



# **Morning Prayer**

**Second Sunday of Easter**

**19<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

# An Order for Morning Prayer on Sunday

19 April 2020

## Second Sunday of Easter

### ¶ Hymn

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Our shelter from the stormy blast,  
And our eternal home:

Beneath the shadow of thy throne,  
Thy saints have dwelt secure;  
Sufficient is thine arm alone,  
And our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,  
Or earth received her frame,  
From everlasting thou art God,  
To endless years the same.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
Bears all its sons away;  
They fly, forgotten, as a dream  
Dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,  
Our hope for years to come,  
Be thou our guide while troubles last,  
And our eternal home!

### ¶ Preparation

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**and also with you.**

This is the day that the Lord has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

We have come together in the name of Christ  
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,  
to hear and receive God's holy word,  
to pray for the needs of the world,  
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins,  
that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

### **Prayers of Penitence**

Christ our passover lamb has been sacrificed for us.  
Let us therefore rejoice by putting away all malice and evil  
and confessing our sins with a sincere and true heart.

*cf I Corinthians 5.7,8*

**Lord God,**

**we have sinned against you;**

**we have done evil in your sight.**

**We are sorry and repent.**

**Have mercy on us according to your love.**

**Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.**

**Renew a right spirit within us**

**and restore to us the joy of your salvation;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies  
cleanse us from our sins,  
and restore us in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Blessed is the Lord,

**for he has heard the voice of our prayer;**

Therefore shall our hearts dance for joy  
**and in our song will we praise our God.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God,  
creator and redeemer of all;  
to you be glory and praise for ever.  
From the waters of chaos you drew forth the world.  
and in your great love fashioned us in your image.  
Now, through the deep waters of death,  
you have brought your people to new birth  
by raising your Son to life in triumph.  
May Christ your light ever dawn in our hearts  
as we offer you our sacrifice of thanks and praise.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

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

*Silence is kept.*

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 Word of God**

### **Psalmody**

*Psalm 16*

- 1 Preserve me, O God, for in you have I taken refuge;  
I have said to the Lord, 'You are my lord,  
all my good depends on you.'
- 2 **All my delight is upon the godly that are in the land,  
upon those who are noble in heart.**

3 Though the idols are legion that many run after,  
their drink offerings of blood I will not offer,  
neither make mention of their names upon my lips.

4 **The Lord himself is my portion and my cup;  
in your hands alone is my fortune.**

5 My share has fallen in a fair land;  
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.

6 **I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel,  
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.**

7 I have set the Lord always before me;  
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.

8 **Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices;  
my flesh also shall rest secure.**

9 For you will not abandon my soul to Death,  
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.

10 **You will show me the path of life;  
in your presence is the fullness of joy  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.**

**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.**

### **First Reading**

*Acts 2.14a,22-32*

On the day of Pentecost, <sup>14</sup>Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: <sup>22</sup>You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know – <sup>23</sup>this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. <sup>24</sup>But God raised him up, having freed him

from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. <sup>25</sup>For David says concerning him,

“I saw the Lord always before me,  
for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;  
<sup>26</sup>therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.  
<sup>27</sup>For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.  
<sup>28</sup>You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.”

<sup>29</sup>Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. <sup>30</sup>Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. <sup>31</sup>Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

“He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption.”

<sup>32</sup>This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.’

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The reading may be followed by a time of silence.*

## **Old Testament Canticle**

### **The Song of Moses and Miriam**

*Exodus 15.1b-3,6,10,13,17*

- 1 I will sing to the Lord, who has triumphed gloriously,  
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.
- 2 **The Lord is my strength and my song  
and has become my salvation.**
- 3 This is my God whom I will praise  
the God of my forebears whom I will exalt.
- 4 **The Lord is a warrior,  
the Lord is his name.**

- 5 Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in power:  
your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.
- 6 **At the blast of your nostrils, the sea covered them;  
they sank as lead in the mighty waters.**
- 7 In your unfailing love, O Lord,  
you lead the people whom you have redeemed.
- 8 **And by your invincible strength  
you will guide them to your holy dwelling.**
- 9 You will bring them in and plant them, O Lord,  
in the sanctuary which your hands have established.

*Exodus 15.1b-3,6,10,13,17*

**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.**

### **Second Reading**

*John 20.19-31*

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors 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 side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.”

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The reading may be followed by a time of silence.*

Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead

**And Christ shall give you light.**

You have died and your life is hid with Christ in God.

**Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead.**

Set your minds on things that are above,  
not on things that are on the earth.

**And Christ shall give you light.**

When Christ our life appears you will appear with him in glory.

**Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead,  
and Christ shall give you light.**



## **Gospel Canticle**

### **Benedictus**

- 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 Saviour,  
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*

**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.**

**Sermon** (There is a reflection at the end of this booklet)

## **The Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
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,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.**



## **Prayers**

Let us pray to God,  
who alone makes us dwell in safety:  
For all who are affected by coronavirus,  
through illness or isolation or anxiety,  
that they may find relief and recovery:  
At this time of need

**We wait, we watch, we hope, we pray**

For those who are guiding our nation at this time, and shaping national policies, that they may make wise decisions:

At this time of need

**We wait, we watch, we hope, we pray**

For doctors, nurses and medical researchers,  
that through their skill and insights  
many will be restored to health:

At this time of need

**We wait, we watch, we hope, we pray**

For all those of our congregation worshipping at this time,  
that we may be supported by our common prayer  
and soon return to worshipping together

At this time of need

**We wait, we watch, we hope, we pray**

For the vulnerable and the fearful,  
for the gravely ill and the dying,  
that they may know your comfort and peace:

At this time of need

**We wait, we watch, we hope, we pray**

We commend ourselves, and all for whom we pray,  
to the mercy and protection of God.

