

An invitation to join us **Praying through Eastertide**

The Great Fifty Days of Eastertide form a single festival period in which the tone of joy created at the Easter Vigil is sustained through the following seven weeks, and the Church celebrates the gloriously risen Christ:

Triumphant in his glory now,
his sceptre ruleth all,
earth, heaven and hell before him bow,
and at his footstool fall. *(Fulbert of Chartres)*

Early Christians gave the name Pentecost to this whole fifty-day span of rejoicing, which Tertullian calls 'this most joyful period' (*laetissimum spatium*). It is sometimes also called 'Great Sunday'. In those places where the custom of lighting the Easter Candle at the beginning of Easter is followed, the lit Candle stands prominently in church for all the Eastertide services. The Alleluia appears frequently in liturgical speech and song; Morning Prayer begins with the traditional collection of Pauline texts known as the Easter Anthems, and white or gold vestments and decorations emphasize the joy and brightness of the season.

On the fortieth day there has from the late fourth century been a particular celebration of Christ's ascension. He commissions his disciples to continue his work, he promises the gift of the Holy Spirit, and then he is no longer among them in the flesh. The ascension is therefore closely connected with the theme of mission. The arrival of the promised gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost completes and crowns the Easter Festival.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Alleluia, the Lord is risen:

He is risen indeed, alleluia

Blessed are you, Lord 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 kingdom of your risen Son. 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 Easter Anthems

- 1 Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us: ◆
so let us celebrate the feast,
2 not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness: ◆
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1 Corinthians 5.7b, 8

- 3 Christ once raised from the dead dies no more: ◆
death has no more dominion over him.
4 In dying he died to sin once for all: ◆
in living he lives to God.
5 See yourselves therefore as dead to sin: ◆
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6.9-11

- 6 Christ has been raised from the dead: ◆
the first fruits of those who sleep.
7 For as by man came death: ◆
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;
8 for as in Adam all die: ◆
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15.20-22

All **Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Readings

Monday

I am the first and the last, says the Lord, and the living one; I was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore.
cf Revelation 1.17,18

Tuesday

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.'
John 11.25,26

Wednesday

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'
John 6.35

Thursday

After his suffering Jesus presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. *Acts 1.3*

Friday

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.
cf John 20.19

Saturday

The two disciples told what had happened on the road to Emmaus, and how Jesus had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.
Luke 24.35

Sunday

Jesus said, 'All who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.'
John 6.40

Pause

Listen to what God may wish to say to you as you reflect on the readings. Pray through this, and ask for God's grace and strength to help you in anything your reflections lead you to promise God.

Prayers

On this day that the Lord has made, let us pray for the people he has redeemed.

That we may live as those who believe in the triumph of the cross:

That all people may receive the good news of his victory:

That those born to new life in the waters of baptism may know the power of his resurrection:

That those who suffer pain and anguish may find healing and peace in the wounds of Christ:

That in the undying love of Christ we may be united with all who have died in the faith of Christ:

Let us commend the world, in which Christ rose from the dead, to the mercy and protection of God.

Silent prayer

God of glory,
by the raising of your Son
you have broken the chains of death and hell:
fill your Church with faith and hope;
for a new day has dawned
and the way to life stands open
in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Rejoicing in God's new creation, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

Our Father,

The Conclusion

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

Regina Coeli (esp Eastertide)

Joy to thee, O Queen of Heaven. **Alleluia!**
He whom Thou was't meet to bear. **Alleluia!**
As He promised hath arisen. **Alleluia!**
Pour for us to God thy prayer. **Alleluia!**

Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
For the Lord is risen indeed, alleluia.

O God, who through the resurrection of Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ didst vouchsafe to give joy to the world: grant, we beseech thee, that through His Mother, the Virgin Mary, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

An Easter Acclamation

To Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
and who now lives in the glory of the Father,
let us lift our voices in praise, saying:
risen Lord, we bless you, alleluia.

Lord Jesus, you are the Amen, the faithful witness,
the firstborn of the dead:
risen Lord, we bless you, alleluia.

You are Alpha and Omega,
the one who is, and was, and who is to come:
risen Lord, we bless you, alleluia.

You search into the thoughts and affections of all people:
risen Lord, we bless you, alleluia.

You reprove and chasten those whom you love:
risen Lord, we bless you, alleluia.

You open the eyes of the blind and set the prisoners free:
risen Lord, we bless you, alleluia.

In your paschal victory,
you have proclaimed the coming of the kingdom:
risen Lord, we bless you, alleluia.

The Song of Faith (Easter)

- 1 Blessed be the God and Father ♦
of our Lord Jesus Christ!
- 2 By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope ♦
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
- 3 Into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, ♦
kept in heaven for you,
- 4 Who are being protected by the power of God through faith, ♦
for a salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time.
- 5 You were ransomed from the futile ways of your ancestors ♦
not with perishable things like silver or gold
- 6 But with the precious blood of Christ ♦
like that of a lamb without spot or stain.
- 7 Through him we have confidence in God, ♦
who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, ♦
so that your faith and hope are set on God.

