

THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

10th May 2020



If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish, this Sunday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the "leader" parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your Sunday prayers.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

INTRODUCTION

Leader: It is still Easter! Today we think of Jesus promising to return to his disciples, to take them with him. Easter is all about realising he has kept that promise for them, and will keep it for us too. Celebrating the resurrection of Jesus and his love as our shepherd, we praise God's glory as we say:

GLORIA

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. 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.

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray. Almighty ever-living God, constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

GOSPEL READING

John 14:1-12

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.' Philip said, 'Lord, let us see the Father

and then we shall be satisfied.' 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip,' said Jesus to him 'and you still do not know me? 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, "Let us see the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on the evidence of this work, if for no other reason. I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, he will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION

Leader: Our journey through Easter is now leading towards Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity Sunday: to help us on that journey we look back to the Last Supper, to Jesus' words of farewell to his friends. Even though this is the night before he dies on the cross, he makes a promise: "where I am you may be too." The promise of the risen Jesus is togetherness. At a time of separation and isolation, this is more important than ever: we believe that the family of the Church is united in Jesus, even when separated by time and space – we are all one in him. At this time, let us pray for trust in His promise, believing that he comes from the Father and carries us home to the Father.

A THOUGHT FOR OUR YOUNGER FRIENDS



Can you say "Goodbye" in any other languages? Perhaps you know the French "Au revoir!", or in Italian you can say "Arrivederci!" or in German "Auf wiedersehen!" These phrases are special because they literally mean "Until I see you again!" Saying goodbye looks forward to saying hello! This is exactly what Jesus is doing in our Gospel today – saying goodbye but promising to come back and see his friends again. This reminds us that with Jesus, there is no such thing as an ending. There is always more to come! Have a think about this – oh and remember even "Goodbye" means something – it comes from the phrase "God be with you", a good way to say farewell to someone!

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and 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 into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there 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 life everlasting. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

Leader: As Jesus bids his friends farewell, he promises to take them with him: let us pray for a closeness to Jesus that will sustain and help us.

Leader: Jesus asks us to trust in God and trust in Him: may we do so in all the challenging moments of our lives. We pray:

All: Jesus, be our Way, our Truth and our life!

Leader: Jesus promises many rooms in his Father's house: let us pray for everyone who has died, that they may find a happy home in heaven. We pray:

All: Jesus, be our Way, our Truth and our life!

Leader: Jesus tells us to have seen him is to have seen the Father: may we grow to love Jesus more and more each day. We pray:

All: Jesus, be our Way, our Truth and our life!

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: 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. Amen.

Leader: O God, who have made us partakers of the one supreme Godhead, grant, we pray, that, as we have come to know your truth, we may make it ours by a worthy way of life. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

PREPARATION FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Leader: It is right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but in this Eastertime above all to praise you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed. He never ceases to offer himself for us but defends us and ever pleads our cause before you: he is the sacrificial Victim who dies no more, the Lamb, once slain, who lives for ever. At the Last Supper he showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church,

and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts now to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

All: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.



Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

THANKSGIVING PSALM

Leader: May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.

Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp, with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs.

All: May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

Leader: For the word of the Lord is faithful and all his works to be trusted. The Lord loves justice and right and fills the earth with his love.

All: May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

Leader: The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

All: May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING

Leader: Let us pray. Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: May the Lord ✠ bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!