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

*The Collect is said.*

Almighty Father,  
you have given your only Son to die for our sins  
and to rise again for our justification:  
grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness  
that we may always serve you  
in pureness of living and truth;  
through the merits of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

*The Lord's Prayer is said*

**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.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**



## **The Conclusion**

### **The Blessing**

The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil,  
and keep us in eternal life.

**Amen.**

## **¶ Hymn**

Thine be the glory,  
Risen, conqu'ring Son;  
Endless is the victory,  
Thou o'er death hast won;  
Angels in bright raiment  
Rolled the stone away,  
Kept the folded grave clothes  
Where Thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory,  
Risen conquering Son,  
Endless is the victory,  
Thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo! Jesus meets us,  
Risen from the tomb;  
Lovingly He greets us,  
Scatters fear and gloom;  
Let the church with gladness,  
Hymns of triumph sing;  
For her Lord now liveth,  
Death hath lost its sting.

No more we doubt Thee,  
Glorious Prince of life;  
Life is naught without Thee;  
Aid us in our strife;  
Make us more than conquerors,  
Through Thy deathless love:  
Bring us safe through Jordan  
To Thy home above.

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## Second Sunday of Easter

It's not about me.

Sorry, I should have introduced myself – my name's Thomas, the apostle, known as the twin. I appear in that Gospel reading you've just heard, but the story isn't about me. It's about you, and it's about Jesus.

Firstly, **it's about you**. You must have noticed that Jesus makes a comparison between people like me – who did have faith, but only because we saw the actual risen body of Jesus – and people like you, who have faith, despite not having seen his risen body. And Jesus says your sort of faith is better than mine. Don't worry, I'm not offended, I've been in the presence of God a long time.

My faith and your faith have a great deal in common. As I said, I am a twin, and you are my siblings in faith. Both your faith and my faith involve trusting the risen Jesus, and saying "my Lord and my God". But the basis of that faith is different. My faith was based on my first-hand experience – I saw Jesus before his death, I saw Jesus die (though from a scared distance), I saw the risen Jesus eating fish. Whereas your faith is second-hand, based on believing the testimony of eye-witnesses like John. Here's how John himself put it in that reading: "these are written so that you may believe that the Messiah, the son of God, is none other than Jesus; and that, with this faith, you may have life in his name." That's why he wrote his book: so that people like you, without my advantages, may have the same faith as me, because faith is the way to have life. Jesus speaks words of smiling blessing over you: "Good on you! God's blessing on people who don't see, and yet believe! God's blessing on people in 2019 in Finchingfield and Forest Gate and Frinton and Fobbing, who hear John's words and Thomas's words, and believe!"

God so loved the world that he gave Jesus. Jesus so loved the world that he gave the disciples – he spoke peace to them, breathed his Spirit on them, and sent them out. Jesus so loves your community that he calls Christians like you together in places like this, speaks the message of peace through preachers, breathes the Spirit and declares his blessing on you who believe and sends you out with the mission and message of forgiveness of sins and life through faith in the risen Christ.

So, firstly, this Gospel reading isn't about me, it's about you. But secondly, **it's about Jesus**. And what do we learn about Jesus in these verses?

Well, to start with, **he was physical**. A weird kind of physical, because he could come through locked doors, but physical enough to be touch-able. This really mattered in my day, when some people believed that the risen Jesus was a floaty spirit-being, not a real human. And it matters now, because people will tell you that Easter is just about an idea of new life in springtime. No, it's about the extraordinary news of a real human who really died and really rose from the dead, in whom you have believed on the basis of eyewitness testimony.

And the next thing is – **he was scarred**. The risen Jesus still showed his scars. As Edward Shillito put it nineteen hundred years after my time, during your First World War:

If, when the doors are shut, Thou drawest near,  
Only reveal those hands, that side of Thine;  
We know to-day what wounds are, have no fear,  
Show us Thy Scars, we know the countersign.  
The other gods were strong; but Thou wast weak;  
They rode, but Thou didst stumble to a throne;  
But to our wounds only God's wounds can speak,  
And not a god has wounds, but Thou alone.

And then, **Jesus doesn't hold a grudge against people like me who didn't make it to church last week**, and who had trouble believing the people who were there. He came back the following week. You know why he came back the following week? Because that time, *I was there*. And if there's someone here today who hasn't been for a while, Jesus isn't tutting and looking at his watch and looking down his nose at you because you weren't here. Maybe he is showing you the scars that indicate he died for you, and once again offering you the gift of life through the gift of faith.

And one last thing about Jesus: **he stood in the midst of us**. That's why lots of churches do the Peace; someone stands in the middle of the church and stretches out their arms and says "the peace of the Lord be always with you", and we all say – go on –

CONGREGATION: "**and also with you**" -

and it's just a silly tradition except that it isn't because it reminds us that the invisible Jesus is genuinely here in the midst of us today, here for you just as much as he was there for me. So across the ages I speak to you and say – “the peace of the Lord be always with you!”

CONGREGATION: **“and also with you”**