



PRAYERS IN THE PEW™

Spiritual Communion Service at Home

For those who are temporarily unable to attend Mass due to COVID-19

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD • SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2020

***Note:** This prayer service requires a Leader (ideally, the father or mother of the family) and one or more Readers for the readings and intercessions. There are also parts – designated as “All” – which call for a common recitation.

Easter Sunday is the culmination of the Sacred Triduum. The Church bursts forth once again singing the Easter “Alleluia” just as Christ Himself burst from the tomb on Easter morning. It is the beginning of a new liturgical season in which we experience new life in the spirit, one with our Resurrected Lord.

It is entirely appropriate to add Easter music to the service through religious CDs or streaming or by singing any of the Church’s familiar Easter hymns such as “Alleluia, Sing to Jesus” or “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”. The family may also wish to decorate their place of prayer with candles and white flowers to symbolize the Resurrection. If they have holy water in the home, they may also put it on the table to be used for the Renewal of Baptismal Promises after the Gospel Reflection.

– STAND –

OPENING

Leader: Even though we are unable to participate in the Church’s liturgy on this greatest of all feast days, we believe that we can remain united in spirit and prayer with the whole Church on this Day of all days. Turning our hearts and minds to the great mysteries before us, let us focus our souls on the many abundant blessings we have received from God.

And let us now glorify God with the Church’s Easter hymn of praise.

THE GLORIA

All: Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory.
Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,

have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Leader: Let Us Pray: O God, who on this day, through your Only Begotten Son, have conquered death and unlocked for us the path to eternity, grant, we pray, that we who keep the solemnity of the Lord's Resurrection may, through the renewal brought by your Spirit, rise up in the light of life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

All: Amen.

- SIT -

MASS READINGS

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 10:34a, 37-43).

Peter proceeded to speak and said:
"You know what has happened all over Judea,
beginning in Galilee after the baptism
that John preached,
how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth
with the Holy Spirit and power.
He went about doing good
and healing all those oppressed by the devil,
for God was with him.
We are witnesses of all that he did
both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.
They put him to death by hanging him on a tree.
This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible,
not to all the people, but to us,
the witnesses chosen by God in advance,
who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.
He commissioned us to preach to the people
and testify that he is the one appointed by God
as judge of the living and the dead.
To him all the prophets bear witness,
that everyone who believes in him
will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Reader: The Responsorial Psalm: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

(All repeat the refrain).

Reader: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his mercy endures forever.
Let the house of Israel say,
"His mercy endures forever."

All: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Reader: "The right hand of the LORD has struck with power;
the right hand of the LORD is exalted.
I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the LORD."

All: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Reader: The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By the LORD has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.

All: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.

Reader: A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Colossians (Colossians 3:1-4).

Brothers and sisters:
If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above,
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.
Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.
For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.
When Christ your life appears,
then you too will appear with him in glory.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

EASTER SEQUENCE

VICTIMAE PASCHALI LAUDES

All: Christians, to the Paschal Victim
Offer your thankful praises!
A Lamb the sheep redeems;
Christ, who only is sinless,
Reconciles sinners to the Father.
Death and life have contended in that combat stupendous:
The Prince of life, who died, reigns immortal.
Speak, Mary, declaring
What you saw, wayfaring.
"The tomb of Christ, who is living,
The glory of Jesus' resurrection;
bright angels attesting,
The shroud and napkin resting.
Yes, Christ my hope is arisen;
to Galilee he goes before you."
Christ indeed from death is risen, our new life obtaining.
Have mercy, victor King, ever reigning!
Amen. Alleluia.

- STAND -

GOSPEL

Leader: Alleluia, alleluia!

All: Alleluia, alleluia!

Verse before the Gospel

All: Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed; let us then feast with joy in the Lord.

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (John 20:1-9)

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

On the first day of the week,
Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning,
while it was still dark,
and saw the stone removed from the tomb.
So she ran and went to Simon Peter
and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them,
"They have taken the Lord from the tomb,
and we don't know where they put him."
So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb.
They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter
and arrived at the tomb first;
he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in.
When Simon Peter arrived after him,
he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there,
and the cloth that had covered his head,
not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.
Then the other disciple also went in,
the one who had arrived at the tomb first,
and he saw and believed.
For they did not yet understand the Scripture
that he had to rise from the dead.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

- SIT -

REFLECTION

Leader: From an Easter Sermon by St. Augustine of Hippo (5th Century).

