



The **SECOND** *to the* **FIFTH** **SUNDAYS** *of* **EASTER**

A resource for praying at home



The SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Sunday 19th April 2020

THE INTRODUCTION

Light a candle and spend some time in silence if you can. As we rejoice in Christ's resurrection, sing or read this Easter hymn:

THIS JOYFUL EASTERTIDE,
Away with sin and sorrow.
My Love, the Crucified,
Hath sprung to life this morrow:
*Had Christ, who once was slain,
Not burst his three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
But now hath Christ arisen.*

2. My flesh in hope shall rest, And for a season slumber: Till trump from east to west Shall wake the dead in number: <i>refrain.</i>	3 Death's flood hath lost his chill, Since Jesus crossed the river: Lover of souls, from ill My passing soul deliver: <i>refrain.</i>
--	--

Then making the sign of the Cross say (it is good to say all the prayers out loud):

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

*Spend some time in silence, calling to your mind your sins. Then say,
Lord Jesus, you call us to new life in you: Lord, have mercy.*

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Christ, have mercy.

*You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:
Lord have mercy.*

Remind yourself of the gift of God's forgiveness, by reading these words from 1 John 1.9:

If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Then say the Collect: God of everlasting mercy, who in the very recurrence of the paschal feast kindle the faith of the people you have made your own, increase, we pray, the grace you have bestowed, that all may grasp and rightly understand in what font they have been washed, by whose Spirit they have been reborn, by whose Blood they have been redeemed. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Then read today's appointed readings:

- *Acts 2.42-47, which tells of how the faithful shared everything in common.*
- *1 Peter 3-9: "you did not see him, yet you love him".*

Before the Gospel, it is traditional to sing the chant Victimae Paschali Laudes on this final day in the Easter Octave. Here is an English translation: Christians, to the Paschal Victim offer sacrifice and praise. The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb; and Christ, the undefiled, hath sinners to his Father reconciled. Death with life contended: combat strangely ended! Life's own Champion, slain, yet lives to reign. Tell us, Mary: say what thou didst see upon the way. The tomb the Living did enclose; saw Christ's

glory as he rose! The angels there attesting; shroud with grave-clothes resting. Christ, my hope, has risen: he goes before you into Galilee. That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know. Victorious king, thy mercy show!

You can listen to a recording of the chant recorded at the Vatican at the Easter Vigil here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61bl2SPvv4s>.

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe. Alleluia!

- *The Gospel: John 20.19-31: Jesus shows his sacred wounds to Thomas, saying: "Doubt no longer, but believe".*



Caravaggio - The Incredulity of Saint Thomas

Spend some to time, if you can, in quiet contemplation, asking the Holy Spirit to show you what the scriptures have to say to you today. And then spend time praying for the Church, the world, and all who suffer.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Say the OUR FATHER. Then make your act of SPIRITUAL COMMUNION. Spend a moment meditating on Jesus' love for us and your own longing for the fullness of resurrection life in union with him. Then pray:

MY JESUS, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Spend some time in silence, giving thanks, and then say: Blessed, praised and adored be Jesus Christ on his throne of glory in Heaven, and in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. Amen. Alleluia!

In thanksgiving, you might want to sing this hymn

THINE BE THE GLORY, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won;
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

*Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son,
Endless is the vict'ry thou o'er death hast won.*

2. Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and
gloom;
Let the Church with gladness hymns of
triumph sing,
For her Lord now liveth, death hath lost its
sting: *refrain.*

3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince
of Life;
Life is nought without thee: aid us in our
strife,
Make us more than conquerors through thy
deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home
above: *refrain.*

Say this concluding prayer: God of eternal compassion, each Easter you rekindle the faith of your consecrated people. Give them still greater grace, so that all may truly understand the waters in which they were cleansed, the Spirit by which they were reborn, the blood by which they were redeemed. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

And then pray for God's blessing, saying: The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Let us praise the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

The THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER

Sunday 26th April 2020

Follow the same structure as for the Second Sunday of Easter, with the introduction, readings, prayers, spiritual communion and thanksgiving. For the opening hymn, you might like to use:

NOW is eternal life,
If risen with Christ we stand,
In him to life reborn,
And holden in his hand;
No more we fear death's ancient dread,
In Christ arisen from the dead.

