

Praying Alone  
*Praying Together*

*Lent, Holy Week,  
and Easter Day, 2020*

*for those isolating themselves from the  
spread of Covid-19 ('Coronavirus')*

## **Join us in prayer**

**We never pray alone.** We are constantly held in the love of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. One God, in three persons—the perfect expression of community. When we pray, we enter into the divine community, and we join our prayers with those of our fellow Christians, and with the constant prayer of the angels and saints. We never pray alone.

If you find yourself in isolation, please know that we are praying for you and with you. Although we can't be together physically, we can be together spiritually, in unity of prayer and intention.

These resources are designed to take us through the remainder of Lent and Holy Week, to Easter Day (12 April), as we celebrate the Resurrection together. If circumstances are unchanged, we will make further resources available then.

### **More resources**

If you have internet access, you can listen to prayer daily at <https://pray-as-you-go.org>, and <https://www.24-7prayer.com>

Some churches across the country are live-streaming services online. Find them on <https://www.achurchnearyou.com>

Choral Evensong is broadcast on BBC Radio 3 on Wednesdays at 3.30 pm, and repeated on Sundays at 3.00 pm. Sunday Worship is broadcast on BBC Radio 4 on Sundays at 8.10 am, and the Daily Service is on the same channel, Monday to Friday, at 9.45 am. On the television, Songs of Praise is broadcast on BBC One on Sundays at 1.15 pm.

**If you are lonely, or in need of any assistance (including help with shopping), please contact any of the following people:**

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**Please do look out for one another, and contact others by 'phone if you can.**

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## **A note on the resources**

### **Morning and Evening Prayer**

These Offices can be used through the remainder of Lent, and through Holy Week. A weekly course of psalms is suggested. For the readings, St John's Gospel is divided over the course of one week, beginning on Sunday evening (so that the account of the Resurrection falls on the following Sunday morning). It is wonderful to journey with John's Gospel in this way, and it puts our journey through Lent, Holy Week, and Easter into perspective. If this is too much (on average 60 verses per office, around five minutes of steady reading), a reading from the Common Worship lectionary, or any other reading, can be used.

## **Holy Week**

Extra resources are offered for Holy Week, in addition to the Offices—a simple liturgy to mark each day out as special. This could be done in addition to Morning and Evening Prayer, or replace Morning Prayer, if three liturgies are too many. The extra liturgy for Maundy Thursday is designed to be said at night. The resources for the Easter Vigil can be used as the sun sets on Holy Saturday, or when you wake on Easter Day.

## **How to do it**

If you are at home with others, and wish to pray together, one person can say the words in plain type, and the rest join in the **bold type**. If you are on your own, simply say everything. It helps to speak the words out loud, even if you are on your own, rather than recite them in your head.

In the space for silent prayer, you might like to reflect on the passage from St John that you have read, or if you're getting sick of silence in isolation, you could sing a favourite hymn (you could find the music online if you have internet access), or read a favourite piece of poetry.

## **Prayer space**

You may wish to dedicate a particular room, or part of a room, as your prayer space for your time of isolation. This will help to centre you as you come to pray. Set up a cross, or other appropriate religious symbols. It helps to light a candle before you pray, if you have one, to remind you that God is present with you in prayer. You might like to pray Psalm 27. 1 as you light it: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?"

## **Some prayers against COVID-19**

*adapted from Pete Grieg and 24-7 Prayer*

God of strength, we ask you to protect us from the spread of the coronavirus. You are powerful and merciful; may this be our prayer:

*Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed. (Psalm 57. 1)*

*(Silence is kept)*

God of peace, we remember those living in the worst-affected areas, and all in isolation. May we know your presence in our isolation, your peace in our turmoil, and your patience in our waiting. Prince of Peace, you are powerful and merciful; may this be our prayer:

*May your mercy come quickly to meet us, for we are in desperate need. Help us, God our Saviour, for the glory of your name. (Psalm 79. 8)*

