

# Morning Prayer for Easter Day

April 12, 2020

## Hymn 179

Welcome Happy Morning

Welcome, happy morning! age to age shall say:  
Hell to-day is vanquished, heaven is won to-day!  
Lo! the dead is living, God for evermore  
Him their true Creator, all his works adore!  
*Welcome, happy morning! age to age shall say.*

2. Earth her joy confesses, clothing her for spring,  
All fresh gifts returned with her returning King:  
Bloom in every meadow, leaves on every bough,  
Speak his sorrow ended, hail his triumph now.  
*Welcome, happy morning! age to age shall say.*

3. Months in due succession, days of lengthening light,  
Hours and passing moments praise thee in their flight.  
Brightness of the morning, sky and fields and sea,  
Vanquisher of darkness, bring their praise to thee.  
*Welcome, happy morning! age to age shall say.*

4. Maker and Redeemer, life and health of all,  
Thou from heaven beholding human nature's fall,  
Of the Father's Godhead true and only Son,  
Manhood to deliver, manhood didst put on.  
*Welcome, happy morning! age to age shall say.*

5. Thou, of life the author, death didst undergo,  
Tread the path of darkness, saving strength to show;  
Come then, True and Faithful, now fulfill thy word,  
'Tis thine own third morning! rise, O buried Lord!  
*Welcome, happy morning! age to age shall say.*

6. Loose the souls long prisoned, bound with Satan's chain:  
All that now is fallen raise to life again;  
Show thy face in brightness, bid the nations see;  
Bring again our daylight: day returns with thee!  
*Welcome, happy morning! age to age shall say.*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
*The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!*

## The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as  
it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed: Come let us adore him.  
Alleluia.

**Christ our Passover** *Pascha nostrum*

*1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Romans 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22*

Alleluia.

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us; \*

therefore let us keep the feast,

Not with old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, \*

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; \*

death no longer has dominion over him.

The death that he died, he died to sin, once for all; \*

but the life he lives, he lives to God.

So also consider yourselves dead to sin, \*

and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ has been raised from the dead, \*

the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since by a man came death, \*

by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.

For as in Adam all die, \*

## Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; \*

his mercy endures for ever.

2 Let Israel now proclaim, \*

"His mercy endures for ever."

14 The Lord is my strength and my song, \*

and he has become my salvation.

15 There is a sound of exultation and victory \*

in the tents of the righteous:

16 "The right hand of the Lord has triumphed! \*

the right hand of the Lord is exalted!

the right hand of the Lord has triumphed!"

17 I shall not die, but live, \*

and declare the works of the Lord.

18 The Lord has punished me sorely, \*

but he did not hand me over to death.

19 Open for me the gates of righteousness; \*

I will enter them;

I will offer thanks to the Lord.

20 "This is the gate of the Lord; \*

he who is righteous may enter."

21 I will give thanks to you, for you answered me \*  
and have become my salvation.

22 The same stone which the builders rejected \*  
has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This is the Lord's doing, \*  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.

24 On this day the Lord has acted; \*  
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

### **Acts 10:34-43**

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Here ends the reading.

### **A Song of Praise** *Benedictus es, Domine* *Song of the Three Young Men, 29-34*

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; \*  
you are worthy of praise; glory to you.  
Glory to you for the radiance of your holy Name; \*  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you in the splendor of your temple; \*  
on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.  
Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; \*  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths; \*  
in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.  
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; \*  
we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

### **Colossians 3:1-4**

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Here ends the reading.

### **Hymn 208**

Alleluia! The strife is o'er,

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
The strife is o'er, the battle done,  
the victory of life is won;  
the song of triumph has begun.  
Alleluia!

The powers of death have done their worst,  
but Christ their legions hath dispersed:  
let shout of holy joy outburst.  
Alleluia!

The three sad days are quickly sped,  
he rises glorious from the dead:  
all glory to our risen Head!  
Alleluia!

He closed the yawning gates of hell,  
the bars from heaven's high portals fell;  
let hymns of praise his triumphs tell!  
Alleluia!

