

Sunday Prayers for the Fourth Sunday of Easter

25 April 2021

*The Gathering*¹

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! 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.

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family.

When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, ‘By what power or by what name did you do this?’

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is “the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.”

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.’

Acts 4.5—12

Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd; •
therefore can I lack nothing.

**You, Lord, make me lie down in green pastures, •
and lead me beside the waters of peace.**

You revive my spirit, •
and guide me in right pathways for your name's sake.
**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, •**

for you are with me: your rod and your staff are my comfort.
**You spread a table for me in the sight of my enemies; •
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is overflowing.**

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.

Psalm 23

**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.

Jesus said, 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

John 10.11—18

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 Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep,
you seek the lost and guide us into your fold.
Feed us, and we shall be satisfied;
heal us, and we shall be whole.
Make us one with you,
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Alleluia! Christ is risen!
The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. 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 *Sundays and Seasons*,