

Morning Prayer for Easter From Easter to Ascension

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Introductory Responses

O Lord, open our lips

and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

In your resurrection, O Christ,

let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia.

Blessed are you, God of our salvation, to you be praise and glory for ever. 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 loving reign of the risen Christ. 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.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Psalm 66.7-18

⁷ Bless our God, you peoples; *

make the voice of his praise to be heard;

⁸ Who holds our souls in life, *

and will not allow our feet to slip.

⁹ For you, O God, have proved us; *

you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹⁰ You brought us into the snare; *

you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.

¹¹ You let enemies ride over our heads;

we went through fire and water; *

but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹² I will enter your house with burnt-offerings

and will pay you my vows, *

which I promised with my lips

and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹³ I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts

with the smoke of rams; *

I will give you oxen and goats.

¹⁴ Come and listen, all you who fear God, *

and I will tell you what he has done for me.

¹⁵ I called out to him with my mouth, *

and his praise was on my tongue.

¹⁶ If I had found evil in my heart, *

the Lord would not have heard me;

¹⁷ But in truth God has heard me; *

he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

¹⁸ Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, *
nor withheld his love from me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

Reading: Acts 17.22-31

²² Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, ‘Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For 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. ²⁴The 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, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From 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, ²⁷so 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. ²⁸For “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.”

²⁹Since 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. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because 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.’

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

The Responsory

Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your sting?

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

Death is swallowed up in victory.

The trumpet will sound and the dead shall be raised.

Where, O death, is your sting?

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

Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your sting?

The Gospel: John 14.15-21

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵ ‘If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you for ever. ¹⁷This 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.

¹⁸ 'I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They 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.'

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Affirmation of Faith

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.

This is the first and the great commandment.

The second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself.

There is no commandment greater than these.

THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

The Litany

Let us offer our intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings, saying, 'Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.'

May we live as those who believe in the triumph of the cross.

Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

May all people receive the good news of Christ's victory.

Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

May those born to new life in the waters of baptism know the power of Christ's resurrection.

Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

May those who suffer pain and anguish find healing and peace in the compassion of Christ.

Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.

May we be united in Christ's undying love with all who have passed through the gates of death. **Redeemer of Israel, hear our prayer.**

Either in silence or aloud, we offer our own petitions before God.

Collect of the Day

Risen Christ, whose gift to us is the Spirit of truth: come, make your home with us, so that, keeping your commandments, we may dwell with you and the Father. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Rejoicing in God's new creation and gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

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. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY

The Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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