

Home Prayers

May 2, 2021 • Fifth 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 Dennis.

1. Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind
is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.
3. We share our mutual woes,
our mutual burdens bear,
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.
4. From sorrow, toil, and pain,
and sin we shall be free;
and perfect love and friendship reign
through all eternity.

Words: John Fawcett (1740-1817)

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

O God,
you give us the Son as the vine,
apart from whom we cannot live.
Nourish our life in his resurrection,
so that we bear the fruit of love
and know the fullness of your joy;
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Reading

The Gospel of the day may be read. John 15:1-8 is appointed for the Fifth Sunday of Easter:

Jesus said, 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.'

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.

Eternal God, we give you thanks that you sent your Son to be our way, our truth, and our life:
in confidence we bring to you our prayers for all your people.

We pray for your world: for those who live in places scarred by conflict and war; for those
who live in places ravaged by disease and famine. We give thanks for all whose lives manifest
your spirit of reconciliation and peace: for peacekeepers, aid workers, conservationists,
diplomats, and all who work for a just and sustainable world.

Righteous God, dwell in us,
that our lives may proclaim your works.

We pray for your church: in places where the church struggles in the face of persecution or
rejection; in places where the church is faithless, divided, or disobedient. We give thanks for
those who risk their lives so that others may hear your good news, for all who minister
faithfully to your people, and for Christians in peaceful dialogue with people of other faiths.

Faithful God, dwell in us,
that our lives may proclaim your works.

We pray for our communities: for our families, friends, and our church families; for all whose work sustains others in our common life, especially during this pandemic. We give you thanks for those whose lives shine with your spirit of forgiveness and love; for health and social service agencies and charities, and for all who in their daily lives bring your love to others.

Loving God, dwell in us,
that our lives may proclaim your works.

We pray for all in need: for those who know loneliness, anxiety, or grief; for those who know pain or sickness, and for all who face death. We give you thanks for those whose lives are filled with courage in the face of adversity, and for those who bring your tenderness and consolation to others.

Compassionate God, dwell in us,
that our lives may proclaim your works.

We give you thanks for your followers of every age: for all who have given their lives for you; for those whose lives have drawn others to you. Lead us in your way and open us to your truth, that with all your saints, we may be brought to the place of abundant and everlasting life, which you prepare for all your people.

Eternal God, dwell in us,
that our lives may proclaim your works.

Here other intercessions can be offered.

This concluding 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.