

## **Opening**

Alleluia! O God, may the empty tomb  
**fill our hearts with faith. Alleluia!**

## **Prayer**

Jesus, our way, our truth, and our life: Open our hearts and minds to you, that we may see you clearly and follow where you lead; to you, risen Savior, we offer praise, now and always. **Amen.**

## **Praise**

*A Song of Our Adoption (Ephesians 1:3-10)*

Blessed are you, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, \*  
for you have blessed us in Christ  
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.  
Before the world was made, you chose us to be yours in Christ, \*  
that we should be holy and blameless before you.  
You destined us for adoption as your children through Jesus Christ, \*  
according to the good pleasure of your will,  
To the praise of your glorious grace, \*  
that you have freely given us in the Beloved.  
In you, we have redemption through the blood of Christ, \*  
the forgiveness of our sins,  
According to the riches of your grace\*  
which you have lavished upon us.  
You have made known to us, in all wisdom and insight,\*  
the mystery of your will,  
According to your good pleasure which you set forth in Christ,\*  
as a plan for the fullness of time,  
To gather together all things in Christ,\*  
things in heaven and things on earth.

## **Scripture Matthew 5:1-10**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will

be called children of God. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

### **Meditation**

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

### **Affirmation**

Christ Jesus, though in the form of God,  
did not exploit equality with God  
but emptied himself,  
in the form of a slave,  
born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death —  
even death on a cross.  
Therefore, God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.  
*Philippians 2:5-11*

### **Prayers**

In the work we do this day,  
**May the risen Christ teach us.**  
In the challenges we face this day,  
**May the risen Christ guide us.**  
Through the people we meet this day,  
**May the risen Christ renew us.**

*Here, the people may add particular intercessions or thanksgivings.*

As we respond to the hungers and hurts of this world,  
**May the Spirit of the risen Christ strengthen us.**

### **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**

Jesus, our friend and savior: Guide us that we may know God's desire for us and gain strength and courage to live as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

### **Going Out**

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**fill our hearts with faith. Alleluia!**