



## Worship at Home

This resource is prepared for those who might wish to worship at home who either do not have access to on-line worship services, or wish to hold their own off-line worship. This is a basic outline with the readings and prayers for the next four Sundays. Please feel free to add or subtract as you wish. If you have a hymnbook at home, please feel free to add hymns and other prayers. God bless you as you gather in God's name.

### Order of Worship

*(Everyone gathers, makes themselves comfortable, and lets themselves grow quiet. After a period of silence, the leader begins...)*

**L:** Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.  
Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

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

**L:** Our help comes in the name of the Lord...

**R:** Who made heaven and earth.

**L:** Let us pray...

#### Prayer of the Day

**Readings:** *(read one or all...if more people present, have different people read)*

**Reflection** – Where did you stop in the reading, and why? What questions do you have? What is the good news in the text you read?

*(Allow the conversation to go as long as feels comfortable for the group.)*

#### The Prayers

*(You can begin by each person sharing something they are thankful for, and something they are concerned about. The leader then introduces each area of concern with a pause for silence...each person adds as they are comfortable)*

**L:** We pray for the world..., for creation..., for community..., for those who are ill..., for emergency workers, health workers and caregivers... for those who are burdened in any way..., for ourselves and our particular concerns..... (prayer can be aloud or silent).

**L:** We conclude with the Lord's Prayer: Our Father who art in heaven...

**Blessing** *(We pray for God's blessing on ourselves and each other)*

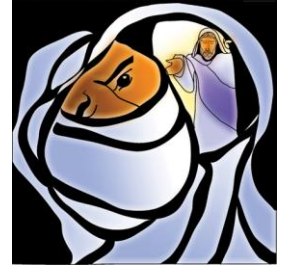
**L:** Let us bless the Lord – may our Eternal God bless us, and direct our days and our deeds in godly your peace. Amen.

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

## Lessons and Texts:

### Sunday, March 29, 2020 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

**Introduction** - In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.



**Prayer of the Day** - Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Gospel Acclamation** - I am the resurrection and the life;\* whoever believes in me will never die. (*John 11:25, 26*)

#### **Readings and Psalm**

**Ezekiel 37:1-14** - *The dry bones of Israel brought to life*

**Psalm 130** - I wait for you, O Lord; in your word is my hope. (*Ps. 130:5*)

**Romans 8:6-11** - *Life in the Spirit*

**Gospel: John 11:1-45** - *Baptismal image: the raising of Lazarus*

### Sunday, April 5, 2020 – Palm Sunday

**Introduction** - Today, we encounter the paradox that defines our faith: Jesus Christ is glorified king and humiliated servant. We too are full of paradox: like Peter, we fervently desire to follow Christ, but find ourselves afraid, denying God. We wave palms in celebration today as Christ comes into our midst, and we follow with trepidation as his path leads to death on the cross. Amid it all we are invited into this paradoxical promise of life through Christ's broken body and outpoured love in a meal of bread and wine. We begin this week that stands at the center of the church year, anticipating the completion of God's astounding work.



**Prayer of the Day** - Sovereign God, you have established your rule in the human heart through the servanthood of Jesus Christ. By your Spirit, keep us in the joyful procession of those who with their tongues confess Jesus as Lord and with their lives praise him as Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Gospel Acclamation** - Christ humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.\* Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above ev'ry name. (*Phil. 2:8-9*)

**Procession with Palms** - **Matthew 21:1-11** - *Jesus enters Jerusalem*

#### **Readings and Psalm**

**Isaiah 50:4-9a** - *The servant of the Lord submits to suffering*

**Psalm 31:9-16** - Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit. (*Ps. 31:5*)

**Philippians 2:5-11** - *Humbled to the point of death on a cross*

**Matthew 26:14 - 27:66** - *The passion of the Lord*

**Matthew 27:11-54** (alternate) - *The passion of the Lord*

## Sunday, April 12, 2020 - Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day

**Introduction** - This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, "God shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34): Christ's resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God's endless love.



**Prayer of the Day** - God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. Increase in our minds and hearts the risen life we share with Christ, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of eternal life with you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Gospel Acclamation** - *Alleluia.* Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed.\* Therefore, let us keep the feast. *Alleluia.* (1 Cor. 5:7, 8)

### **Readings and Psalm**

**Jeremiah 31:1-6** - *Joy at the restoration of God's people*

**Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24** - This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Ps. 118:24)

**Colossians 3:1-4** - *Raised with Christ to seek the higher things*

**Matthew 28:1-10** - *Proclaim the resurrection*

**John 20:1-18** (alternate) - *Seeing the risen Christ*

## Sunday, April 19, 2020 - Second Sunday of Easter, Year A

(Artwork by Angelika Offenwanger)

**Introduction** - In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.



**Prayer of the Day** - Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia.* Blessed are those who | have not seen\* and yet have come to believe. *Alleluia.* (John 20:29)

### **Readings and Psalm**

**Acts 2:14a, 22-32** - *Christ's resurrection: the fulfillment of God's promise to David*

**Psalm 16** - In your presence there is fullness of joy. (Ps. 16:11)

**1 Peter 1:3-9** - *New birth to a living hope through the resurrection*

**John 20:19-31** - *Beholding the wounds of the risen Christ*

## Confession and Forgiveness

*(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the leader begins...)*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who is present, who gives life,  
who calls into existence the things that do not exist. **Amen.**

If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?

Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have turned away from you,  
knowingly and unknowingly.**

**We have wandered from your resurrection life.**

**We have strayed from your love for all people.**

**Turn us back to you, O God.**

**Give us new hearts and right spirits,  
that we may find what is pleasing to you  
and dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

Receive good news: God turns to us in love.

“I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God.

All our sin is forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God’s  
grace for us. **Amen.**

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

*(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the leader begins.)*

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are raised with him to new life.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*(Water may be poured into a bowl...)*

We give you thanks, O God,

for in the beginning you created us in your image  
and planted us in a well-watered garden.

In the desert you promised pools of water for the parched,  
and you gave us water from the rock.

When we did not know the way,  
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.

At the cross, you watered us from Jesus’ wounded side,  
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font,  
and for all water everywhere.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.

Satisfy the thirsty, and give us the life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**




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