

Home Prayers

May 9, 2021 • Sixth 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.

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 Down Ampney.

1. Come down, O love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing.
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it,
Thy holy flame bestowing.
2. O let it freely burn,
til earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let Thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round,
the while my path illuming.
3. Let holy charity
mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine
inner clothing;
True lowliness of heart,
which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings
weeps with loathing.
4. And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of
human telling;
For none can guess its grace, till he
become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

*Words: Bianco da Siena (1350?-1434?);
tr. Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890)*

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

Merciful God,
you have prepared for those who love you
riches beyond imagination.
Pour into our hearts such love toward you,
that we, loving you above all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive 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 15:9-17 is appointed for the Sixth Sunday of Easter:

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

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.

For obedience to the law of love, let us pray to the Lord.

Give to the Church, chosen and called to service, the love for all which reveals the love of God . . . As she has received grace, may she be a channel of his peace now and for all time.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Grant to those who hold authority the love which is stronger than the love of power . . . May they know that true authority is from above and is fulfilled not in command but in service . . . Grant that love shall drive out hatred between nations and races and the whole world be at peace.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As Christ called us to be his friends, increase in us the gift of friendship towards all who come close to us in our daily lives . . . By our love one for another may we show that we have heard and answered his call to follow him.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Have mercy on those who have never known love and are enslaved by anger and bitterness . . . Show them the love of God, to restore them to the love of humanity . . . Hear the prayers of the sick and afflicted who ask for healing.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the departed, called to service in this world and now called to the presence of the Lord who has loved them from the beginning . . . May their joy be complete, and may we come to that eternal joy in the fellowship of the saints.

Lord in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We pray in the name of Christ who laid down his life for his friends.

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.