

A Service of the Word in the Easter Season

Prayers for use before the service begins

No more we doubt thee, glorious prince of life; life is naught without thee:
aid us in our strife; make us more than conquerors through thy
deathless love; bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above:
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son, endless is the victory thou o'er
death hast won. *Edmund Budry (1854-1932)*

Follow the Lamb

We have followed him, the Lamb, from his star-bright night of birth across
the plains of Palestine to Golgotha: and down,
down into Saturn's night of death.
Here at the edge of darkness do we stand,
halt before the grave. (Whose heart
does not halt here?) – Yet, see how the Lamb is laid within the tomb,
see how they wind him, white, in linen bands: gaze upon his silent fallen
form, gaze: do not flee the face of death.
Let sorrow softly soften.
The Lamb but sweetly waits until our shadowed inward eyes,
grown quiet, gently waken, bathed
in Resurrection's radiant dawn.
See how the way of Love leads on! *Melissa Kay* (living, birth date unknown)

God, give me grace to accept with serenity
the things that cannot be changed,
Courage to change the things
which should be changed,
and the Wisdom to distinguish
the one from the other.

Living one day at a time,
Enjoying one moment at a time,
Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace,
Taking, as Jesus did,
This sinful world as it is,
Not as I would have it,
Trusting that You will make all things right,
If I surrender to Your will,
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life,
And supremely happy with You forever in the next.
Amen. *Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-1971)*

The Greeting

The minister greets the people and says

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Opening Prayer

All Faithful one, whose word is life:

**come with saving power to inspire our prayers
and shape our lives for the kingdom of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Gloria in Excelsis

This song of praise is said in unison.

**All Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

**Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:**

have mercy on us;

**you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**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.

The Collect

Let us pray,

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

The Readings

The reader says, A reading from the Book of Acts. (2:42-47)

Those who had been baptized devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalms 23 is said in unison

1 The Lord is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures

and leads me beside still waters.

3 He revives my soul

and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I shall fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;

you have anointed my head with oil,

and my cup is running over.

6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me

all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, Amen.

The reader says, A reading from the first letter of Peter. (2:19-25)

It is a credit to you if, being aware of God, you endure pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do right and suffer for it, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

"He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

The minister proclaims the Gospel from John 10:1-10.

Alleluia, Alleluia. Hear the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

All Glory to you, Lord Christ. Alleluia.

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, Lord Christ. Alleluia.

The Homily

An Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith
in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:
this we have received,
and this we believe. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

We offer our prayers to Jesus Christ, who is the Great Shepherd and guardian of our souls, responding to each petition by saying;

All Hear us, O risen Christ.

Enlarge our sense of ministry as we experience being the Body of Christ during this time when we are dispersed. Help us to embody your love for others as we seek to embody your love for ourselves;
let us pray,

All Hear us, O risen Christ.

For all who exercise leadership, that their actions may reflect those of the Great Shepherd who cares for all the sheep. At this time of great suffering and need may the resources flow to those who are in great need;
let us pray,

All Hear us, O risen Christ.

As we shelter in our homes
may we break bread at our own tables as a sign
of your forgiving and loving presence;
let us pray,

All Hear us, O risen Christ.

Give courage and strength to all front-line medical professionals and all those who are sick with the coronavirus at this time.

let us pray,

***All* Hear us, O risen Christ.**

We pray also for those known to us who are sick or suffering and those for whom we are asked to pray, among them....

let us pray,

***All* Hear us, O risen Christ.**

Among your saints in glory we remember those who are recently departed, among them...

let us pray,

***All* Hear us, O risen Christ.**

God of Faithfulness and love,

Give us the will to persevere and the spirit of Resurrection Hope to cast out fear and lay claim to your abiding presence entrusting ourselves and all those whom we love to your mercy and care;

O risen Christ,

In your holy name we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers into one, let us pray as our Savior taught us,

***All* 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.

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 kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever.

Amen.

Acclamations

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

All He has brought us out of darkness.

He has made us light to the world.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

All He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Blessing

Christ the good shepherd,

Who laid down his life for the sheep,

Draw you and all who hear this voice,

To be one flock within one fold,

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be
among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

With the power that raised Jesus from the dead at work within you,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.

All Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Church of St. Barnabas, Irvington

in the Episcopal Diocese of New York

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