

**SAFFRON WALDEN AND VILLAGES TEAM MINISTRY
PRAYERS FOR SUNDAY 10 MAY 2020 (5TH OF EASTER)**

Today we recall Jesus's words of calm assurance to his disciples even as he approached his suffering: 'Let not your hearts be troubled: I am the way, the truth and the life.' May we know his life in us, as his first followers did, and know his strength to follow in his way.

You might like to light a candle at home while you use this leaflet, symbolising Jesus as the Light of the World: and to say the prayers and readings out loud.

Introduction

We gather together, united in purpose though separate in place, in the name of God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

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

1. Jesu, lover of my soul,
Let me to thy bosom fly,
While the gathering waters roll,
While the tempest still is high:
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide;
O receive my soul at last.

2. Other refuge have I none,
Hangs my helpless soul on thee;
Leave, oh, leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed,
All my help from thee I bring;
Cover my defenceless head
With the shadow of thy wing.

3. Plenteous grace with thee is found,
Grace to cleanse from every sin;
Let the healing streams abound;
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
Freely let me take of thee;
Spring thou up within my heart,
Rise to all eternity.

The Lord is here: Alleluia!

His Spirit is with us. Alleluia!

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 your Son Jesus, the way, the truth and the life. Help us to pray to you in faith, to sing your praise with gratitude, and to listen to your word with eagerness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection.

Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing.

Christ, have mercy. *Christ, have mercy.*

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven.

Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*

Hearing God's forgiveness

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

Collect (the special prayer for today)

First Reading: Acts Chapter 7, verses 55-end

Gospel reading: St John's Gospel, Chapter 14, verses 1-14

Reflection *If you are using this prayer sheet privately, you may wish to read the Reflection on the Grapevine. In a moment of quiet, think what message this may have for you, and ask God to help you live it out in your life this week.*

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

Father, in this time of anxiety, give to us, and to all your people, serenity; in this time of hardship, give courage; in this time of uncertainty, give patience; and at all times, give a quiet trust in your wisdom and love.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Lord Jesus, our way, our truth, our life, be with us and all who follow you in the way. May we see your footmarks, and in them plant our own: and when the way

ahead seems dark, give us the strength for one step at a time. Lead us into your truth: and even when suffering and death surround us, give us trust in your life.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Gracious God, give your strength and energy to all hospital staff and carers combating the virus, and all key workers and volunteers determined to keep society running, and inspire all who seek a cure. Give wisdom to our government and all who make decisions; and keep us ever mindful of each other.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Loving God, hold in your arms all who suffer in body, mind or spirit, especially*do name those on your own heart.* Comfort and strengthen the weak, the sick and the dying, especially facing death alone... Be with all who fear for their future, and all who miss our normal ways of life. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light. May we trust in your Son's promise of eternal life, and unending Easter joy.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Lord God our Father, as we give thanks for the end of war in 1945, we pledge ourselves in our own age to serve you and all humankind, in the cause of peace, for the relief of want and suffering, and for the praise of your name. Guide us by your Spirit; give us wisdom; give us courage; give us hope; and keep us faithful now and always.

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

Sharing Christ's Peace

The risen Christ 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. Alleluia!**

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

If you are joining the Eucharist celebrated live via Zoom, do follow the priest saying the Eucharistic prayer, with the standard responses. While only the priest can physically receive the consecrated bread and wine, all will be invited to say 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

Heavenly Father, sustain us in our joys and in our anxieties. Enfold us in your peace in our waking and in our sleeping, and may we know your presence with us now and always: in the name of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

We say (or sing!) a final hymn:

1. Guide me, O thou great redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
Hold me with thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven
Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.

2. Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth
flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield;
Be thou still my strength and shield

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's
destruction
Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of praises, songs of praises,
I will ever give to thee;
I will ever give to thee.

May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit, be with us all now and evermore: and may we go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Alleluia! Amen.