



**A SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER FOR USE AT HOME**  
**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021**  
**The Day of Pentecost:**  
**Whit Sunday**

**OPENING RESPONSES:**

O Lord, open thou our lips.  
And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O 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 Ghost.  
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: 115**

Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy Name give the praise \*  
for thy loving mercy, and for thy truth's sake.  
Wherefore shall the heathen say \*  
Where is now their God?  
As for our God, he is in heaven \*  
he hath done whatsoever pleased him.  
Their idols are silver and gold \*  
even the work of men's hands.  
They have mouths, and speak not \*  
eyes have they, and see not.  
They have ears, and hear not \*  
noses have they, and smell not.  
They have hands, and handle not; feet have they, and walk not \*  
neither speak they through their throat.  
They that make them are like unto them \*  
and so are all such as put their trust in them.  
But thou, house of Israel, trust thou in the Lord \*  
he is their succour and defence.  
Ye house of Aaron, put your trust in the Lord \*  
he is their helper and defender.  
Ye that fear the Lord, put your trust in the Lord \*  
he is their helper and defender.  
The Lord hath been mindful of us, and he shall bless us \*  
even he shall bless the house of Israel, he shall bless the house of Aaron.  
He shall bless them that fear the Lord \*  
both small and great.  
The Lord shall increase you more and more \*  
you and your children.  
Ye are the blessed of the Lord \*  
who made heaven and earth.  
All the whole heavens are the Lord's \*  
the earth hath he given to the children of men.  
The dead praise not thee, O Lord \*  
neither all they that go down into silence.  
But we will praise the Lord \*  
from this time forth for evermore. Praise the 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: Ezekiel 37:1-14**

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord GOD, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.'

**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: Acts 2:22-38**

'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know— this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me,

for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken;  
therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced;  
moreover, my flesh will live in hope.  
For you will not abandon my soul to Hades,  
or let your Holy One experience corruption.  
You have made known to me the ways of life;  
you will make me full of gladness with your presence."

'Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying,

"He was not abandoned to Hades,  
nor did his flesh experience corruption."

This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says,

"The Lord said to my Lord,  
'Sit at my right hand,  
until I make your enemies your footstool.' "

Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'

## **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, which art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done,  
In earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
But deliver us from evil. Amen.

O Lord, shew 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.

#### **THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

God, who as at this time didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people, by the sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit; Grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the same 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**

O God, we pray thee for thy Church which is set today amid the perplexities of a changing order, and is face to face with a new task. Fill us all afresh with the Spirit of Pentecost. Help us to proclaim boldly the coming of thy kingdom. And do thou hasten the time when the knowledge of thyself shall fill the earth as the waters cover the sea. We ask it in the name and for the sake of Christ our Lord.

O God, who hast made of one blood all nations for to dwell on the face of the earth, and didst send thy blessed Son Jesus Christ to preach peace to them that are afar off, and to them that are nigh: grant that the peoples of the earth may feel after thee and find thee; and hasten, O Lord, the fulfilment of thy promise to pour out thy Spirit upon all flesh; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O Lord God Almighty, who dost by thy Holy Spirit endow thy servants with manifold gifts of knowledge and skill: grant us grace to use them always for thine honour, and for the service of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty God, who resisteth the proud and giveth grace to the humble: deliver us when we draw near to thee from all self-sufficiency and spiritual pride; and grant us an ever deepening sense of our own unworthiness and of thy unfailing mercy; through him who is our only righteousness, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord of all power and might, we praise thee for thy good gifts of health and strength; for the sight of our eyes, the hearing of our ears, the strength of our limbs, the powers of our mind, and the energy which forges them into a fit instrument for thy service. Praise be to thee, O God of our health, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O Christ our Lord, our good physician and our salvation: Look upon all thy faithful people who are sick, and who love to call upon thy name; take their souls into thy keeping, and vouchsafe to deliver them from all sickness and infirmity; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

We thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for all who hallow pain by triumphing over it; for sufferers whose thought is always for others; for those whose faith brings light to the dark places of life; for those whose patience inspires others to endure. And grant that, we beseech thee, O loving Father, to all who are bound together in the mysterious fellowship of suffering, the sense of comradeship with each other and with their crucified Saviour; granting them in this life the peace that passeth all understanding, which the world cannot give nor take away, and in the world to come life everlasting.

*A time of **FREE PRAYER** in which to remember others and commend the coming week to God*

*Pause for **SILENT REFLECTION***

## **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.

## Hymns suitable for use at home:

### ICH 299

Holy Spirit, come, confirm us  
in the truth that Christ makes known;  
we have faith and understanding  
through your helping gifts alone.

Holy Spirit, come, console us,  
come as advocate to plead,  
loving Spirit from the father,  
grant in Christ the help we need.

Holy Spirit, come, renew us,  
come yourself to make us live,  
holy through your loving presence,  
holy through the gifts you give.

Holy Spirit, come, possess us,  
you the love of Three in One,  
Holy Spirit of the Father,  
Holy Spirit of the Son.

*Words: Brian Foley (1919-2000) based on John 14:25-27; 16:12-15  
Tune: ALL FOR JESUS John Stainer (1840-1901) from The Crucifixion*

### ICH 314

Revive your Church, O Lord,  
in grace and power draw near;  
speak with the voice that wakes the dead,  
and make your people hear!

Revive your Church, O Lord,  
disturb the sleep of death;  
give life to smouldering embers now  
by your almighty breath.

Revive your Church, O Lord,  
exalt your precious name;  
and by your Holy Spirit come  
and set our love aflame.

Revive your Church, O Lord,  
give us a thirst for you,  
a hunger for the bread of life  
our spirits to renew.

Revive your Church, O, Lord,  
and let your power be shown;  
the gifts and graces shall be ours,  
and glory yours alone!

*Words: Albert Midlane (1825-1909)  
Tune: STEEPLE ASHTON John Barnard (b.1948)*