

# Prayer at Home

## Easter Sunday: The Lord's Resurrection (Yr A)

*Gather with family or on your own. Place an opened Bible on a table. Light a candle, white if possible, and place a crucifix and some flowers beside it and a bowl of water.*

*Begin with:*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **Antiphon:**

The rising sun has come to greet us. The day of the new creation has arrived. This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad. He is risen Alleluia! Alleluia!

Risen Lord, by your blood you have redeemed us from slavery to sin:  
**LORD, HAVE MERCY.**

Lord of life, by your rising you have claimed us as God's own people:  
**CHRIST, HAVE MERCY.**

Paschal Lamb, by baptism you have raised us to new life in the Spirit:  
**LORD, HAVE MERCY.**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

### **Gloria**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.  
We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

### Opening Prayer

On this most holy day, Lord God,  
through the triumph of your only-begotten Son  
you have shattered the gates of death  
and opened the way to everlasting life.  
Grant we ask you,  
that we who celebrate the festival of the Lord's resurrection,  
may rise to a new and glorious life  
through the quickening power of your Spirit.

Through Christ, our deliverance and hope,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever. Amen.

### First Reading

*Acts 10:34, 37-43*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

*We have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead.*

Peter addressed Cornelius and his household: You must have heard about the recent happenings in Judaea; about Jesus of Nazareth and how he began in Galilee, after John had been preaching baptism. God had anointed him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and because God was with him, Jesus went about doing good and curing all who had fallen into the power of the devil.' Now I, and those with me, can witness to everything he did throughout the countryside of Judaea and in Jerusalem itself: and also to the fact that they killed him by hanging him on a tree, yet three days afterwards God raised him to life and allowed him to be seen, not by the whole people but only by certain witnesses God had chosen beforehand.

Now we are those witnesses - we have eaten and drunk with him after his resurrection from the dead - and he has ordered us to proclaim this to his people and to tell them that God has appointed him to judge everyone, alive or dead. It is to him that all the prophets bear this witness: that all who believe in Jesus will have their sins forgiven through his name.'

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Responsorial Psalm**

*Ps 117:1-2, 16-17, 22-23*

***R. This is the day the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad.***

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good,  
for his love has no end.  
Let the sons of Israel say:  
'His love has no end.' R.

The Lord's right hand has triumphed;  
his right hand raised me up.  
I shall not die, I shall live  
and recount his deeds. R.

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the corner stone.  
This is the work of the Lord,  
a marvel in our eyes. R.

### **Second Reading**

*1 Corinthians 5:6-8*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians  
*Throw away the old yeast, that you may be new dough.*

You must know how even a small amount of yeast is enough to leaven all the dough, so get rid of all the old yeast, and make yourselves into a completely new batch of bread, unleavened as you are meant to be. Christ, our passover, has been sacrificed; let us celebrate the feast, by getting rid of all the old yeast of evil and wickedness, having only the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

*1 Corinthians 5:7-8*

## Sequence

Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise.  
The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;  
and Christ, the undefiled,  
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.  
Death with life contended: combat strangely ended!  
Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign.  
Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way.  
The tomb the Living did enclose;  
I saw Christ's glory as he rose!  
The angels there attesting;  
shroud with grave-clothes resting.  
Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee.  
That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.  
Victorious king, thy mercy show!

***Alleluia, alleluia!***  
***Christ has become our paschal sacrifice;***  
***let us feast with joy in the Lord.***  
***Alleluia!***

## Gospel

*John 20:1-9 (JB)*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
*The teaching of scripture is that he must rise from the dead.*

It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been moved away from the tomb and came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved. 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb' she said 'and we don't know where they have put him.'

So Peter set out with the other disciple to go to the tomb. They ran together, but the other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first; he bent down and saw the linen cloths lying on the ground, but did not go in. Simon Peter who was following now came up, went right into the tomb, saw the linen cloths on the ground, and also the cloth that had been over his head; this was not with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in; he saw and he believed. Till this moment they had failed to understand the teaching of scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Homily

Easter is not for the faint-hearted. We have come face to face with the true depths of human life. Everything that we are afraid is here, in front of us; suffering and death. Everything that we hope for is here, in front of us; hope and new life. We dare not look away.

The story of Easter takes a long time to tell. Easter takes eight weeks or so to celebrate – every year. This is a story – an event – that is slowly unwrapped before us, and it takes time to be led into its mystery. In reality the Easter event is the entirety of our life. It is the way we understand who we are and how we interpret everything that happens to us – even these strange days of isolation and separation. It is the reason for our hope, for our love, for our endurance, our perseverance, and our sense of peace. The Easter story – the Paschal Mystery – is what we mean when we use the word “faith”. The paschal mystery is the dying and rising of Christ, but it can sound too obscure and mysterious to our everyday ears. Spiritual writer, Ron Rolheiser, gives us a very helpful way of getting into the heart of the Paschal story and how it touches the reality of our life. He says that we need to understand the Paschal Mystery like this:

- Good Friday is like our little deaths — the cycles of change in our life.
- Easter Sunday is the seeds of new life
- The 40 days of Easter mirrors our re-adjustment to new life and our sense of grieving for what has been lost
- The Ascension is like the letting go of the old and allowing it to become a blessing in your life
- Pentecost is the receiving of the Spirit that allows us to live this new life.

In our life, there is death, our final death, but there are also the series of deaths along the way. Things die in our lives. We constantly go through change and transition. We leave the womb. We leave school. We leave home. We leave behind our innocence. We lose our self-illusions. We lose our peace of mind, our well-being, our health. We lose members of family, friends, possibilities; dreams die in our lives. That’s Good Friday.