*(Silence is kept)*

God of comfort and counsel, we pray for those who are grieving the sudden loss of loved ones. May they find your fellowship in their suffering, your comfort in their loss, and your hope in their despair. We name before you the weak and vulnerable, and those in particular need of prayer: [NN.] God of all comfort, you are powerful and merciful; may this be our prayer:

*He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us. (2 Corinthians 1. 10)*

*(Silence is kept)*

God of healing, we ask for your blessing on medical professionals, and all who are fighting the spread of the virus. Grant them resilience in weakness, discernment in diagnosis, and compassion in their care. God of all healing, you are powerful and merciful; may this be our prayer:

*Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you. (Jeremiah 32. 17)*

*(Silence is kept)*

God of wisdom, we pray for our leaders; especially the World Health Organisation, national governments, and local leaders. Grant those in positions of responsibility wisdom and strength to seek the safety and well-being of those in their charge. God of all wisdom, you are powerful and merciful; may this be our prayer:

*God is our refuge and strength, and ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear. (Psalm 46. 1, 2)*

*(Silence is kept)*

Lord God almighty, we take refuge in you. Fill us with your reconciling love, and grant us the comfort of your saving presence.

*The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (2 Timothy 4. 18)*

## **A simple Office of Morning Prayer** *adapted from Common Worship: Daily Prayer*

### OPENING

O Lord, open our lips  
**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,  
**according to your judgement give us life.**

Blessed are you, God of compassion and mercy,  
to you be praise and glory for ever.

In the darkness of our sin,  
your light breaks forth like the dawn  
and your healing springs up for deliverance.

As we rejoice in the gift of your saving help,  
sustain us with your bountiful Spirit  
and open our lips to sing your praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

### PSALM

<i>Sunday</i>	61, 62	<i>Thursday</i>	42, 43
<i>Monday</i>	41	<i>Friday</i>	69
<i>Tuesday</i>	27	<i>Saturday</i>	142
<i>Wednesday</i>	102. 1 - 18		

## CANTICLE

**Full of compassion and mercy and love  
is God, the most high, the Almighty.**

Lord almighty and God of our ancestors,  
you who made heaven and earth in all their glory:

**All things tremble with awe at your presence,  
before your great and mighty power.**

Immeasurable and unsearchable is your promised mercy,  
for you are God, Most High.

**You are full of compassion, long suffering and very merciful,  
and you relent at human suffering.**

O God, according to your great goodness,  
you have promised forgiveness for repentance  
to those who have sinned against you.

**The sins I have committed against you  
are more in number than the sands of the sea.**

I am not worthy to look up to the height of heaven,  
because of the multitude of my iniquities.

**And now I bend the knee of my heart before you,  
imploping your kindness upon me.**

I have sinned, O God, I have sinned,  
and I acknowledge my transgressions.

**Unworthy as I am, you will save me,  
according to your great mercy.**

For all the host of heaven sings your praise,  
and your glory is for ever and ever.

**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.**

**Full of compassion and mercy and love  
is God, the most high, the Almighty.**

*from the Prayer of Manasseh*

## READING

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>John 20, 21</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>John 9, 10</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>John 2, 3</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>John 12, 13</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>John 5</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>John 16, 17</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>John 7</i>		

## BENEDICTUS

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they shall be satisfied.**

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel,  
who has come to his people and set them free.

**He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour,  
born of the house of his servant David.**

Through his holy prophets God promised of old  
to save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all that hate us,

**To show mercy to our ancestors,  
and to remember his holy covenant.**

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**Free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.**

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

**To give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of all their sins.**

In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**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.**

**Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they shall be satisfied.**

**SILENT PRAYER**

## COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you hate nothing that you have made  
and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:  
create and make in us new and contrite hearts  
that we, worthily lamenting our sins  
and acknowledging our wretchedness,  
may receive from you, the God of all mercy,  
perfect remission and forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

## CONCLUSION

Let us lay aside the sin which clings so closely  
and run with perseverance the race that is set before us;  
and may the grace of God be with us now and always.  
**Amen.**

**A simple Office of Evening Prayer**  
*adapted from Common Worship: Daily Prayer*

**OPENING**

O Lord, open our lips  
**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Hear our voice, O Lord, according to your faithful love,  
**according to your judgement give us life.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,  
to you be glory and praise for ever.

