

Morning Prayer

Easter Season

Sunday, 17 May 2020

The Sixth Sunday of Easter

Bible study is included at end of this the Order of Service

*All main text in **bold** to said by congregation.*

Preparation

O Lord, open our lips

All and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

In your resurrection, O Christ,

All let heaven and earth rejoice.

One or more of the following is said or sung:

this or another prayer of thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,
to you be praise and glory forever.

As once you ransomed your people from Egypt
and led them to freedom in the promised land,
so now you have delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your risen Son.

May we, the first fruits of your new creation,
rejoice in this new day you have made,
and praise you for your mighty acts.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All Blessed be God for ever.

a suitable hymn, or the Easter Anthems

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us: ♦
so let us celebrate the feast,

not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness: ♦
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1 Corinthians 5.7b, 8

Christ once raised from the dead dies no more: ♦
death has no more dominion over him.

In dying he died to sin once for all: ♦
in living he lives to God.

See yourselves therefore as dead to sin: ♦
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6.9-11

Christ has been raised from the dead: ♦
the first fruits of those who sleep.

For as by man came death: ♦
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;
for as in Adam all die: ♦
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15.20-22

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

This opening prayer may be said

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;
let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,
so may the light of your presence, O God,
set our hearts on fire with love for you;
now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Word of God

Psalmody

The appointed psalmody is said.

Psalm 66. 7-18

Refrain: *In the Lord God have I made my refuge.*

who rules by his might forever,
whose eyes keep watch on the nations—
 let the rebellious not exalt themselves.Selah

8 Bless our God, O peoples,
 let the sound of his praise be heard,

9 who has kept us among the living,
 and has not let our feet slip.

10 For you, O God, have tested us;
 you have tried us as silver is tried.

11 You brought us into the net;
 you laid burdens on our backs;

12 you let people ride over our heads;
 we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.

13 I will come into your house with burnt offerings;
 I will pay you my vows,

14 those that my lips uttered
 and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

15 I will offer to you burnt offerings of fatlings,
 with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;

I will make an offering of bulls and goats. Selah

16 Come and hear, all you who fear God,
 and I will tell what he has done for me.

17 I cried aloud to him,
 and he was extolled with my tongue.

18 If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,
 the Lord would not have listened.

Refrain: *In the Lord God have I made my refuge.*

*Holy God,
may we find wisdom in your presence
and set our hope not on uncertain riches
but on the love that holds us to the end;
in Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Each psalm or group of psalms may end with

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

**If there are two Scripture readings, the first may be read here, or both
may be read after the canticle.**

Acts 17.22-31

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Canticle

The Song of Moses and Miriam, or another suitable canticle, for example, number 23 (page 574) or number 32 (page 583), may be said

Refrain:

All In your unfailing love, O Lord,
you lead the people whom you have redeemed.

I will sing to the Lord, who has triumphed gloriously, ♦
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.

The Lord is my strength and my song ♦
and has become my salvation.

This is my God whom I will praise, ♦
the God of my forebears whom I will exalt.

The Lord is a warrior, ♦
the Lord is his name.

Your right hand, O Lord, is glorious in power: ♦
your right hand, O Lord, shatters the enemy.

At the blast of your nostrils, the sea covered them; ♦
they sank as lead in the mighty waters.

In your unfailing love, O Lord, ♦
you lead the people whom you have redeemed.

And by your invincible strength ♦
you will guide them to your holy dwelling.

You will bring them in and plant them, O Lord, ♦
in the sanctuary which your hands have established.

Exodus 15.1b-3, 6, 10, 13, 17

All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.

All In your unfailing love, O Lord,
you lead the people whom you have redeemed.

Scripture Reading

One or more readings appointed for the day are read.

The reading(s) may be followed by a time of silence.

1 Peter, 3. 13-end

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

John 14, 15-21

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

A suitable song or chant, or a responsory in this or another form, may follow

Death is swallowed up in victory.

All Where, O death, is your sting?

Christ is risen from the dead,
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

All Death is swallowed up in victory.

The trumpet will sound
and the dead shall be raised.

All Where, O death, is your sting?

We shall not all sleep,
but we shall be changed.

All Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your sting?

from 1 Corinthians 15

Gospel Canticle

**The Benedictus (The Song of Zechariah) is normally said,
or The Song of Christ's Glory (page 619) may be said**

Refrain:

**All The Lord is risen from the tomb
who for our sakes hung upon the tree.**

Blessed be the Lord the God of Israel, ♦
who has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty Saviour, ♦
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets God promised of old ♦
to save us from our enemies,
from the hands of all that hate us,

To show mercy to our ancestors, ♦
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath God swore to our father Abraham: ♦
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, ♦
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.

And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, ♦
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation ♦
by the forgiveness of all their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God ♦
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, ♦
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1.68-79

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Refrain:

**All The Lord is risen from the tomb
who for our sakes hung upon the tree.**

The Sermon The Reverend Mother Yejide Peters

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come

again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers

Intercessions are offered

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Justin Archbishop of Canterbury, John Archbishop of York; Michael our Diocesan Bishop and Sara, our Area Bishop; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; we pray for our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth, our Prime Minister Boris Johnson, all Ministers of Parliament, and all who govern and hold authority in this and every land.

Pray for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

We give thanks for those newly born and their families, especially Baby Niamh Davies and her parents Rachel and Dennis.

Pray for infants, children, parents and guardians.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

We pray for those who working on the front lines of this disease throughout the world remembering especially Dr. Trevor Hunt, Dr. Susan Kelly, and Dr Sade Hendricks. all those working with the NHS, chaplains, other key workers and all carers in the community.

Pray for those who work to ensure our health, safety, and wellbeing.

Silence

We pray especially for those who have asked the prayers of this benefice: for Pat Rantisi, Chris Cheshire, Cathryn, Emma, Malcolm Booth, Jessica, Laverne, Maureen, Rachel, Jubilee, Lara, McKell, Baby Isabella, Casey, Deirdre Bean, Evan and Casey.

We pray for all those living in care homes.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for those who have died. We pray for the departed especially May Meddins, Brion Wong, Jan Green (née Jenkins) and Mary Barker. For the families of those that have died: The Meddins family, the Wong family, the Jenkins family, the Barker family.

We also pray for those have died from COVID-19. Pray for all who have died and for those they leave to mourn.

Silence

We also pray for those who are remembered especially this week for David Leeke, Rita Rhodes, Veronica Horan, Dorothy Eaves, Barbara Kersley, Hazel Bearsall

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honoured. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence may be kept.

The Collect of the day is said

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us

to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer is said

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
as our Saviour taught us, so we pray

All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.

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

Amen.

(or)

Rejoicing in God's new creation,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has 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.
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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Conclusion

May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life.

All Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

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Exploring Scripture

Some of the questions refer to other passages of scripture. If you have a Bible, you can search for the passages there. If you do not, and you have access to the internet, there are many online Bible websites. I especially like bible.oremus.org and biblegateway.com. If you do not have a Bible, (whether you have the internet or not) and would like one, please be in touch with the office. We would be happy to provide you with one.

1 Peter, 3.13-end

¹³Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; ¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight people, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him."

1.

The Oxford dictionary defines sanctify as
(Verb)

- (1) meaning set apart or declare as holy; consecrate
- (2) Make legitimate or binding by a religious ceremony
- (3) Free from sin; purify

Reading the passage, what is the author's understanding of sanctification (the process of sanctifying)? How might that understanding shape our prayers and practices as followers of Jesus?

2.

Below is a brief passage from a Church of England Service of Baptism (found at the opening of the service):

"Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us
that to enter the kingdom of heaven
we must be born again of water and the Spirit,
and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this new birth.
Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean.
Here we are clothed with Christ,
dying to sin that we may live his risen life.
As children of God, we have a new dignity
and God calls us to fullness of life."

Reread verses 18-22. How does that passage inform your reading of this prayer from our baptismal service? What questions does it raise for you?

3.

Take a look at another place in the Bible's epistles (letters written after the Resurrection of Jesus) where baptism and new life are addressed (I.e. 1 Corinthians, 6. 1-12 , Ephesians, 4. 1-17, Galatians, 3. 25-29). How does the second passage align with, nuance, or differ from the above passage?

4.

Do you feel, "ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you." If yes, think of a time you have done so, or a reflect on a time you might do so. If no, what would you need in order that you might feel ready?

Prayer for the week:

Pray for a deeper sense of connection with Jesus Christ. Pray for those awaiting baptism and for their loved ones.

*Heavenly Father,
by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give your faithful people new life in the water of baptism.
Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit,
that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love,
and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit
now and for ever. Amen.*

(A Collect for Baptism, Common Worship)