



# THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
17<sup>th</sup> May 2020

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish, this Sunday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the "leader" parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your Sunday prayers.

## SIGN OF THE CROSS

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

## INTRODUCTION

Leader: Again, it is still Easter – though we are coming to end: two great feasts lie ahead: the Ascension on Thursday and Pentecost a week on Sunday. We turn towards both those feasts in our Gospel today, as we hear Jesus bidding his friends farewell and promising to send them the Holy Spirit. Celebrating the resurrection of Jesus and his love, we praise God's glory as we say:

## 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.**

## OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray. Grant, almighty God, that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy, which we keep in honour of the risen Lord, and that what we relive in remembrance we may always hold to in what we do. 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.

All: Amen.

## GOSPEL READING

*John 14:15-21*

Jesus said to his disciples:  
'If you love me you will keep my commandments.  
I shall ask the Father,  
and he will give you another Advocate  
to be with you for ever,  
that Spirit of truth  
whom the world can never receive  
since it neither sees nor knows him;  
but you know him,

because he is with you, he is in you.

I will not leave you orphans;

I will come back to you.

In a short time the world will no longer see me;

but you will see me,

because I live and you will live.

On that day you will understand that I am in my Father

and you in me and I in you.

Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them

will be one who loves me;

and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father,

and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## REFLECTION

Leader: Those who believe in God always trust in the future. Back in Advent, we heard how Jesus' coming into the world fulfilled the promises God made to his people in the Old Testament. And in today's Gospel we hear new promises, made by Jesus the night before his death on the cross, but read by us as we prepare to remember his departure at the Ascension on Thursday. His promise is, as always, togetherness with God: "You are in me and I am in you." This promise will be fulfilled on the day of Pentecost, when the "Advocate" – the Holy Spirit – is given to the Church. That promise is fulfilled for us every day of our lives, when we invite the Spirit in. What are the ways in which we can ask the Spirit into our lives? How can we rejoice in our "togetherness" with God?

## A THOUGHT FOR OUR YOUNGER FRIENDS

Have you ever had to say "goodbye" to someone who is moving far away – perhaps a friend going to a different part of the country, or a member of your family going to a different part of the world? Even if you haven't, I am sure you can imagine how hard it is! What sort of gift or present would you give to someone if that was happening? It would probably be something they could keep – so not a box or chocolates! Perhaps a photograph, or something personal, that would remind them of you! This is exactly what Jesus does: as he says goodbye to his friends he promises them



a special gift, so that they will always be close to him – the Holy Spirit.

### PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come 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 life everlasting. Amen.

### INTERCESSIONS

Leader: Jesus promises to send the Spirit, so that all who welcome him may be close to God. Let us pray in the Spirit for our Church and our World.

Leader: Let us pray for all who are missing family or friend for whatever reason: that they may be consoled by the promise of togetherness in Jesus. Lord, in your mercy:

**All: Hear our prayer!**

Leader: Let us pray for Pope Francis and for Bishop John, that they may lead us in faith, hope and love. Lord, in your mercy:

**All: Hear our prayer!**

Leader: Let us pray for all who are sad or sorrowful, and for all who have died; that eternal life may be their hope and reward. Lord, in your mercy:

**All: Hear our prayer!**

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All: 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. Amen.**

Leader: May our prayers rise up to you, O Lord, so that, purified by your graciousness, we may be conformed to the mysteries of your mighty love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

### PREPARATION FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Leader: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but in this time above all to laud you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed. For, with the

old order destroyed, a universe cast down is renewed, and integrity of life is restored to us in Christ. At the Last Supper he showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts now to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

**All: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.**



Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

### THANKSGIVING PSALM

Leader: Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

Cry out with joy to God all the earth,  
O sing to the glory of his name.  
O render him glorious praise.

Say to God: 'How tremendous your deeds!

**All: Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.**

Leader: 'Before you all the earth shall bow;  
shall sing to you, sing to your name!  
Come and see the works of God,  
tremendous his deeds among men.

**All: Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.**

Leader: He turned the sea into dry land,  
they passed through the river dry-shod.  
Let our joy then be in him;  
he rules for ever by his might.

**All: Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.**

Leader: Come and hear, all who fear God.  
I will tell what he did for my soul:  
Blessed be God who did not reject my prayer  
nor withhold his love from me.

**All: Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.**

### FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING

Leader: Let us pray. Almighty ever-living God, who restore us to eternal life in the Resurrection of Christ, increase in us, we pray, the fruits of this paschal Sacrament. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

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

**All: Amen.**

Leader: Let us bless the Lord!

**All: Thanks be to God!**