In the darkness of our sin you have shone in our hearts  
to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God  
in the face of Jesus Christ.

Open our eyes to acknowledge your presence,  
that freed from the misery of sin and shame  
we may grow into your likeness from glory to glory.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

**PSALM**

<i>Sunday</i>	80	<i>Thursday</i>	39
<i>Monday</i>	25	<i>Friday</i>	130
<i>Tuesday</i>	55. 13 - 24	<i>Saturday</i>	116
<i>Wednesday</i>	88		

## CANTICLE

**Christ committed no sin,  
no guile was found on his lips.**

Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example,  
that you should follow in his steps.

**He committed no sin, no guile was found on his lips,  
when he was reviled, he did not revile in turn.**

When he suffered, he did not threaten,  
but he trusted himself to God who judges justly.

**Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the tree,  
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.**

By his wounds, you have been healed,  
for you were straying like sheep,  
but have now returned  
to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

**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.**

**Christ committed no sin,  
no guile was found on his lips.**

*1 Peter 2. 21b - 25*

## READING

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>John 1</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>John 11</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>John 4</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>John 14, 15</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>John 6</i>	<i>Saturday</i>	<i>John 18, 19</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>John 8</i>		

## MAGNIFICAT

**Come, let us return to the Lord,  
for our God will richly pardon.**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour;  
he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

**From this day all generations will call me blessed;  
the Almighty has done great things for me  
and holy is his name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.

**He has shown strength with his arm  
and has scattered the proud in their conceit,**

Casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.

**He has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.**

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,  
to remember his promise of mercy,

**The promise made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

**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.**

**Come, let us return to the Lord,  
for our God will richly pardon.**

## SILENT PRAYER

### COLLECT

Almighty God,  
whose most dear Son when not up to joy  
but first he suffered pain,  
and entered not into glory  
before he was crucified:  
mercifully grant that we,  
walking in the way of the cross,  
may find it none other  
than the way of life and peace;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

### CONCLUSION

To God, whose love for us is such  
that while we were yet sinners  
Christ died for us,  
be praise and glory now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

**Palm Sunday** (*to be said in the morning or at midday*)  
*adapted from Common Worship: Times and Seasons*

**OPENING**

Hosanna to the Son of David, the King of Israel.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
**Hosanna in the highest.**

Behold your king comes to you, O Zion,  
meek and lowly, sitting upon a donkey.  
Ride on in the cause of truth  
and for the sake of justice.  
Your throne is the throne of God, it endures for ever;  
and the sceptre of your kingdom is a righteous sceptre.  
You have loved righteousness and hated evil.  
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness above your fellows.

**Hosanna to the Son of David.**  
**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**PALM GOSPEL**

*Matthew 21. 1 - 11*

**PRAYERS**

For forgiveness for the many times I have denied Jesus,  
I pray to you, O Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to seek out those habits of sin  
which mean spiritual death,  
and by prayer and self-discipline to overcome them,  
I pray to you, O Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For Christian people,  
that through the suffering of disunity  
there may grow a rich union in Christ,  
I pray to you, O Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who make laws, interpret them,  
and administer them,  
that our common life may be ordered in justice and mercy,  
I pray to you, O Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who still make Jerusalem a battleground,  
I pray to you, O Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who have the courage and honesty  
to work openly for justice and peace,  
I pray to you, O Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For those in the darkness and agony of isolation,  
that they may find support and encouragement,  
I pray to you, O Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who, weighed down with hardship, failure,  
or sorrow, feel that God is far from them,  
I pray to you, O Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are tempted to give up the way of the cross,  
I pray to you, O Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

That I may find mercy in the day of Christ,  
with all those who have died in the faith,  
I pray to you, O Lord:  
**Lord, have mercy.**

**Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon me.**

## COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who in your tender love towards the human race  
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to take upon him our flesh  
and to suffer death upon the cross:  
grant that we may follow the example  
of his patience and humility,  
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;  
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.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

## CONCLUSION

May Christ, who bore our sins on the cross,  
set us free to serve him with joy.  
**Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in Holy Week**

*(to be said in the morning or at midday)*

*adapted from Common Worship: Daily Prayer*

### **OPENING**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

My trust is in you, O Lord,

**I have said, 'You are my God.'**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,

because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Holy God,**

**holy and strong,**

**holy and immortal,**

**have mercy upon us.**

We glory in your cross, O Lord,

and praise and glorify your holy resurrection:

for by virtue of the cross

joy has come to the whole world.

