

## **BLESSING OF FOOD FOR EASTER**

### **INTRODUCTORY RITES:**

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

**RESPONSE:** Amen!

#### **A. Before the Easter Vigil**

**LEADER:** For our sake Christ became obedient, accepting even death, death on a cross. Therefore, God raised him on high and gave him the name above all others names. Blessed be God forever.

**RESPONSE:** Blessed Be God Forever.

#### **B. After the Easter Vigil**

**LEADER:** Christ is risen. Alleluia

**RESPONSE:** He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

**LEADER:** Throughout Lent we have been preparing for the resurrection of the Lord by prayer, almsgiving, and fasting. Our Lenten fasting is a reminder of our hunger and thirst for holiness which is satisfied only by Christ who feeds and nourishes us by his word and sacraments. When we gather at our first meal of Easter may this food be a sign for us of that heavenly banquet to which the Lord calls us.

### **READING FROM THE WORD OF GOD**

**READER:** Let us listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah: (Isaiah 55:1-11)

Thus, says the LORD: All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! Why spend your money for what is not bread, your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David. As I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of nations, so shall you summon a nation you knew not, and nations that knew you not shall run to you, because of the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked man his thoughts; let him turn to the LORD for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts. For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who

eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

## **INTERCESSIONS**

**LEADER:** The Son of God who invites us to the Paschal feast stands ready to help. Let us call upon Him in our need.

**READER:** That Easter may find us cleansed of sin and ready to live anew our Christian faith, let us pray.

**RESPONSE:** Lord, hear our prayer!

**READER:** That the bread we share may be a reminder of the Bread of Life we share in the Most Holy Eucharist, let us pray.

**RESPONSE:** Lord, hear our prayer!

**READER:** That we may be ready to give from our table to those who hunger and thirst, let us pray.

**RESPONSE:** Lord, hear our prayer!

**READER:** For those who are traveling to visit their families this Easter, let us pray.

**RESPONSE:** Lord, hear our prayer!

**READER:** For those who are lonely this Easter season, let us pray.

**RESPONSE:** Lord, hear our prayer!

**READER:** For those who are sick and all those who care for them, that God will give them the gift of His healing presence and peace, let us pray.

**RESPONSE:** Lord, hear our prayer!

**READER:** That we may one day enjoy the banquet of the Lord in the heavenly kingdom, let us pray.

**RESPONSE:** Lord, hear our prayer!

**LEADER:** Christ taught us to pray for our daily bread and so we dare to say.

**ALL:** Our Father...

## **PRAYER OF BLESSING**

**NOTE:** Done with hands joined.

**LEADER:** God of glory, the eyes of all turn to you as we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death. Bless us and this food our first Easter meal. May we who gather at the Lord's table continue to celebrate the joy of His resurrection and be admitted finally to His heavenly banquet. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

**RESPONSE:** Amen.

## **CONCLUDING RITE**

**LEADER:** May Christ nourish us and strengthen us in faith and love, now and forever.

**RESPONSE:** Amen.