



**A SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER
FOR USE AT HOME
The Sixth Sunday of Easter:
Rogation Sunday
Sunday 17th May 2020**



THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it. *Psalm 24:1*

Beloved in Christ, we come together to offer to Almighty God our worship and praise and thanksgiving, to confess our sins and to receive God's forgiveness, to hear his holy word proclaimed, to bring before him our needs and the needs of the world, and to pray that in the power of his Spirit we may serve him and know the greatness of his love.

Let us ask God to have mercy on our tired land, and to prosper the work of our soiled hands. Let us ask God to forgive our delusion of self-sufficiency so that we may praise him for his provision and goodness.

Heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault; by what we have done and by what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ who died for us, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. 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: 66:7-18

Bless our God, O you peoples; ♦

make the voice of his praise to be heard,

Who holds our souls in life ♦

and suffers not our feet to slip.

For you, O God, have proved us; ♦

you have tried us as silver is tried.

You brought us into the snare; ♦

you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water; ♦

but you brought us out into a place of liberty.

I will come into your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows, ♦

which my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

I will offer you fat burnt sacrifices with the smoke of rams; ♦

I will sacrifice oxen and goats.

Come and listen, all you who fear God, ♦

and I will tell you what he has done for my soul.

I called out to him with my mouth ♦

and his praise was on my tongue.

If I had nursed evil in my heart, ♦

the Lord would not have heard me,

But in truth God has heard me; ♦

he has heeded the voice of my prayer.

Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, ♦

nor withheld his loving mercy from me.

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: Acts 17:22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, 'Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, "To an unknown god." What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For "In him we live and move and have our being"; as even some of your own poets have said, "For we too are his offspring."

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.'

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 14:15-21

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.'

REFLECTION *by the Dean*

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

God our redeemer, you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son: Grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life, so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COLLECTS AT MORNING PRAYER

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life, and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us in all assaults of our enemies, that we, surely trusting in your protection, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everliving God, we give you thanks for bringing us safely to this day: Keep us from falling into sin or running into danger, and in all things guide us to know and do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYERS

Let us ask the God of creation to send a blessing upon us and all people:

Upon the rich earth send a blessing, O Lord. Let the earth be fruitful and its resources be hallowed. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Upon human labour send a blessing, O Lord. Prosper the work of our hands; may all find dignity and just reward in their work; free the exploited and oppressed. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Upon the produce of the earth send a blessing, O Lord. Guide us into a sustainable future, and give us the will to share the fruits of the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Upon the seas and waters send a blessing, O Lord. Teach us to cherish the water of the earth, and to conserve the seas, lakes and rivers. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Upon aid agencies send a blessing, O Lord. Where the earth is parched and the well has run dry; where war brings want, and children go hungry; where the poor cry out for bread and for justice, give hands to care and heal, and compel us to be generous.
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, **accept these our prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. 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 BLESSING

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is the source of all goodness and growth,
pour his blessing upon all things created,
and upon us his children,
that we may use his gifts to his glory and the welfare of all peoples;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be with us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Tend the earth, care for God's good creation, and bring forth the fruits of righteousness.
Go in the peace of the Risen Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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 285

The head that once was crowned with
thorns
is crowned with glory now;
a royal diadem adorns
the mighty Victor's brow.

The highest place that heaven affords
is his, is his by right,
the King of kings, and Lord of lords,
and heaven's eternal light.

The joy of all who dwell above:
the joy of all below,
to whom he manifests his love,
and grants his name to know.

To them the Cross, with all its shame,
with all its grace, is given:
their name an everlasting name,
their joy the joy of heaven.

They suffer with their Lord below,
they reign with him above,
their profit and their joy to know
the mystery of his love.

The Cross he bore is life and health,
though shame and death to him;
his people's hope, his people's wealth,
their everlasting theme.

Words: Thomas Kelly (1769-1854)

Tune: ST MAGNUS, Jeremiah Clarke (1673-1707)

ICH 695:

God of mercy, God of grace,
show the brightness of thy face.
Shine upon us, Saviour, shine,
thy Church with light divine,
and thy saving health extend
unto earth's remotest end.

Let the people praise thee, Lord;
be by all that live adored.
Let the nations shout and sing
glory to their Saviour King;
at thy feet their tribute pay,
and thy holy will obey.

Let the people praise thee, Lord;
earth shall then her fruits afford;
God to us his blessing give,
we to God devoted live;
all below, and all above,
one in joy, and light, and love.

Words: Henry Francis Lyte, (1793-1847) altd.

Tune: HEATHLANDS HENRY SMART (1813-79)