

# Home Prayers

April 18, 2021 • Third Sunday of Easter

(adapted from the *Book of Alternative Services*, pages 685-679)

*If you are praying with one or more others, the service can be divided between the plain and bold text. If you are praying by yourself, you can say all of the prayers aloud or silently. During the Easter season, a white candle may be placed on the table. It may be decorated and surrounded by a small garden scene, flowers, and/or eggs.*

## The Preparation

May the light of Christ in glory rising scatter the darkness of heart and mind.  
Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*A hymn may be sung. This one can go to the tune Repton.*

1. He comes to us as one unknown,  
a breath unseen, unheard;  
as though within a heart of stone,  
or shriveled seed in darkness sown,  
a pulse of being stirred,  
a pulse of being stirred.
2. He comes when souls in silence lie  
and thoughts of day depart;  
half-seen upon the inward eye,  
a falling star across the sky  
of night within the heart,  
of night within the heart.
3. He comes to us in sound of seas,  
the ocean's fume and foam;  
yet small and still upon the breeze,  
a wind that stirs the tops of trees,  
a voice to call us home,  
a voice to call us home.
4. He comes in love as once he came  
by flesh and blood and birth;  
to bear within our mortal frame  
a life, a death, a saving Name,  
for every child of earth,  
for every child of earth.
5. He comes in truth when faith is grown;  
believed, obeyed, adored:  
the Christ in all the scriptures shown,  
as yet unseen, but not unknown,  
our Saviour and our Lord,  
our Saviour and our Lord.

*Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926- )*

*The collect of the day may be said. This is the collect for the Third Sunday of Easter:*

Wounded God,  
disabled and divine:  
give us faith to perceive you  
pierced and embodied,  
standing here among us  
feeding us forgiveness, beautifully broken;  
through Christ, the suffering servant.  
**Amen.**

## Reading

*The Gospel of the day may be read. Luke 24:36b-48 is appointed for the Third Sunday of Easter:*

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, 'Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.' And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, 'These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.' Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.'

*Following the reading you may contemplate in silence, or discuss the scripture passage with others, or read a related work of literature.*

## Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again  
to judge the living and the dead.

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

## Intercessions

*Prayers may be offered for the church, those in authority, the world, those in need, and the departed.  
You may use the following litany alone or with others:*

That our eyes may be opened and our hearts warmed with faith,  
we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need:

Give grace to all Christian people, especially those enduring a prolonged physical separation  
from their church families. Reveal yourself to us in the scriptures, and sustain us in fellowship,  
until we can gather again, with one another and with you, around your table.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Open our eyes to see Christ in our midst, in our self-isolation and the other challenges of this  
pandemic. Help us recognize broken systems that we have inherited and have perpetuated,  
and grant us the courage to reform them to reflect your kingdom, on earth as it is in heaven.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Strengthen and protect those who provide our food, especially farmers and gardeners beginning spring planting, and fishers starting a new season on the waters. May their harvests be abundant and shared with equity, and make us conscientious, grateful, and generous with this bounty.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

Walk with us through this valley of the shadow of death, and help us to discern the risen Christ's presence in every part of our lives, especially at our earthly life's end. May the sick be restored, those in despair comforted, and the people who minister to them strengthened and sustained.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions can be offered.*

Open the way of eternal life, as we remember those who have died in faith, and whose faith is known to you alone. Free us from the fear of death, and grant us sure and certain hope, that we may embrace the peace you have promised in the resurrection of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

*This prayer can then be said:*

**O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go forward with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **The 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **Conclusion**

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.**