



**A SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER
FOR USE AT HOME
ON CHRISTIAN AID SUNDAY
The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Sunday 10th May 2020**



THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. *1 Peter 1:3*

GATHERING PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN AID SUNDAY

God of all the Earth, be present with us now, in each of our homes, as we connect together. Build us into a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to you through Jesus Christ, our risen redeemer and healer. Amen.

Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

As we turn on the tap we turn our hearts towards you, O God. As we wet our hands renew our thoughts, so we might be transformed. As we lather soap between fingers and over all our hands, purge from us all that brings us harm and might harm others. Remove the invisible guilt and shame that so often keeps us from you. As we rinse our hands, we trust in your overflowing grace, making all things new. Amen.

Merciful Lord, grant to your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PROCLAIMING AND RECEIVING THE WORD

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

God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

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.

Praise the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

PSALM: 31

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; ♦
deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me; ♦
make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a fortress to save me, for you are my rock and my stronghold; ♦
guide me, and lead me for your name's sake.

Take me out of the net that they have laid secretly for me, ♦
for you are my strength.

Into your hands I commend my spirit, ♦
for you have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

I hate those who cling to worthless idols; ♦
I put my trust in the Lord.

I will be glad and rejoice in your mercy, ♦
for you have seen my affliction and known my soul in adversity.

You have not shut me up in the hand of the enemy; ♦
you have set my feet in an open place.

Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am in trouble; ♦
my eye is consumed with sorrow, my soul and my body also.

For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; ♦
my strength fails me because of my affliction, and my bones are consumed.

I have become a reproach to all my enemies and even to my neighbours, an object of dread to my acquaintances; ♦

when they see me in the street they flee from me.

I am forgotten like one that is dead, out of mind; ♦
I have become like a broken vessel.

For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is on every side; ♦
they scheme together against me, and plot to take my life.

But my trust is in you, O Lord. ♦
I have said, 'You are my God.

'My times are in your hand; ♦
deliver me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

'Make your face to shine upon your servant, ♦
and save me for your mercy's sake.'

Lord, let me not be confounded for I have called upon you; ♦
but let the wicked be put to shame; let them be silent in the grave.

Let the lying lips be put to silence ♦
that speak against the righteous with arrogance, disdain and contempt.

How abundant is your goodness, O Lord, which you have laid up for those who fear you; ♦
which you have prepared in the sight of all for those who put their trust in you.

You hide them in the shelter of your presence from those who slander them; ♦
you keep them safe in your refuge from the strife of tongues.

Blessed be the Lord! ♦
For he has shown me his steadfast love when I was as a city besieged.

I had said in my alarm, 'I have been cut off from the sight of your eyes.' ♦
Nevertheless, you heard the voice of my prayer when I cried out to you.

Love the Lord, all you his servants; ♦
for the Lord protects the faithful, but repays to the full the proud.

Be strong and let your heart take courage, ♦
all you who wait in hope for the Lord.

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.

FIRST READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

'See, I am laying in Zion a stone,

a cornerstone chosen and precious;

and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.'

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

'The stone that the builders rejected

has become the very head of the corner',

and

'A stone that makes them stumble,

and a rock that makes them fall.'

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

Once you were not a people,

but now you are God's people;

once you had not received mercy,

but now you have received mercy.

CANTICLE: The Easter Anthems (*1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Romans 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22*)

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us:

therefore let us celebrate the feast,

Not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:

but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

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.

Christ has been raised from the dead:

the firstfruits 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.

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.

SECOND READING: John 14:1-14

Jesus said to the disciples, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again

and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'

REFLECTION

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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 OF THE PEOPLE

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

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, and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen
and grant her government wisdom.

Let your ministers be clothed with righteousness
and let your servants shout for joy.

O Lord, save your people
and bless those whom you have chosen.

Give peace in our time, O Lord,
and let your glory be over all the earth.

O God, make clean our hearts within us
and renew us by your Holy Spirit.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.**

COLLECTS AT MORNING PRAYER

Go before us, Lord, in all our doings, with your most gracious favour, and further us with your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name, and finally by your mercy attain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray that your Holy Spirit may so guide and govern us that in all the cares and occupations of our daily life, we may never forget your presence but may remember that we are always walking in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ON CHRISTIAN AID SUNDAY, PRAYERS FOR AN UNEQUAL WORLD FACING THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

God our refuge, we come to you with open hands, some of us with hearts full of questions, some of us bruised by bereavement, some of us fearful of what the future holds, all of us stunned by the events of this year. Draw close to us now in each of our homes as we place our honest questions and hopes into your open, resurrected, yet scarred hands.

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With the honesty of the psalmist, the wrestling questions of Job, and the lament of the prophets, we bring to you our questions or our silence.

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear the cry of our hearts, Lord, silent and aloud, for bereaved neighbours, near and far. Comfort those pained by being absent, and hold close those who are hurting alone.

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this season of Easter, renew us with resurrection hope that while weeping lingers in this night, joy will come with the morning.

