



**A SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER
FOR USE AT HOME
Sunday 10th May 2020
The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Christian Aid Sunday**



THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

HYMN: ICH 278

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in the dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead had been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

In the grave they laid him, Love by hatred slain,
thinking that he never would awake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for the three days in the grave had lain,
quick from the dead, my risen Lord is seen:

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
then your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts, that dead and bare have been:

Words: John M.C. Crum (1872-1958)

Tune: NOEL NOUVELET French traditional carol melody

OPENING RESPONSES:

O Lord, open thou our lips
and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.
The Lord's name be praised.

PSALM: 55

Hear my prayer, O God:
and hide not thyself from my petition.
Take heed unto me, and hear me:
how I mourn in my prayer, and am vexed.
The enemy crieth so, and the ungodly cometh on so fast:
for they are minded to do me some mischief; so maliciously are they set against me.
My heart is disquieted within me:
and the fear of death is fallen upon me.
Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me:
and an horrible dread hath overwhelmed me.

And I said, O that I had wings like a dove:
for then would I flee away, and be at rest.
Lo, then would I get me away far off:
and remain in the wilderness.
I would make haste to escape:
because of the stormy wind and tempest.
Destroy their tongues, O Lord, and divide them:
for I have spied unrighteousness and strife in the city.
Day and night they go about within the walls thereof:
mischief also and sorrow are in the midst of it.
Wickedness is therein:
deceit and guile go not out of their streets.
For it is not an open enemy, that hath done me this dishonor:
for then I could have borne it.
Neither was it mine adversary, that did magnify himself against me:
for then peradventure I would have hid myself from him.
But it was even thou, my companion:
my guide, and mine own familiar friend.
We took sweet counsel together:
and walked in the house of God as friends.
Let death come hastily upon them, and let them go down quick into hell:
for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them.
As for me, I will call upon God:
and the Lord shall save me.
In the evening, and morning, and at noon-day will I pray, and that instantly:
and he shall hear my voice.
It is he that hath delivered my soul in peace from the battle that was against me:
for there were many with me.
Yea, even God, that endureth for ever, shall hear me, and bring them down:
for they will not turn, nor fear God.
He laid his hands upon such as be at peace with him:
and he brake his covenant.
The words of his mouth were softer than butter, having war in his heart:
his words were smoother than oil, and yet be they very swords.
O cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall nourish thee:
and shall not suffer the righteous to fall for ever.
And as for them:
thou, O God, shalt bring them into the pit of destruction.
The blood-thirsty and deceitful men shall not live out half their days:
nevertheless, my trust shall be in thee, O Lord.

Glory be to the Father:
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Zechariah 4:1-10

The angel who talked with me came again, and wakened me, as one is wakened from sleep. He said to me, 'What do you see?' And I said, 'I see a lampstand all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it; there are seven lamps on it, with seven lips on each of the lamps that are on the top of it. And by it there are two olive trees, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left.' I said to the angel who talked with me, 'What are these, my lord?' Then the angel who talked with me answered me, 'Do you not know what these are?' I said, 'No, my lord.' He said to me, 'This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the LORD of hosts. What are you, O great mountain?

Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain; and he shall bring out the top stone amid shouts of "Grace, grace to it!"'

Moreover, the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also complete it. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel.'

'These seven are the eyes of the LORD, which range through the whole earth.'

THE CANTICLE MAGNIFICAT:

My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded:
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold, from henceforth:
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me:
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him:
throughout all generations.
He hath shewed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat:
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be:
world without end. Amen.

SECOND LESSON: Revelation 21:1-14

I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children. But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death.'

Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, 'Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.' And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. It has the glory of God and a radiance like a very rare jewel, like jasper, clear as crystal. It has a great, high wall with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates are inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites; on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them are the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

THE CANTICLE NUNC DIMITTIS:

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation.

Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people.

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:

and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:

and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be:

world without end. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker 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, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick 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 Lord be with you

and with thy Spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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.

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us
and grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen
and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness
and make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people
and bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord,
because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us
and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men; Grant unto thy people, that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PEACE

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord: and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PRAYERS

These prayers are adapted from the website of Christian Aid: Prayers in a time of Coronavirus

Loving God, we seek your presence in the silence beyond words, looking to you for comfort, strength, protection and reassurance; breathing with gratitude, holding on to hope, trusting with faith that you are still God in the midst of the turmoil, and that your love reaches to the ends of the earth.

Even in the darkest moments, love gives hope. Love compels us to fight against coronavirus alongside our sisters and brothers living in poverty. Love compels us to stand together in prayer with our neighbours near and far. Love compels us to give and act as one. Now, it is clear that our futures are bound together more tightly than ever before. As we pray in our individual homes – around the nation and around the world – we are united as one family. So, let us pause and find a moment of peace, as we lift up our hearts together in prayer.

God of heaven and earth, in these times of isolation, apart from loved ones, distant from friends, away from neighbours, thank you that there is nothing in all of creation, not even coronavirus, that is able to separate us from your love. May your love that never fails continue to be shared through the kindness of strangers looking out for each other, for neighbours near and far, all recognising our shared vulnerability, each of us grateful for every breath, and willing everyone to know the gift of a full and healthy life. Keep us all in your care.

May your love that never fails strengthen the weak, encourage the fearful, calm the anxious, heal the sick, through your church – your washed hands and feet on earth – distant but still present, virtual but still connected, apart but still helping.

Restoring and healing God, thank you for medical workers everywhere, embodying sacrificial love in these challenging times putting the welfare of others before their own, staying away from their family and loved ones, comforting the concerned and bereaved, reassuring the anxious and vulnerable, working to heal and restore people who are ill. Be their guide, strength, wisdom and hope. We pray for those in authority to do right by them for proper protective equipment to be provided and for their dedication to be met with much gratitude and appreciation when they return home, exhausted. And we pray for medical workers around the world, where resources and protective equipment are always in short supply, not only now but always. May these extraordinary times lead to deep and necessary changes in how our world works, resulting in a genuine effort to address the profound injustice of life expectancy being determined by geography, to awaken us all to the reality of how connected we all are and to work together to create the community and world we all want to be part of.

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**

A PRAYER OF ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

THE GRACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

HYMN: ICH 476

Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
bright seraphs, cherubim and thrones,
raise the glad strain, alleluia!
Cry out, dominions, principedoms,
principedoms, powers,
virtues, archangels, angels' choirs,
alleluia!

O higher than the cherubim,
more glorious than the seraphim,
lead their praises, alleluia!
Thou bearer of the eternal Word,
most gracious, magnify the Lord,
alleluia!

Respond, ye souls in endless rest,
ye patriarchs and prophets blessed,
alleluia! alleluia!
Ye holy twelve, ye martyrs strong,
all saints triumphant, raise the song
alleluia!

O friends, in gladness let us sing,
supernal anthems echoing,
alleluia! alleluia!
To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
alleluia!

Words: Athelstan Riley (1858-1945)

Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN (EASTER SONG) Melody from Geistliche Kirchengesang (Cologne, 1623) arr. R. Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

PRAYER OF BLESSING

May the peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst 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!

*Bible passages in this service are from the New Revised Standard Version.
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**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.