2. For God, the living God,
Stooped down to man's estate;
By death destroying death,
Christ opened wide life's gate.
He lives, who died; he reigns on high;
Who lives in him shall never die.

3. Unfathomed love divine,
Reign thou within my heart;
From thee nor depth nor height,
Nor life nor death can part;
My life is hid in God with thee,
Now and through all eternity.

The Collect: May your people exult for ever, O God, in renewed youthfulness of spirit, so that, rejoicing now in the restored glory of our adoption, we may look forward in confident hope to the rejoicing of the day of resurrection. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The readings are :

- *Acts 2.14 and 2.22-33. Peter preaches on Pentecost: "God raised this man Jesus to eternal life and all of us are witnesses to that."*
- *1 Peter 1.17-21: God raised him so you would have faith and hope.*

Alleluia, alleluia! Lord Jesus, explain the Scriptures to us. Make our hearts burn within us as you talk to us. Alleluia!

- *The Gospel: Luke 24.13-35: The Road to Emmaus*



Henry Fuseli: Christ disappearing at Emmaus. Commentary on the painting: <https://thevcs.org/road-emmaus/visible-vanishing>.

As a hymn in thanksgiving after your act of spiritual communion:

LOVE'S redeeming work is done;
Fought the fight, the battle won:
Lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er!
Lo, he sets in blood no more!

2. Vain the stone, the watch, the seal,
Christ has burst the gates of hell;
Death in vain forbids his rise;
Christ has opened Paradise.

4. Soar we now where Christ has led,
Following our exalted Head;
Made like him, like him we rise;
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

3. Lives again our glorious King;
Where, O Death, is now thy sting?
Dying once, he all doth save;
Where thy victory, O grave?

5 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to thee by both be given:
Thee we greet triumphant now;
Hail, the Resurrection thou!

The concluding prayer: Look with kindness upon your people, O Lord, and grant, we pray, that those you were pleased to renew by eternal mysteries may attain in their flesh the incorruptible glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***The* FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER**

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

Sunday 3rd May 2020

Today we rejoice in the Lord, the Shepherd and Guardian of our souls, who guides us along the right path, where we shall dwell for ever and ever. In your prayers today, please remember Jonathan, our Bishop; please pray too for the Diocese of Bristol, for Viv, Bishop of Bristol and Lee of Swindon; pray too for an increase in vocations to the priesthood.

For an opening hymn, sing or say:

COME, YE FAITHFUL, raise the strain
Of triumphant gladness;
God hath brought His Israel
Into joy from sadness;
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters;
Led them with unmoistened foot
Through the Red Sea waters.

2. 'Tis the spring of souls to-day:
Christ hath burst His prison,
And from three days' sleep in death
As a sun hath risen;
All the winter of our sins,
Long and dark, is flying
From his light, to whom we give
Laud and praise undying.

3. Now the queen of seasons, bright
With the day of splendour,
With the royal feast of feasts,
Comes its joy to render;
Comes to glad Jerusalem,
Who with true affection
Welcomes in unwearied strains
Jesu's Resurrection.

4. Neither might the gates of death,
Nor the tomb's dark portal,
Nor the watchers, nor the seal,
Hold thee as a mortal;
But today amidst thine own
Thou didst stand, bestowing
That thy peace which evermore
Passeth human knowing.

The Collect: Almighty ever-living God, lead us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The readings are :

- *Acts 2.36-41. Peter preaches on Pentecost: "God has made this Jesus whom your crucified both Lord and Christ."*
- *1 Peter 2. 20-25: "You had gone astray like sheep."*

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my own know me. Alleluia!

- *The Gospel: John 10.1-10: "I am the gate of the sheepfold."*

As a hymn in thanksgiving after your act of spiritual communion:

THE KING OF LOVE my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his
And he is mine for ever.