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

On this Christian Aid Week Sunday, we pray for and with communities across the world who are most vulnerable to coronavirus. We pray for people living in refugee camps and city slums, with limited sanitation facilities, those who are unable to wash their hands regularly, and have little opportunity to isolate from others. We pray for Christian Aid partners working to provide soap and buckets, communicating clear, accurate information, raising the voices of the most vulnerable and ensuring they are kept as safe as possible. For those of us who are self-isolating, which can sometimes feel like we aren't doing anything, remind us that we are all doing our part, and saving lives by staying at home.

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for much wisdom and resources for those in leading local and national administrations, and for all frontline and key workers both here at home and across the world.

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As we have clapped to honour them, we clap our hands now in praise of your glorious creation, and with the hope that the first shoots of another possible world are coming into view.

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

COMMON CLOSING PRAYER

**May the presence of the Creator refresh us,
may the comfort of the Son renew us,
may the inspiration of the Spirit restore us
to be love in action, even from a distance,
in our neighbourhoods, near and far,
this day and for evermore. Amen.**

A PRAYER FOR CARE WORKERS:

O Heavenly Father, who by your Son Jesus Christ has taught us the glory of self-sacrifice and service: bless all doctors, nurses, anaesthetists and hospital personnel who are called to care for the sick, especially those suffering from the Coronavirus. Give your strength to all who work in Nursing homes, and who attend those in need of care in the community. Protect all who work in essential shops, and businesses and supply companies. Help each to remember that they are fellow-workers with you; and give them such patience, skill and love that they may bring healing and comfort to those who they serve, and their loved ones. Guard them in their work from themselves contracting the virus, and watch over their families and loved ones in their anxiety for them. We ask this in the name of the one who spent himself for others with no thought for himself, even our Great Healer, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF EASTER BLESSING

May God the Father,
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,
raise us up to walk with him in the newness of his risen life:
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

THE EASTERTIDE DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of the Risen Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**In this Christian Aid Week of Coronavirus Lockdown,
please make any donation you can to this year's 2020 Christian Aid Week Appeal.**

Donations can be made On-Line to the Belfast Office with the following internet link to:
<https://www.christianaid.ie>

Or send a cheque made out to "Christian Aid" (Marked Christian Aid Week 2020) by post to:
Christian Aid, Linden House, 96 Beechill Road, Belfast BT8 7QN

For more information on giving to Christian Aid Phone: 028 9064 8133

Or check out the Belfast Christian Aid Website www.christianaid.ie

Belfast Cathedral Closure

We regret that, due to current restrictions
as a result of the Covid-19 virus, Belfast Cathedral is closed to
services, tourism, events and as a public gathering venue.

However, please continue to watch the cathedral website (www.belfastcathedral.org) or
our Facebook Page "Belfast Cathedral" for up to date news and online prayer resources.

HYMNS THAT CAN BE USED AT HOME:

ICH 431*

**Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
first-begotten from the dead.
thou alone, our strong defender,
liftest up thy people's head.
Alleluia ,alleluia,
Jesus, true and living bread.**

**Here for faith's discernment praying,
lest we fail to know thee now,
here our deepest homage paying,
we in loving reverence bow;
alleluia ,alleluia,
thou art here, we ask not how.**

**Paschal Lamb, thine offering, finished
once for all when thou wast slain,
in its fullness undiminished
shall for evermore remain,
alleluia ,alleluia,
cleansing souls from every stain.**

**Life-imparting, heavenly manna,
stricken Rock with streaming side,
heaven and earth with loud hosanna
worship thee, the Lamb that died.
alleluia ,alleluia,
Risen, ascended, glorified!**

*Words: George Hugh Bourne (1840-1925)
Tune: ST. HELEN George C. Martin (1844-1916)*

ICH 491*

**We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for all throughout the earth;
the gospel of a Saviour's name:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.**

**Tell of his death at Calvary,
hated by those he came to save,
in lonely suffering on the cross:
for all he loved, his life he gave.**

**Tell of that glorious Easter morn,
empty the tomb, for he was free;
he broke the power of death and hell
that we might share his victory.**

**Now we rejoice to name him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel message we proclaim;
we sing his glory, tell his worth.**

Words: Edward J. Burns (b.1938)

Tune: FULDA (WALTON) William Gardiner (1770-1853) Sacred Melodies (vol. 2, 1815)

ICH 327

**Christ is our corner-stone,
on him alone we build;
with his true saints alone
the courts of heaven are filled:
on his great love
our hopes we place
of present grace
and joys above.**

**Oh, then with hymns of praise
these hallowed courts shall ring;
our voices we will raise
the Three in One to sing;
and thus proclaim
in joyful song,
both loud and long,
that glorious Name.**

**Here, gracious God, come now,
and evermore draw near;
accept each faithful vow
and mark each earnest prayer;
in copious shower
on all who pray
each holy day
your blessings pour.**

**Here may we gain from heaven
the grace which we implore;
and may that grace, once given,
be with us evermore,
until that day
when all the blest
to endless rest
are called away.**

Words: Latin c. 7th century, tr. John Chandler (1806-76) Tune: HAREWOOD Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-76)