron, •
and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

**It is like the dew of Hermon, •
falling upon the hill of Zion.**

For there the Lord promised the blessing, •
which is life for evermore.

Psalm 133

**Glory to God,
Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.
Amen.**

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Saint John.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

John 20.19—31

The gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Reflection

The Prayers of the People

Versicle and Response:

V We sing your praises, Holy One;

R Fill us with your risen life.

The Lord's Prayer

As Jesus teaches us, so we pray:

**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.**

**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,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

The Collect⁴

O God, our beginning and our end:
accept our doubts,
heal our desire for certainty and,
by your Spirit's gentle touch,
make us a people forgiven and forgiving;
through Jesus Christ, the Giver of Peace;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Alleluia, Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed Alleluia, Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

¹ *Book of Alternative Services*. Anglican Church of Canada.

² *Sundays and Seasons*. Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

³ *Common Praise: Daily Prayer*. Church of England. “Morning Prayer. Easter.” 263—64.

⁴ *Alternative Collects*. Anglican Church of Canada. <https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/Alternative-RCL-Collects-Final-2019.pdf>