The Lord, as you have heard, appeared to His disciples after His Resurrection, and greeted them, saying: "Peace be to you". This is indeed peace, and the salutation of salvation; for salutation receives its name from salvation. And what better than that Salvation Himself should greet mankind?

For Christ is our salvation. For He is our salvation Who was wounded for us, and fastened with nails to the wood, and taken down from the wood, and laid in the sepulcher. But He rose from the sepulcher; and though His wounds were healed the scars remained. For this He judged expedient for His disciples: that He should keep His scars to heal the wounds of their soul.

What wounds are these? The wounds of their unbelief. For He appeared before their eyes, showing them a true

body; and they believed they saw a spirit. No light wound of the soul this. And they who continued in this wounded state have caused a malignant heresy. And do not let me think that because they were healed so quickly that the disciples were not wounded. Let your charity consider how had they remained in this wounded state...we should be grieving, not for their wounds, but for their death!

...They were now joyful, yet their hesitation remained. For something had taken place which was incredible; yet it had taken place. Is it incredible now that the body of Christ has risen from the tomb? The whole healed world believes it: and he who believes not remains unhealed. Then it was incredible: and they were brought to believe not alone through their eyes, but through their hands, so that faith might enter their heart by way of their senses, so that the faith thus entering their heart might be preached throughout the world, to those who would neither see nor touch Him, and yet without hesitation would believe in Him.

[Source: Catholicism.org]

- STAND -

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

(If the family has holy water available for the renewal of baptismal promises, they may use it at the end to bless themselves.)

[The Renewal of Baptismal Promises takes the place of the Profession of Faith.]

Leader: At our baptism, we became one with the Death and Resurrection of Jesus through water and the Holy Spirit. We died to sin and rose to new life. On Easter Sunday we renew our baptismal promises with strong faith and renewed devotion to God's will. Please respond "I do" to the following questions.

Leader: Do you renounce Satan?

All: I do.

Leader: And all his works?

All: I do.

Leader: And all his empty promises?

All: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

All: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

All: I do.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

All: I do.

Leader: May the Lord bless and give us strength to live these baptismal promises in our lives, now and always.

All: Amen.

(The Leader signs himself/herself with the Sign of the Cross and with Holy Water, if present, and invites others to do the same.)

– STAND –

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Leader: The Risen Lord Jesus invites us to share in the power of His Resurrection by offering our prayers to Him for all our needs and the needs of the world.

Reader: For our Holy Father, Pope Francis, and all the leaders of our Church: that the Lord will give them grace to fulfill their pastoral duties with fidelity and joy. We pray to the Lord. **All:** Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For world leaders, that as they respond to the Coronavirus crisis in their own countries, they may be concerned for the welfare of all. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For our family and all the families of our parish community: that we may remain united in our Christian faith and actively concerned about those who have fallen away. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who are sick, especially the victims of the pandemic: that God may fill them with His peace and provide the care they need. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all medical personnel and those who are serving others in this time of crisis: that they may be given all the resources necessary to do their work with efficiency and concern for the good of others. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For all who have died as a result of the Coronavirus: that they may experience the power of the Resurrection this day. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: God our loving Father, giver of every good gift. We ask that you hear these and all our prayers, which we make in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Leader: Even when we are unable to receive Christ sacramentally in the Eucharist, we may still receive His grace through an act of Spiritual Communion, particularly on this festive day which is the very source of our Sunday Mass, the Day of the Resurrection.

The Eucharist is so powerful and so total a blessing from God that it is not limited by time and space, and He grants the grace of the sacrament to any who ask for it.

Let us pause now to focus on the words of Jesus at the Last Supper – “This is my body” and “This is the cup of my blood” – and ask the Lord to unite us to Him through the grace of the Eucharist.

(After a moment of silence, the Leader guides all to kneel and recite together the Spiritual Communion Prayer of St. Ambrose.)