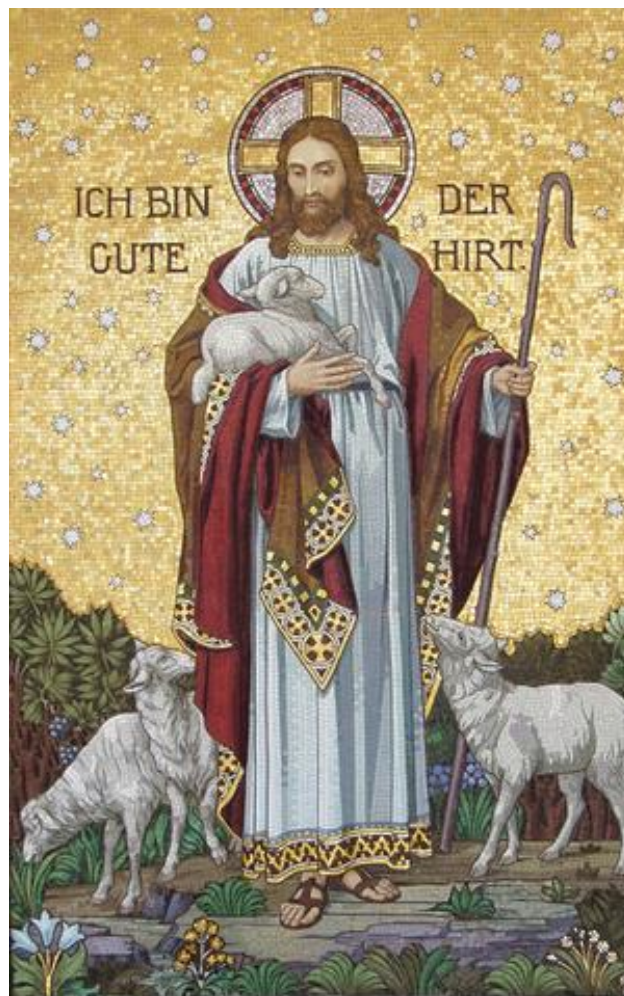
2. Where streams of living water flow
My ransomed soul he leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow
With food celestial feedeth.

3. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed,
But yet in love he sought me,
And on his shoulder gently laid,
And home, rejoicing, brought me.

4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill
With thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still,
Thy cross before to guide me.

5. Thou spread'st a table in my sight;
Thy unction, grace bestoweth:
And O what transport of delight
From thy pure chalice floweth!

6. And so through all the length of days
Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
Within thy house for ever.



The concluding prayer: Almighty ever-living God, lead us to a share in the joys of heaven, so that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER

Sunday 10th May 2020

For an opening hymn, sing or say:

Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
Bright Seraphs, Cherubim and Thrones,
Raise the glad strain, Alleluya!
Cry out Dominions, Princedoms, Powers,
Virtues, Archangels, Angels' choirs,
Alleluya, Alleluya,
Alleluya, Alleluya, Alleluya!

2 O higher than the Cherubim,
More glorious than the Seraphim,
Lead their praises, Alleluya!
Thou Bearer of the eternal Word,
Most gracious, magnify the Lord...

3 Respond, ye souls in endless rest,
Ye Patriarchs and Prophets blest,
Alleluya, Alleluya!
Ye holy Twelve, ye Martyrs strong,
All Saints triumphant, raise the song:

4 O friends, in gladness let us sing,
Supernal anthems echoing,
Alleluya, Alleluya!
To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One...

The Collect: Almighty ever-living God, constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

The readings are :

- *Acts 6.1-7: They elected seven men full of the Holy Spirit.*
- *1 Peter 2.4-9: "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God".*

Alleluia, alleluia! 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me.' Alleluia!

- *The Gospel: John 14.1-12 "Do not let your hearts be troubled."*

As a hymn in thanksgiving after your act of spiritual communion:

I HEARD THE VOICE of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
Thy head upon my breast:"
I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
And he has made me glad.

2. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Behold, I freely give
The living water, thirsty one;
Stoop down, and drink, and live":
I came to Jesus, and I drank
Of that life-giving stream;
My thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
And now I live in him.

3. I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"I am this dark world's Light;
Look unto me, thy morn shall rise,
And all thy day be bright:"
I looked to Jesus, and I found
In him my Star, my Sun;
And in that light of life I'll walk
Till traveling days are done.

The concluding prayer: Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

