

SAFFRON WALDEN AND VILLAGES TEAM MINISTRY

PRAYERS FOR EASTER SUNDAY, 12 APRIL 2020

Jesus Christ is risen today! Despite all our difficulties and anxieties, today we know that God's love remains triumphant. Death and sin are conquered as in the joyful Easter garden, God's new creation breaks into our troubled world.

You might like to light a candle at home while you use this leaflet, symbolising the Light of Christ risen from the darkness of death: and to say the prayers and readings out loud.

Introduction

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

This is the day when our Lord Jesus Christ passed from death to life.

We gather together, united in purpose though separate in place, to celebrate the awesome power of God. As we hear his word and proclaim all that God has done, we can be confident that we shall share his victory over death and live with him for ever.

We say together (or why not **sing!**) an opening hymn:

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our heavenly king, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

The Lord is here: **His Spirit is with us.**

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
Banish all darkness from our hearts and minds.

We have come together as the family of God in this community. And especially we thank you, Heavenly Father, for your family, the Church; and for the wonder of your Son's resurrection from the dead. Help us to pray to you in faith, to sing your praise with gratitude, and to listen to your word with eagerness; and fit us to live as Easter people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

On this most special day, we know that God has freed us from all sin. Instead of a confession, we say together the great hymn of praise

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us:
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Readings *We now follow the readings on the Grapevine:*

Collect (the special prayer for today)

First reading: Acts, Chapter 10, verses 34-43

Gospel reading: St Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 28, verses 1-10

Reflection *If you are using this prayer sheet at home, you may wish to look at the Reflection in the Grapevine.*

We declare our faith together

**We believe and trust in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.

Jesus, light of the world, bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations, and calm the fears of your troubled world. Inspire the hearts of all peoples to turn from violence and recognize our common humanity as your children. *Jesus, Lord of life In your mercy, hear us*

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life, be with us and all who follow you in the way. Make us strong to know your truth, and fill us with your life.
Jesus, Lord of life In your mercy, hear us

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep, you are with us even through the shadow of the valley of death. Bring your comfort to all who feel the darkness and agony of isolation, illness, fear, or sorrow: especially*remember those on your own heart.* In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light. Give your strength, your skill, your sympathy and resilience to all who care for the sick, and wisdom to all who seek a cure. *Jesus, Lord of life* **In your mercy, hear us**

Jesus, bread of life, we pray for all who are working everywhere to support daily living in their communities; for all governments and those administering tough laws in the interests of their people; for all relief agencies; and for all key workers, wherever they may be. *Jesus, Lord of life* **In your mercy, hear us**

Jesus, the resurrection and the life, we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you. Raise us with them to your eternal life.

Lord, in your mercy, accept our prayers, and be with us always. Amen.

Sharing Christ's Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia!

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

As you say this, hold in your mind all who are joining in these prayers today.

If you are joining in the Eucharist being celebrated live via Zoom, do follow the Eucharistic prayer being said by the priest with the standard responses.

While only the priest will be able to physically receive the consecrated bread and wine, you will all be invited to join in this prayer of Spiritual Communion, inviting Jesus to enter your deepest being.

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer *Let us pray together as Jesus has taught us*

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.

We ask God's grace for the week ahead

Lord, give us your grace to live as Easter people, trusting in Christ alone.

All our problems **we send to the cross of Christ**

All our difficulties **we send to the cross of Christ**

All the devil's works **we send to the cross of Christ**

And all our hopes **we send to the cross of Christ. Alleluia!**

We say (or sing!) a final hymn:

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering 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.

Thine be the glory....

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is nought 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.

Thine be the glory....

A final Blessing

May Christ, who out of darkness brings new hope and a new future, fill us with his new life; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit, be with us all now and evermore.

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.

Christian Copyright Licence no 2292341. Common Worship, from which material used in this service is taken, is © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, 2000-2006