

# THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME



SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)  
Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021

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 Maundy Thursday. 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 prayers.

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

**Entrance Antiphon** *Cf. Is 48: 20*

**A: Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.**

### Sign of the Cross

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

**A: Amen.**

### Introduction

L: As Eastertide moves on, and we approach the solemnity of the Ascension this coming Thursday, our Gospel today is once more taken from the Last Supper, and tells of the New Commandment that Jesus gives his disciples - the commandment of love. This love has its origins in the love of the Father, manifested in the love shown by the Son (willing to die for his friends); we, like the disciples, are called to imitate the love we see in Jesus's life and death - not because we are servants, but because we are friends. Joyfully celebrating the resurrection of Jesus, we praise God's glory as we say:

### Gloria

**A: 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

L: Let us pray.

Grant, almighty God, that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy, which we keep in honour of the risen Lord, and that what we relive in remembrance we may always hold to in what we do. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**A: Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

**Gospel Reading** *John 15:9-17*

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not

choose me: no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Reflection

In recent Sundays we have been exploring our relationship with the risen Lord Jesus – we have seen ourselves as sheep of his flock and branches of his vine. But today he presents to us a wonderful new image and title – we are his *friends*. The friendship of Jesus is a gift that we cannot overvalue: like a true friend he wants to be close to us, to share our lives, our worries and our celebrations. He wants to help us when we need help. The friendship of Jesus explains the cross – no one could have greater love than to put themselves in the place of a friend facing danger or death. Jesus does this for us. How do we respond to the friendship of Jesus? By simply doing what he asks of us – keeping his commandments.

### For our Younger Friends

It's great to have friends! They listen to us, and help us, and stick up for us, and do things for us when we are struggling. This is what Jesus wants to do for you and for me! To be our friend. If someone wants to be your friend you have to let them – we choose our friends. So we have to say "yes" to the friendship of Jesus, and let him into our lives. We do this by thinking about him, praying, and being kind.

## **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**

L: Assured by Christ that whatever we ask in his name will be granted by our God, let us pray above all else to be more loving.

May the ministry of Pope Francis and the church's bishops reach out to all people who seek God's saving love in Christ. Lord, in your mercy ...

**A: Hear our prayer.**

May all peoples receive with open hearts and minds the gift of redemption in Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy ...

**A: Hear our prayer.**

May we work to replace hostility with the friendship and peace of the risen Christ, especially in our homes. Lord, in your mercy ...

**A: Hear our prayer.**

May our knowledge of God's love guide our faith communities as we build up the unity and diversity of the universal church. Lord, in your mercy ...

**A: Hear our prayer.**

*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 COMMUNION RITE**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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

**A: 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.**

L: May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord, together with the sacrificial offerings, so that, purified by your graciousness, we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love. Through Christ our Lord.

**A: Amen.**

### **Preparation for Spiritual Communion**

L: Loving Father, it is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but in this time above all to laud you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed. For, with the old order destroyed, a universe cast down is renewed, and integrity of life is restored to us in Christ. 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 to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

*Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.*

### **Spiritual Communion**

**A: 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.**

### **Thanksgiving Psalm**

L: The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

**A: The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.**

L: Sing a new song to the Lord for he has worked wonders. His right hand and his holy arm have brought salvation.

**A: The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.**

L: The Lord has made known his salvation; has shown his justice to the nations. He has remembered his truth and love for the house of Israel.

**A: The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.**

L: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Lord, all the earth, ring out your joy.

**A: The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.**

## **THE CONCLUDING RITE**

### **Final Prayer and Blessing**

L: Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God, who restore us to eternal life in the Resurrection of Christ, increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this paschal Sacrament and pour into our hearts the strength of this saving food. Through Christ our Lord.

**A: Amen.**

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

**A: Amen.**

L: Let us bless the Lord!

**A: Thanks be to God!**

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