– KNEEL –

All: I beg of you, O Lord, by this most holy mystery of Your Body and Blood, with which You daily nourish us in Your Church, that we may be cleansed and sanctified and made sharers in Your divinity. Grant to me Your holy virtues, which will enable me to approach Your altar with a clean conscience, so that this heavenly Sacrament may be a

means of salvation and life to me, for You Yourself have said: "I am the living bread that has come down from heaven. If anyone eat of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

Most Sweet Bread, heal my heart, that I may taste the sweetness of Your love. Heal it from all weakness, that I may enjoy no sweetness but You. Most pure Bread, containing every delight which ever refreshes us, may my heart consume You and may my soul be filled with Your sweetness. Holy Bread, living Bread, perfect Bread, that has come down from heaven to give life to the world, come into my heart and cleanse me from every stain of body and soul. Enter into my soul; heal and cleanse me completely. Be the constant safeguard and salvation of my soul and body. Guard me from the enemies who lie in wait. May they flee from the protecting presence of Your power, so that, armed in soul and body by You, I may safely reach Your Kingdom.

There we shall see You, not as now as in mysteries, but face to face, when You will deliver the Kingdom to God the Father, and will reign as God over all. Then You, who with the same God the Father and the Holy Spirit, live and reign forever, will satisfy the hunger of my soul perfectly with Yourself, so that I shall neither hunger nor thirst again. Amen.

– STAND –

CONCLUSION

Leader: We conclude our service now praying as the Lord commanded us to pray:

All: Our Father...

Leader: Let Us Pray: Look upon your Church, O God, with unfailing love and favor, so that, renewed by the paschal mysteries, she may come to the glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Leader: May the Lord bless, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen. Alleluia!

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CATHOLIC ACTION
FOR FAITH AND FAMILY

THE FIVE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

Leader: Heavenly Father, as the Blessed Virgin Mary accompanied Christ throughout His earthly life, we ask that we may experience her presence guiding us at all times. As we contemplate our Lord's glorious Resurrection in these mysteries, grant us the grace to place all our Faith, Hope, and Love in your tender mercy so that we may one day safely reach your Kingdom and rejoice eternally in your company.

1. The Resurrection

Reader: Holy Lord Jesus Christ, by your Resurrection you shattered the power of death over all of humanity and destroyed the kingdom of the devil forever.

Help us to always place great confidence in your great love for us and to be ministers of your mercy to all we meet.

(Our Father, 10 Hail Mary's, Glory Be, Rosary Decade Prayer.)

2. The Ascension

Reader: Lord Jesus, Savior of all peoples, when you ascended into heaven you opened the gates of Paradise to all believers and showed us the pathway which leads us back to the Father.

Help us always, in this life, to keep our eyes fixed on the things of heaven so that we may never lose hope in the promises of the Father or ever weaken in our desire to see Him face to face.

(Our Father, 10 Hail Mary's, Glory Be, Rosary Decade Prayer.)

3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit

Reader: Mighty Lord and Prince of Peace, at the Last Supper you promised to send the power of the Holy Spirit on your Church to remain with her until the end of time. On the day of Pentecost you fulfilled your promise.

Help us, in all things, to be obedient to the workings of the Holy Spirit in our midst and give us the grace to ask for the spiritual gifts that only the Spirit of God can bestow.

(Our Father, 10 Hail Mary's, Glory Be, Rosary Decade Prayer.)

4. The Assumption of Mary

Reader: Son of God and Son of Mary, your mother remained free from sin from the first moment of her conception. In God's plan, that meant that she was also freed from the power of death and was taken up to be with you in heaven.

Lord Jesus, grant us that same profound love with which you loved your Mother Mary, and, through her intercession, bring us closer to you every day.

(Our Father, 10 Hail Mary's, Glory Be, Rosary Decade Prayer.)

5. The Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth

Reader: Jesus, King and Lord of the universe, when you raised your Mother Mary to glory, you also decreed that she should reign with you on a heavenly throne fit for a queen. And from this place of exalted glory she looks down upon us and cares for all God's children.

Grant us, dear Lord, an unfailing confidence in Mary's power to lead us through the sorrows of this life to dwell forever with her and with all the saint and angels in our Father's house.

(Our Father, 10 Hail Mary's, Glory Be, Rosary Decade Prayer.)



HAIL, HOLY QUEEN



(The family may wish to say or sing the "Salve Regina" in Latin with Gregorian chant musical accompaniment if possible.)

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy! Our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve, to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus; O clement, O loving, O sweet virgin Mary. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.



CONCLUDING PRAYER



Leader: Let Us Pray: God, our Father, you have given us the Blessed Virgin Mary – the heart of the Holy Family – as a model for our Christian lives and families. Help us to think with her mind and feel with her heart as we reflect on the mysteries of Christ in the Rosary and keep us constantly under the mantle of her protection, free from all dangers of body and soul. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

All: Amen.

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