### **PSALM**

*Monday*            27. 1 - 8

*Tuesday*           23

*Wednesday*       143

### **SHORT READING**

*Monday*            *Mark* 8. 31 - 35

*Tuesday*           *Isaiah* 53. 4 - 6

*Wednesday*       *1 Corinthians* 1. 18, 22 - 25

## SILENT PRAYER

*AND / OR*

### PRAYERS

Have mercy on your people,  
for whom your Son laid down his life:  
Lord, hear my prayer,  
**and let my cry come unto you.**

Bring healing and wholeness to people and nations,  
and have pity on those torn apart by division:  
Lord, hear my prayer,  
**and let my cry come unto you.**

Strengthen all who are persecuted for your name's sake,  
and deliver them from evil:  
Lord, hear my prayer,  
**and let my cry come unto you.**

Look in mercy on all who suffer,  
and hear those who cry out in pain and desolation:  
Lord, hear my prayer,  
**and let my cry come unto you.**

Bring comfort to the dying,  
and gladden their hearts with the vision of your glory:  
Lord, hear my prayer,  
**and let my cry come unto you.**

Give rest to the departed  
and bring them, with your saints, to glory everlasting:  
Lord, hear my prayer,  
**and let my cry come unto you.**

## COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,  
who in your tender love towards the human race  
sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
to take upon him our flesh  
and to suffer death upon the cross:  
grant that we may follow the example  
of his patience and humility,  
and also be made partakers of his resurrection;  
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.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

## CONCLUSION

May Christ our Saviour give us peace.

**Amen.**

**Maundy Thursday** (*to be said at night*)  
*adapted from Common Worship: Times and Seasons*

**OPENING**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

My trust is in you, O Lord,

**I have said, 'You are my God.'**

Have mercy on me, O God,

in your great goodness;

according to the abundance of your compassion

blot out my offences.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Against you only have I sinned

and done what is evil in your sight.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Purge me from my sin and I shall be clean;

wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

**Lord, have mercy.**

May the Father forgive me by the death of his Son

and strengthen me to live in the power of the Spirit,

all my days.

**Amen.**

**READING**

*John 13. 1 - 17, 31 - 35*

*Silence is kept*

## PRAYERS

Father, on this, the night he was betrayed,  
your Son Jesus Christ washed his disciples' feet.  
I commit myself to follow his example of love and service.  
Lord, hear me  
**and humble me.**

On this night, he prayed for his disciples to be one.  
I pray for the unity of your Church.  
Lord, hear me  
**and unite your people.**

On this night, he prayed for those who were to believe  
through his disciples' message.  
I pray for the mission of your Church.  
Lord, hear me  
**and renew my zeal.**

On this night, he commanded his disciples to love,  
but suffered rejection himself.  
I pray for the rejected and unloved.  
Lord, hear me  
**and fill me with your love.**

On this night, he reminded his disciples  
that if the world hated them it hated him first.  
I pray for those who are persecuted for their faith.  
Lord, hear me  
**and give me your peace.**

On this night, he accepted the cup of death  
and looked forward to the new wine of the kingdom.  
I remember those who have died in the peace of Christ.  
Lord, hear me  
**and welcome all your children into paradise.**

## COLLECT

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have taught us  
that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters  
we do also for you:  
give us the will to be the servant of others  
as you were the servant of all,  
and gave up your life and died for us,  
but are alive and reign, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Silence is kept*

## GOSPEL OF THE WATCH

*Luke 22. 31 - 62*

*Silence is kept*

## CONCLUSION

May Christ our Saviour give us peace.  
**Amen.**

**Good Friday** *(to be said in the morning or at midday)*  
*adapted from Common Worship: Times and Seasons*

**OPENING**

Eternal God,  
in the cross of Jesus we see the cost of our sin  
and the depth of your love:  
in humble hope and fear  
may we place at his feet  
all that we have and all that we are,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*Silence is kept*

**PASSION READING**

*John 18 and 19*

*Silence is kept*

**PSALM 67**

**We glory in your cross, O Lord,  
and praise you for your mighty resurrection;  
for by virtue of your cross  
joy has come into our world.**

God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us,  
that your way may be known upon earth,  
your saving power among all nations.

**Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.**

O let the nations rejoice and be glad,  
for you will judge the peoples righteously  
and govern the nations upon earth.

**Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.**

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase,  
and God, our own God, will bless us.  
God will bless us,  
and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

**We glory in your cross, O Lord,  
and praise you for your mighty resurrection;  
for by virtue of your cross  
joy has come into our world.**

*Silence is kept*

## **PRAYERS**

Father, I pray for your Church throughout the world:  
for unity in faith, in witness and in service,  
for bishops and other ministers,  
and those whom they serve,  
for N. our bishop, and the people of this diocese,  
for all Christians in this place,  
for those to be baptized,  
for those who are mocked and persecuted for their faith,  
that you will confirm your Church in faith,  
increase it in love, and preserve it in peace.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear my prayer.**

Father, I pray for the nations of the world and their leaders:  
for Elizabeth our Queen and the Parliaments of this land,  
for those who administer the law  
and all who serve in public office,  
for all who strive for justice and reconciliation,  
that by your help the world may live in peace and freedom.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear my prayer.**

Father, I pray for those who do not believe the Gospel of Christ:  
for those who have not heard the message of salvation,  
for all who have lost faith,  
for the contemptuous and scornful,  
for those who are enemies of Christ  
and persecute those who follow him,  
for all who deny the faith of Christ crucified,  
that you will open their hearts to the truth  
and lead them to faith and obedience.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear my prayer.**

Father, I pray for all those who suffer:  
for those who are deprived and oppressed,  
for all who are sick,  
for those in darkness, in doubt and in despair,  
in loneliness and in fear,  
for prisoners, captives and refugees,  
for the victims of false accusations and violence,  
for all at the point of death and those who watch beside them,  
that you will sustain them in your mercy  
with the knowledge of your love.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear my prayer.**

*Silence is kept*

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

*Silence is kept*

## **CONCLUSION**

Most merciful God,  
who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ  
delivered and saved the world:  
grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross  
we may triumph in the power of his victory;  
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.**

**Holy Saturday** (*to be said in the morning or at midday*)  
*adapted from Common Worship: Daily Prayer*

**OPENING**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

My trust is in you, O Lord,

**I have said, 'You are my God.'**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,  
because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world.

**Holy God,  
holy and strong,  
holy and immortal,  
have mercy upon us.**

We glory in your cross, O Lord,  
and praise and glorify your holy resurrection:  
for by virtue of the cross  
joy has come to the whole world.

**PSALM**

130

**SHORT READING**

*John 12. 23 - 26*

## SILENT PRAYER

*AND / OR*

### PRAYERS

Have mercy on your people,  
for whom your Son laid down his life:  
Lord, hear my prayer,  
**and let my cry come unto you.**

Bring healing and wholeness to people and nations,  
and have pity on those torn apart by division:  
Lord, hear my prayer,  
**and let my cry come unto you.**

Strengthen all who are persecuted for your name's sake,  
and deliver them from evil:  
Lord, hear my prayer,  
**and let my cry come unto you.**

Look in mercy on all who suffer,  
and hear those who cry out in pain and desolation:  
Lord, hear my prayer,  
**and let my cry come unto you.**

Bring comfort to the dying,  
and gladden their hearts with the vision of your glory:  
Lord, hear my prayer,  
**and let my cry come unto you.**

Give rest to the departed  
and bring them, with your saints, to glory everlasting:  
Lord, hear my prayer,  
**and let my cry come unto you.**

## COLLECT

Grant, Lord,  
that we who are baptized into the death  
of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ  
may continually put to death our evil desires  
and be buried with him;  
and that through the grave and gate of death  
we may pass to our joyful resurrection;  
through his merits,  
who died and was buried and rose again for us,  
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.  
**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

## CONCLUSION

May Christ our Saviour give us peace.  
**Amen.**

## An Easter Vigil

*(to be said as the sun sets on Holy Saturday,  
or when you wake on Easter Day)*

*adapted from Common Worship: Times and Seasons*

### OPENING

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth,  
the earth was a formless void  
and darkness covered the face of the deep,  
while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.  
Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.

