

Morning Prayer – 6th Sunday of Easter, May 17, 2020

*Families or small groups might gather, taking turns serving as “Leader” and others responding with words in **bold print**, or the entire service is said by one person, knowing that others are praying in the same way in their own locations.*

A candle may be lit, to set apart this time of prayer.

"If you love me, you will keep my word, and my Father will love you,
and we will come to you."

O Come, Let us Worship.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Lord, open our lips

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Christ our Passover

1 Corinthians 5.7–8; Romans 6.9–11; 1 Corinthians 15.20–22

Alleluia!

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; *

therefore let us keep the feast,

Not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, *

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. **Alleluia!**

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; *

death no longer has dominion over him.

The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; *

but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So also consider yourselves dead to sin, *

and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Alleluia!**

Christ has been raised from the dead, *

the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since by a human came death, *

by a human has come also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, * so also in Christ shall all be made alive. **Alleluia!**

"If you love me, you will keep my word, and my Father will love you,
and we will come to you."

O Come, Let us Worship.

The Proclamation of the Word

Acts 17:22-31 *New Revised Standard Version*

Then 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.'

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 66:8-20 (*Inclusive Language Psalter*)

8 Bless our God, you peoples; * make the voice of God's praise to be heard;
9 **who holds our souls in life, * and will not allow our feet to slip.**
10 For you, O God, have proved us; * you have tried us just as silver is tried.
11 **You brought us into the snare; * you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**
12 You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water; *
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
13 **I will enter your house with burnt-offerings * and will pay you my vows,**
14 which I promised with my lips * and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
15 **I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams; ***
I will give you oxen and goats.
16 Come and listen, all you who fear God, *
and I will tell you what the Lord has done for me,
17 **The One to whom I called out with my mouth * and whose praise was on my tongue.**
18 If I had found evil in my heart, * the Lord would not have heard me;
19 **But in truth God has heard me * and has attended to the voice of my prayer.**
20 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, *
nor withheld steadfast love from me.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

1 Peter 3:13-22 *New Revised Standard Version*

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Music might be Inserted here, either a "live" offering of praise to God, or a recorded selection.

Stand or sit for the Gospel reading, as seems appropriate for your setting.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (14:15-21)

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

'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 for ever. 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.'

The Gospel of Christ **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Did anything stand out for you in this story while you heard it this time?

What does this story have to say to you today?

Affirmation of Faith

Hear, O Israel,

the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God

with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it:

Love your neighbour as yourself.

There is no commandment greater than these.

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

(In joy and hope let us pray to the source of all life, saying, "Hear us, Lord of glory!")

That our risen Saviour may fill us with the joy of his holy and life-giving resurrection, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That isolated and persecuted churches may find fresh strength in the Easter gospel, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That our risen Saviour may grant us humility to be subject to one another in Christian love, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That the Holy One may provide for those who lack food, work, or shelter, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That by Divine power wars and famine may cease through all the earth, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That the source of all Love may reveal the light of God's presence to the sick, the weak, and the dying, that they may be comforted and strengthened, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

That the One who spoke from the burning bush may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon all God's people, that we may bear faithful witness to the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear us, Lord of glory!**

For our own needs and those of others.

Silence. people may add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord; **For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence. people may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God; **And praise your name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to you alone, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence. The people may name their remembered dead

Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them; **Who put their trust in you.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence for reflection.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful God;

in your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honour and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect

Three-fold God of love, you invite us to abide in you. May we follow the Spirit of truth, so that through us your commanding love may speak to the heart of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009) alt.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,
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.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

May the God of peace give us peace in all ways and at all times. **Amen.**

If a candle was lit, it is extinguished now

This service is assembled from resources found in the Book of Alternative Services, Published by the Anglican Church of Canada.

And from ALTERNATIVE COLLECTS FOR YEARS A, B & C OF THE REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY AND SEASONAL PRAYERS OVER THE GIFTS AND AFTER COMMUNION Prepared by the Liturgy Task Force, Faith, Worship, and Ministry Committee Of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada and found online at <https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/Alternative-RCL-Collects-Final-2019.pdf>

The Psalms are drawn from the Inclusive Language Psalter, commended for use by the Council of General Synod, March 2019 and found online at <https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/GS2016-Liturgical-Psalter-2016-05-04.pdf>