



**Morning Prayer**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**  
**26<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

# An Order for Morning Prayer on Sunday

26 April 2020

## Third Sunday of Easter

### **† 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 1 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 116.1-3,10-17*

- 1 I love the Lord,  
for he has heard the voice of my supplication;  
because he inclined his ear to me  
on the day I called to him.
- 2 The snares of death encompassed me;  
the pains of hell took hold of me;  
by grief and sorrow was I held.
- 3 Then I called upon the name of the Lord:  
'O Lord, I beg you, deliver my soul.'
- 10 How shall I repay the Lord  
for all the benefits he has given to me?
- 11 I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call upon the name of the Lord.
- 12 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people.
- 13 Precious in the sight of the Lord  
is the death of his faithful servants.
- 14 O Lord, I am your servant,  
your servant, the child of your handmaid;  
you have freed me from my bonds.
- 15 I will offer to you a sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call upon the name of the Lord.
- 16 I will fulfil my vows to the Lord  
in the presence of all his people,
- 17 In the courts of the house of the Lord,  
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.  
Alleluia.

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,36-41*

On the day of Pentecost, <sup>14</sup>Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, <sup>36</sup>‘Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.’

<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what should we do?’

<sup>38</sup>Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.’ <sup>40</sup>And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’ <sup>41</sup>So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added to their number.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

## **Old Testament Cantic**

### **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**

*Luke 24.13-35*

<sup>13</sup>On that same day, two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup>but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' <sup>19</sup>Jesus asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a

prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,<sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup>and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see Jesus.’ <sup>25</sup>Then he said to them, ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’ <sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup>As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, saying, ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’ So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They said to each other, ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’ <sup>33</sup>That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup>They were saying, ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!’ <sup>35</sup>Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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 the Lord,  
who is our refuge and stronghold.

For the health and well-being of our nation,  
that all who are fearful and anxious  
may be at peace and free from worry:

At this time of need

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

For the isolated and housebound,  
that we may be alert to their needs  
and care for them in their vulnerability:

At this time of need

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

For our homes and families,  
our schools and young people,  
and all in any kind of need or distress:

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 a blessing on our local community,  
that our neighbourhoods may be places of trust and friendship,  
where all are known and cared for:

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,  
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples  
with the sight of the risen Lord:  
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,  
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life  
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;  
through Jesus Christ your Son 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.**

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## 3rd Sunday of Easter

By Bridget Nichols

THE collect for this Sunday takes its central idea — sight of the risen Lord and confidence in “his presence with us” — from John’s description of Jesus’s appearance to the disciples on the evening of the day of resurrection (John 20.19-20). Their gladness at seeing the Lord is a corporate and indestructible joy, as they recognise a promise come true (John 16.20-24).

Luke brings the disciples to the same recognition by a slower and more tortuous route. Although, like John, he is connecting earlier events to this new experience, the kind of seeing which he sets out to evoke depends less on the eye than on a visceral level of perception. In fact, he goes as far as saying that the eyes of Cleopas and his companion “were kept from recognising” the stranger who fell into step with them on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24.16). That blockage will turn out to be the pivot on which the inexhaustibly compelling story of the encounter turns.

In the mean time, the stranger has the opportunity to hear the two men’s version of recent events in Jerusalem, leading up to the death of the prophet. He hears their bleak admission that their hope for the redeemer of Israel had come to nothing. There had been one last flicker of optimism, when the women of Jesus’s circle went to the tomb found it empty, and heard from angels that he was alive (Luke 24.23). “But”, Cleopas concludes poignantly, “they did not see him” (Luke 24.24).

This is Jesus’s cue to reinterpret the men’s account of his earthly ministry as a failed project, and to help them see differently. Tellingly, Jesus does not suggest that their limitation is a matter of comprehending facts. Instead, he comments wryly that they are “slow of heart” (Luke 24.25). At every stage, scripture had been fulfilled, and the story had not ended. They had witnessed the suffering; now the Messiah was about to “enter into his glory” (Luke 24.26).

Still they fail to recognise more in their fellow-traveller than the needs of another human being for food and shelter as daylight begins to fail. Their eyes are not “opened” until he assumes the part of host, and, instead of waiting to be offered bread, takes bread, breaks it, and blesses it (Luke 24.30-31).

Ordinary seeing comes into it, but it is secondary to the recognition that joins this breaking and blessing to the actions of Jesus at the meal they had shared a few days previously (Luke 22.19). At the very moment of seeing, Jesus vanishes, and the two men are once more left pondering their experiences and wondering how they could have missed the knowledge that was growing as they walked: “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road?” (Luke 24.32).

Word and sign, feeding and blessing, have come together in this extraordinary scene, as Luke steers his readers towards an understanding of what it means to be part of a community whose most vivid shared reality is the breaking of bread. For this first generation of believers, it is there that they should expect to see Jesus. “Stay with us” (Luke 24.29) changes from an invitation to make an overnight stop to a prayer of invitation to take up a permanent place in the human heart.

Luke returns to the heart, as Peter continues his Pentecost speech in Jerusalem. He, too, is reinterpreting scripture. His audience must also learn to see Jesus differently: as the Lord whom David hails as worthy to sit at the right hand of God (Acts 2.34-35, Psalm 110.1).

Peter does not stop with the proclamation of Jesus as Lord and Messiah. He repeats the accusation of responsibility for Jesus’s death (Acts 2.23), only this time it is direct and personal — not “this man”, but “this Jesus whom you crucified” (Acts 2.36).

Suddenly, the crowds around him make the unavoidable connection. The Messiah had been in their midst, and they had shouted for his death. In coming finally to see this, they had seen the unacceptable side of themselves. “They were cut to the heart” (Acts 2.37).

Their anguished condemnation of themselves is also the place where true conversion of the heart can begin. Peter, in urging them to “repent and be baptised” (Acts 2.38-39), sets out the pattern of hope on which the Church will be founded. God’s promise of salvation is for all, confirmed in this sign of baptism, and celebrated each time the baptised meet to break bread (Acts 2.43-47).