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

Intercessions for Eastertide

We pray to Jesus who is present with us to eternity.

Jesus, light of the world,
bring the light and peace of your gospel to the nations ...

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, bread of life,
give food to the hungry ...
and nourish us all with your word.

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, our way, our truth, our life,
be with us and all who follow you in the way ...

Deepen our appreciation of your truth
and fill us with your life.

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, Good Shepherd who gave your life for the sheep,
recover the straggler,
bind up the injured,
strengthen the sick
and lead the healthy and strong to new pastures.

Jesus, Lord of life,
in your mercy, hear us.

Jesus, the resurrection and the life,
we give you thanks for all who have lived and believed in you ...
Raise us with them to eternal life.

Jesus, Lord of life,
**in your mercy, hear us,
accept our prayers, and be with us always.
Amen.**

In joy and hope let us pray to the Father.
That our risen Saviour may fill us [and ...] with the joy of his
glorious and life-giving resurrection ...
we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That isolated and persecuted churches
may find fresh strength in the good news of Easter...
we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That God may grant us humility
to be subject to one another in Christian love ...
we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That he may provide for those who lack food, work or shelter...
we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That by his power war and famine may cease through all the world ...
we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That he may reveal the light of his presence to the sick,
the weak and the dying,
to comfort and strengthen them ...
we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That, according to his promises,
all who have died in the faith of the resurrection
may be raised on the last day ...
we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

That he may send the fire of the Holy Spirit upon his people,
so that we may bear faithful witness to his resurrection,
we pray to the Father.

Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father,
you have delivered us from the power of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:
grant that, as his death has recalled us to life,
so his continual presence in us may raise us to eternal joy;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Jesus, our exalted Lord, has been given all authority.
Let us seek his intercession that our prayers may be perfected by his prayer.

Jesus Christ, great high priest,
living for ever to intercede for us,
pray for the Church, your broken body in the world ...

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, King of righteousness,
enthroned at the right hand of the majesty on high,
pray for the world, and make it subject to your gentle rule ...

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, Son of Man,
drawing humanity into the life of God,
pray for your sisters and brothers in need, distress, or sorrow ...

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus, pioneer of our salvation,
bringing us to glory through your death and resurrection,
surround with your saints and angels
those who have died trusting your promises ...

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things,
ascended far above the heavens and filling the universe,
pray for us who receive the gifts you give us for work in your service ...

Silence is kept.

Lord, hear us.
Lord, graciously hear us.

Jesus Christ,
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to worship at your feet;
for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Litany of the Resurrection (John Henry Newman)

Lord, **have mercy.**
Christ, **have mercy.**
Lord, **have mercy.**
O Christ, **hear us.**

God, the Father in heaven, **have mercy on us.**
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, **have mercy on us.**
God, the Holy Spirit, **have mercy on us.**
Holy Trinity, one God, **have mercy on us.**

Jesus, Redeemer of mankind, **have mercy on us.**
Jesus, Conqueror of sin and Satan, **R.**
Jesus, triumphant over Death, **R.**
Jesus, the Holy and the Just, **R.**
Jesus, the Resurrection and the Life, **R.**
Jesus, the Giver of grace, **R.**
Jesus, the Judge of the world, **R.**
who laid down your life for your sheep, **R.**
who rose again the third day, **R.**
who showed yourself to your chosen, **R.**
appearing to Mary Magdalene while she wept, **R.**
sending your angels to the holy women, **R.**
comforting the Eleven, **R.**
saying to them, "Peace," **R.**
breathing on them the Holy Spirit, **R.**
confirming the faith of Thomas, **R.**
commanding Peter to feed your lambs and sheep, **R.**
speaking of the Kingdom of God, **R.**

We poor sinners pray, **hear us, Lord God.**
That we may walk in newness of life, **R.**
that we may advance in the knowledge of you, **R.**
that we may grow in grace, **R.**
that we may always have the bread of life, **R.**
that we may persevere to the end, **R.**
that we may have confidence before you at your coming, **R.**
that we may behold your face with joy, **R.**
that we may be placed at your right hand in the judgment, **R.**
that we may have our place with the saints, **R.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; **have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; **have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; **grant us your peace.**

O Christ, **hear us.**
Lord, **have mercy.**
Christ, **have mercy.**
Lord, **have mercy.**

Christ is risen, Alleluia.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Let us pray

O God, by your only Son you overcame death and opened the way to eternal life for us. Confirm us by your grace, that we may always walk as your people who have been redeemed from their sins; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayers for the Corona Pandemic can be found under the Coronavirus (Covid-19) and At Home sections of this website

Father Owain and Claire will continue to pray the Mass at noon each day, holding before God our worshipping and wider communities. Please do contact Father Owain if you have any specific prayer requests, either by telephone, email or clicking on the prayer request section on our website <http://newmillschurch.co.uk/>

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