Lord! by the stripes which wounded thee,  
from death's dread sting thy servants free,  
that we may live and sing to thee.  
Alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

### **Matthew 28:1-10**

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then

Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

Here ends the reading.

Sermon: On that first Easter Day, the disciples were locked in the upper room trembling with fear, sorrow and remorse for having run away during the time that Jesus needed them most. The women went to the tomb to tend Jesus’ body because they wanted to show Jesus their love and respect. They went even though they were also afraid. Then they learn that their fear is unfounded for Jesus, their teacher and friend, has been raised from the dead. He is alive! They run to tell the others and then Jesus appears to them. (according to Matthew)  
Imagine their joy as they see him and they worship him.

All of us now are locked in an “upper room” of sorts since we are sheltering in place. We are fearful for our own health and the health of our families and friends. When we do go out we use precautions such as a mask and gloves. We don’t know what the future will be just as the disciples did not know what their future would be. But, Jesus is alive!!!!

That changed the lives of the disciples as nothing else could. That changes our lives as well. Jesus is alive! Just as Jesus lives after dying on the cross, so will we live after this strange episode in our lives comes to an end. It will end, but life will never be as it once was. We are already changed. There are a lot of things and people we will no longer take for granted. Our priorities have changed. Being able to be in community again will be one of those priorities. Meeting friends for lunch or dinner, going to a ball game or concert, and being able to go to church will be times of joy because those opportunities have been denied us for so long.

During the next 50 days of the Easter season, reflect on how not only were the lives of the disciples changed when Jesus rose from the dead but how our lives will be changed when we come to the end of the Covid-19 crisis. We, too, will be resurrected.

**Alleluia! Christ is risen.**  
*The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!*

## The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again 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 the life everlasting. Amen.

## The Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

Our Father, who art in heaven, Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name, hallowed be your Name,  
thy kingdom come, your kingdom come,  
thy will be done, your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven. on earth as in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those as we forgive those  
who trespass against us. who sin against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, Save us from the time of trial,  
but deliver us from evil. and deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, For the kingdom, the power,  
and the power, and the glory, and the glory are yours,  
for ever and ever. Amen. now and for ever. Amen.

### *The Collect of the Day*

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ  
overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant  
that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may  
be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus  
Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## Form IV

Deacon or other leader

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may  
be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal  
your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the  
ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another  
and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation,  
that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others  
and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant  
that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he  
loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or  
spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and  
bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will  
for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share  
with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy  
*Hear our prayer.*

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard  
wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your  
saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our  
hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge  
and love of you; for the honor of your Name. *Amen.*

*Please add your own intercessions and thanksgivings at this time.*

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one  
with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our  
earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this  
fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be  
surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We  
ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our  
intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives  
and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*The General Thanksgiving*

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

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

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely  
more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from  
generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus  
for ever and ever. *Amen. Ephesians 3:20,21*

**Hymn 207**                      Jesus Christ is risen today! Alleluia

1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!  
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once upon the cross Alleluia!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

2 Hymns of praise then let us sing Alleluia!  
unto Christ our heav'nly King, Alleluia!  
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

3 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!

4 Sing we to our God above Alleluia!  
praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!  
praise him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

## **Ring Them Bells**

Easter is here! With it comes the joy of Jesus' resurrection and the promise that God will bring life out of death! How best shall we celebrate? In many churches, people ring bells, either at the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday night, or at Sunrise on Sunday morning. Go out into your driveway or into the streets either on Saturday night after sundown or Sunday at dawn, and ring out your own bells. Use car keys if you don't have any! Shout "Alleluia! Christ is risen!" at the top of your lungs! Later, break your fast from the previous three days by bringing back all those objects that you had stripped away on Thursday. Prepare a feast using what you have! While we often think of "feasting" on food, you can also feast on music, dancing, or just sharing in conversations with those you love. Whatever your "feast" looks like this year, we encourage you, above all, to feast on gratitude in your heart, for the redemptive power and the awesome promise of our loving, liberating, and life-giving God.