



A SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER
FOR USE AT HOME
Sunday 24th May 2020
The Seventh Sunday of Easter:
Sunday after Ascension Day

THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

HYMN: ICH 281

Rejoice, the Lord is King,
Your Lord and King adore;
Mortals, give thanks and sing,
And triumph evermore:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,
The God of truth and love;
When he had purged our stains,
He took his seat above:

His kingdom cannot fail;
He rules o'er earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus given:

He sits at God's right hand
Till all his foes submit,
And bow to his command,
And fall beneath his feet:

We soon shall hear the archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound: Rejoice!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-88) based on Philippians 4:4
Tune: GOPSAL G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

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: 119:1-32

Blessed are those that are undefiled in the way *
and walk in the law of the Lord.
Blessed are they that keep his testimonies *
and seek him with their whole heart.
For they who do no wickedness *
walk in his ways.
Thou hast charged *
that we shall diligently keep thy commandments.
O that my ways were made so direct *
that I might keep thy statutes!
So shall I not be confounded *
while I have respect unto all thy commandments.
I will thank thee with an unfeigned heart *
when I shall have learned the judgements of thy righteousness.
I will keep thy ceremonies *
O forsake me not utterly.

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way *
even by ruling himself after thy word.
With my whole heart have I sought thee *
O let me not go wrong out of thy commandments.
Thy words have I hid within my heart *
that I should not sin against thee.
Blessed art thou, O Lord *
O teach me thy statutes.
With my lips have I been telling *
of all the judgements of thy mouth.
I have had as great delight in the way of thy testimonies *
as in all manner of riches.
I will talk of thy commandments *
and have respect unto thy ways.
My delight shall be in thy statutes *
and I will not forget thy word.
O do well unto thy servant *
that I may live, and keep thy word.
Open thou mine eyes *
that I may see the wondrous things of thy law.
I am a stranger upon earth *
O hide not thy commandments from me.
My soul breaketh out for the very fervent desire *
that it hath always unto thy judgements.
Thou hast rebuked the proud *
and cursed are they that do err from thy commandments.
O turn from me shame and rebuke *
for I have kept thy testimonies.
Princes also did sit and speak against me *
but thy servant is occupied in thy statutes.
For thy testimonies are my delight *
and my counsellors.
My soul cleaveth to the dust *
O quicken thou me, according to thy word.
I have acknowledged my ways, and thou heardest me *
O teach me thy statutes.
Make me to understand the way of thy commandments *
and so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.
My soul melteth away for very heaviness *
comfort thou me according unto thy word.
Take from me the way of lying *
and cause thou me to make much of thy law.
I have chosen the way of truth *
and thy judgements have I laid before me.
I have stuck unto thy testimonies *
O Lord, confound me not.
I will run the way of thy commandments *
when thou hast set my heart at liberty.

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: 2 Samuel 23:1-5

Now these are the last words of David:
The oracle of David, son of Jesse,
the oracle of the man whom God exalted,
the anointed of the God of Jacob,
the favourite of the Strong One of Israel:

The spirit of the LORD speaks through me,
his word is upon my tongue.
The God of Israel has spoken,
the Rock of Israel has said to me:
One who rules over people justly,
ruling in the fear of God,
is like the light of morning,
like the sun rising on a cloudless morning,
gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.

Is not my house like this with God?
For he has made with me an everlasting covenant,
ordered in all things and secure.
Will he not cause to prosper
all my help and my desire?

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: Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great

power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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 God the King of Glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven; We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless; but send to us thine Holy Spirit to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Saviour Christ is gone before, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **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

Approaching God in prayer

O Immanence, that knows nor far nor near, but as the air we breathe is with us here, our breath of life, O Lord, we worship thee.

For the human family struggling to envisage life following a global pandemic

We are a broken, divided family of lonely individuals, each alone; truly, we're not a family. Communication with each other seems impossible, and love vanishes into the void. Yet both are what we desperately need. We all need and want each other, but we're too proud to admit it, or to confess that we're each to blame for our separation, loneliness and pain. We add brick upon brick to the wall that divides and isolates us. You alone are our hope, O God of our salvation. Your love breaks down walls that isolate and divide us. Your love heals, forgives, and makes us whole again. Restore us, O God of our salvation. Reconcile us, that we may be a family, and live.

For those who face Covid-19 already suffering with poverty and want

Lord, we remember the millions in our world who must go hungry today, all those who do not have even the basic necessities of life, and for whom life itself has become a burden. *Out of the depths we cry to you, Lord, hear our cry and listen to our prayer.* Lord, we remember all those who, because of their caste or class, colour or sex, are exploited and marginalised- the forces of oppression that trample on people and the unjust systems which break the spirit of people, and rob them of their rights and dignity. *Out of the depths we cry to you, Lord, hear our cry and listen to our prayer.*

For hope in the midst of darkness

In times of despair, O God, rain showers of gentleness upon us, that we may be kindly one to another and also to ourselves. Renew in us the spirit of hope. Even in the depths of the darkness, may we hear the approach of the One who harrows hell and greets even Judas with a kiss.

For patience, wisdom and understanding

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgement, and light rises up in darkness for the godly; give us, in all our doubts and uncertainties the grace to ask what thou wouldst have us to do; that the spirit

of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in thy light we may see light and in thy straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 398*

Alleluia, sing to Jesus,
His the sceptre, his the throne;
Alleluia, his the triumph,
His the victory alone:
Hark the songs of peaceful Sion
Thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus out of every nation,
Hath redeemed us by his blood.

Alleluia, Bread of Angels,
Thou on earth our food, our stay;
Alleluia, here the sinful
Flee to thee from day to day;
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
Earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
Where the songs of all the sinless
Sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia, not as orphans
Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia, he is near us,
Faith believes, nor questions how;
Though the cloud from sight received him
When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget his promise,
'I am with you evermore?'

Words: W. Chatterton Dix (1837-98) based on Acts 1:3-11

Tune: HYFRYDOL Melody by Cyril A. Alington (1872-1955) based on 1 Peter 2:6-10

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!

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 www.facebook.co.uk/BelfastCathedral/ for up to date news and online prayer resources.

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

Material in this service is reproduced from the Book of Common Prayer copyright © RCB 2004.

Belfast Cathedral text, music and live streaming licence numbers CCL 8124, MRL 1049409

belfastcathedral.org