

Opening

Alleluia! Risen Lord, come be with us,
and teach our hearts to live in you. Alleluia!

Prayer

Jesus, divine companion: Give us strength to understand and eyes to see, as you teach us to walk the soft earth, related to all that lives. **Amen.**

Praise

A Song of Wisdom (Wisdom 10:15-19, 20b-21)

Wisdom freed from a nation of oppressors *
a holy people and a blameless race.
She entered the soul of a servant of the Lord, *
withstood dread rulers with wonders and signs.
To the saints she gave the reward of their labors, *
and led them by a marvelous way;
She was their shelter by day *
and a blaze of stars by night.
She brought them across the Red Sea, *
she led them through mighty waters;
But their enemies she swallowed in the waves *
and spewed them out from the depths of the abyss.
And then, Lord, the righteous sang hymns to your Name *
and praised with one voice your protecting hand;
For Wisdom opened the mouths of the mute *
and gave speech to the tongues of a new-born people.

Scripture, Matthew 5:11-16

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Meditation

Here, the people may add their thoughts about the scripture reading.

Prayers

Risen Christ, open our hearts to your grace and truth.

May we walk in newness of life.

Teach us to love others in the power of the Spirit.

May we walk in newness of life.

Here, the people may add particular intercessions or thanksgivings.

Strengthen us as witnesses to your love.

May we walk in newness of life.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Prayer

God our Deliverer, by water and the Holy Spirit we have been buried with Christ and raised to the new life of grace: Give us inquiring and discerning hearts, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

Going Out

**Alleluia! Risen Lord, come be with us,
and teach our hearts to live in you. Alleluia!**