But like Easter Sunday, things come to life too. These aren’t a resuscitation of the old – we can’t claim back what we have lost. We speak of resurrection. It is the in-breaking of that which is radically new in our lives. It is the seeds of

new life that we do not expect or imagine. They are there in our lives, but we are not always ready to see them or accept them.

That's why we celebrate the Easter season. We need time to re-focus our vision. Our lives change but we are not always ready to live what is new. We need time to grieve and accept both the loss and the newness. The Ascension captures the moment in our life when we are prepared to let go; to let things that we are sad or sorrowful about ascend into the great mystery that we call "God." This letting go is not a kind of forgetting – it is that we remember things in a different kind of way so that they become a blessing in our lives. The grief that we feel becomes the open space – the empty tomb – which can be filled by the spirit of new life.

And that spirit of new life is like Pentecost. The disciples were already living the Resurrection, but they had not yet received the spirit for this new life that was already present to them. That's the final part of the paschal cycle – the gift of the spirit of a new life that is already alive. It is only then that we become able and equipped to live what has already begun. As Ron Rolheiser writes: "The Holy Spirit is not a generic spirit, but a spirit that is given to each of us in a most particular way for the particular circumstances that each of us finds ourselves in. Pentecost is not just social; it is also personal and individual."

And so we are continually on a pilgrimage through Good Friday, Easter Sunday, the Easter season, Ascension and Pentecost. This is the Paschal Cycle that each of us is invited to live: recognising our deaths, accepting the seeds of new life, moving gradually through our transitions, then being able to let go, which enables us to receiving of the gifts that lift us up to new life. And we go through this over and over and over again until that great day when all, and everything, will be renewed in that new creation that God prepares.

On this Easter day, we ask that the Holy Spirit renew the gift of our baptism, and reinvigorate our hope and faith in the Paschal Mystery. Let us be touched by the words of Pope Francis who calls us to live in the joy of Easter. Pope Francis says:

Faith means believing in God, believing that God truly loves us, that God is alive, that God is mysteriously capable of intervening, that God does not abandon us and that he brings good out of evil by his power and his infinite

creativity.... Let us believe the Gospel when it tells us that the kingdom of God is already present in this world and is growing, here and there, and in different ways... Christ's resurrection everywhere calls forth seeds of that new world; even if they are cut back, they grow again, for the resurrection is already secretly woven into the fabric of this history, for Jesus did not rise in vain. May we never remain on the sidelines of this march of living hope!

### **Renewal of baptismal promises:**

Easter is the chance to renew our baptism and begin again in God's life as people of the new creation. Today, we re-claim our baptism:

I reject sin, and choose to live in the freedom of God's children.

I reject the glamour of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin.

I reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness, and all his works and empty promises.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was born of the Virgin Mary,  
was crucified, died, and was buried,  
rose from the dead,  
and is now seated at the right hand of the Father.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.

God, the all-powerful Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit,  
and forgiven all our sins.

May he also keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Bless yourself making a cross with some water from the bowl.*

## Prayers of Intercession

### INTRODUCTION:

Through the waters of baptism, we have risen with Christ. Let us offer these prayers, knowing that God is always faithful to the promises made to us.

For the Church, on this holy day; that it may be a beacon of radiance, proclaiming the love and strength of the Risen and Living Christ to all the world during this time of difficulty. RISEN LORD, HEAR US.

For all people and all nations, on this holy day; that all that is wounded and broken in creation will be restored and shine like the noon day sun. RISEN LORD, HEAR US.

For all leaders, on this holy day; that the qualities of service, commitment, compassion, and wisdom may shine through them and shape our collective response in this difficult days. RISEN LORD, HEAR US.

On this holy day, we pray for those who work in the areas of government policy, healthcare, public service; that by working together, the safety of all and the common good of society may be the fruits of their labours and the reward of their work. RISEN LORD, HEAR US.

For our families, on this holy day; that we may grow in faith, hope and love and support all those who feel anxious and alone. RISEN LORD, HEAR US.

For the isolated, elderly and frail, on this holy day; that in these times of uncertainty, they may be strengthened by the prayers of the church. RISEN LORD OF LIFE, HEAR US.

For all those who have died, especially through the Coronavirus and those who mourn them; may they be greeted by God's merciful Word, Jesus Christ and take their place at the great feast and banquet prepared for them. RISEN LORD, HEAR US.

Almighty and all-merciful God,  
lover of the human race, healer of all our wounds,  
in whom there is no shadow of death,  
save us in this time of crisis;  
grant wisdom and courage to our leaders;  
watch over all medical people  
as they tend the sick and work for a cure;  
stir in us a sense of solidarity beyond all isolation;  
if our doors are closed, let our hearts be open.  
By the power of your love destroy the virus of fear,  
that hope may never die  
and the light of Easter, the triumph of life,  
may shine upon us and the whole world.  
Through Jesus Christ, the Lord risen from the dead,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
Amen.

***Holy Mary, health of the sick, pray for us.  
St Joseph, guardian of us all, pray for us.***

Placing our faith in the power of the cross and trusting that we are united to all Christians, in all times and in all places, on this sacred day we dare to pray:

**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.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that, by the help of your mercy,  
we may be always free from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

Let us pray.

Hungering for your sacred gifts,  
we humbly ask you, O Lord,  
that, just as through the death of your Son  
you have brought us to hope for what we believe,  
so by his Resurrection  
you may lead us to where you call.  
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord God,  
Strength of the weary, medicine of the weak,  
Be near to us as we call on you.  
May you be our nourishment during this time and renew us daily in your love.

May God bless us, keep us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.