*Light a candle*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation;  
to you be glory and praise for ever.  
You spoke the word and radiant light scattered the darkness.  
Illuminate and warm our hearts,  
and prepare us to receive anew your saving truth;  
for you are the fountain of light,  
and in your light we see true light,  
the light of your grace today,  
the light of your glory hereafter.  
Blessed are you, O Lord, whose light perishes the darkness.  
**Amen.**

*The reading and psalm remind us of when God saved his people in ages past,  
leading them from slavery to freedom. In the fullness of time he sent his Son  
to be our Saviour, to lead us from the slavery of sin into the glorious freedom  
of the children of God.*

## READING

*Exodus 14*

## PSALM

114

*Silence is kept*

*Jesus died on the cross for our sins, he was buried, and rose again. In baptism we die with him and are buried in his tomb that we might have life. Therefore, at this holy time, we renew our baptismal promises, and recommit ourselves to follow the way of light. Think about what each promise means for you.*

## REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

**I reject the devil and all rebellion against God.**

**I renounce the deceit and corruption of evil.**

**I repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour.**

**I turn to Christ as Saviour.**

**I submit to Christ as Lord.**

**I come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life.**

## EXSULTET

*Try singing it—it's the tune that's used for 'Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord', named 'Woodlands'*

**Sing, choirs of heaven! Let saints and angels sing!**

**Around God's throne exult in harmony!**

**Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave!**

**Salute your King in glorious symphony!**

**Sing, choirs of earth! Behold, your light has come!  
The glory of the Lord shines radiantly!  
Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death!  
The night is past, the day of life is here!**

**Sing, Church of God! Exult with joy outpoured!  
The gospel trumpets tell of victory won!  
Your Saviour lives; he's with you evermore!  
Let all God's people sound the long Amen!**

## **ACCLAMATION**

*Why not shout it out!*

**Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

## **HYMN**

*The well-known tune is named 'Easter 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!***

## READING

*Matthew 28. 1 - 10*

*Silence is kept*

## EASTER ANTHEMS

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us:  
so let us celebrate the feast,

**not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:  
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.**

*1 Corinthians 5.7b, 8*

Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:  
death has no more dominion over him.

**In dying he died to sin once for all:  
in living he lives to God.**

See yourselves therefore as dead to sin:  
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Romans 6.9–11*

**Christ has been raised from the dead:  
the first fruits of those who sleep.**

For as by man came death:  
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;

**for as in Adam all die:  
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.**

*1 Corinthians 15.20–22*

**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.**

*If you have any prayers or thanksgivings you wish to make, offer them in  
some silence here*

## **COLLECT**

Lord of all life and power,  
who through the mighty resurrection of your Son  
overcame the old order of sin and death  
to make all things new in him:  
grant that we, being dead to sin  
and alive to you in Jesus Christ,  
may reign with him in glory;  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
be praise and honour, glory and might,  
now and in all eternity.  
**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

## **CONCLUSION**

Blessing and honour and thanksgiving and praise  
more than we can utter,  
more than we can conceive,  
be to you, O most adorable Trinity,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
by all angels, all peoples, all creation,  
for ever and ever.  
**Amen. Alleluia!**

*Lancelot Andrewes*





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*Much of the material is adapted from Common Worship: Daily Prayer (London: Church House Publishing, 2005 (4th impression 2010)), © The Archbishops' Council 2005, and Common Worship: Times and Seasons (London: Church House Publishing, 2006 (3rd impression 2016)), © The Archbishops' Council, 2006.*