

CELEBRATION OF THE WORD

Easter Vigil

This is a celebration of the Word to aid your worship this Saturday, alone or with family. If possible, place a simple cross or crucifix prominently in the room and light one or more candles. You can also place an image of the Virgin Mary there if possible. As a family, choose the one who leads the prayer, and someone to do the readings.

Whoever leads the prayer can say:

After the sorrow of Good Friday, and the silence and waiting of Holy Saturday, we rejoice when the light of Christ our life pierces through the darkness and triumphs over death. We sing Alleluia once again, as we behold the empty tomb, and meet our Resurrected Lord. We thank him for having loved us to the end, for in him, we have died to sin and risen to new life. On this Easter Vigil, though not together as a parish community, we lift up our voices in prayer and praise in union with the whole company of heaven who forever prostrate themselves before the throne of God, singing, "Holy, Holy, Holy."

SIGN OF THE CROSS

After a moment of silence, let everyone begin by making the Sign of the Cross:

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

HYMN

Choose an appropriate hymn.

Though we are not present in our parish, consider reciting the Easter Proclamation (Exsultet) here.

THE EASTER PROCLAMATION (EXSULTET)

LONGER FORM OF THE EASTER PROCLAMATION

Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven,
exult, let Angel ministers of God exult,
let the trumpet of salvation
sound aloud our mighty King's triumph!
Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her,
ablaze with light from her eternal King,
let all corners of the earth be glad,
knowing an end to gloom and darkness.
Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice,
arrayed with the lightning of his glory,
let this holy building shake with joy,
filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.

(Therefore, dearest friends,
standing in the awesome glory of this holy light,
invoke with me, I ask you,
the mercy of God almighty,
that he, who has been pleased to number me,
though unworthy, among the Levites,
may pour into me his light unshadowed,
that I may sing this candle's perfect praises).

U The Lord be with you.

R And with your spirit.)

U Lift up your hearts.

R We lift them up to the Lord.

U Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R It is right and just.

It is truly right and just,
with ardent love of mind and heart
and with devoted service of our voice,
to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father,
and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten.
Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father,
and, pouring out his own dear Blood,
wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness.
These, then, are the feasts of Passover,
in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb,
whose Blood anoints the doorposts of believers.
This is the night,
when once you led our forebears, Israel's children,
from slavery in Egypt
and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea.
This is the night
that with a pillar of fire
banished the darkness of sin.
This is the night
that even now, throughout the world,
sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices
and from the gloom of sin,
leading them to grace
and joining them to his holy ones.
This is the night,
when Christ broke the prison-bars of death
and rose victorious from the underworld.

Our birth would have been no gain,
had we not been redeemed.
O wonder of your humble care for us!
O love, O charity beyond all telling,
to ransom a slave you gave away your Son!
O truly necessary sin of Adam,
destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!
O happy fault
that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!
O truly blessed night,
worthy alone to know the time and hour
when Christ rose from the underworld!
This is the night
of which it is written:
The night shall be as bright as day,
dazzling is the night for me,
and full of gladness.
The sanctifying power of this night
dispels wickedness, washes faults away,
restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners,
drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty.
On this, your night of grace, O holy Father,
accept this candle, a solemn offering,
the work of bees and of your servants' hands,
an evening sacrifice of praise,
this gift from your most holy Church.
But now we know the praises of this pillar,
which glowing fire ignites for God's honor,
a fire into many flames divided,
yet never dimmed by sharing of its light,
for it is fed by melting wax,
drawn out by mother bees
to build a torch so precious.
O truly blessed night,
when things of heaven are wed to those of earth,
and divine to the human.
Therefore, O Lord,
we pray you that this candle,
hallowed to the honor of your name,
may persevere undimmed,
to overcome the darkness of this night.
Receive it as a pleasing fragrance,

and let it mingle with the lights of heaven.
May this flame be found still burning
by the Morning Star:
the one Morning Star who never sets,
Christ your Son,
who, coming back from death's domain,
has shed his peaceful light on humanity,
and lives and reigns for ever and ever.
R/ Amen.

We place ourselves before the Lord, beginning with an act of contrition:

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

The following are the readings of Holy Saturday.

FIRST READING

God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.

**A reading from
the Book of Genesis**

1:1-2:2

[For the shorter form (1:1, 26-31a), omit the text in brackets.]

IN THE BEGINNING, when God created the heavens and the earth,
[the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the
abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw how good the light was. God then separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." Thus evening came, and morning followed—the first day.

Then God said, "Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, to separate one body of water from the other." And so it happened: God made the dome, and it separated the water above the dome from the water below it. God called the dome "the sky." Evening came, and morning followed—the second day.

Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin, so that the dry land may appear." And so it happened: the water under the sky was gathered into its basin, and the dry land appeared. God called the dry land "the earth," and the basin of the water he called "the sea." God saw how good it was. Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it." And so it happened: the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. God saw how good it was. Evening came, and morning followed—the third day.

Then God said: “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night. Let them mark the fixed times, the days and the years, and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth.” And so it happened: God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the lesser one to govern the night; and he made the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw how good it was. Evening came, and morning followed—the fourth day.

Then God said, “Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures, and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky.” And so it happened: God created the great sea monsters and all kinds of swimming creatures with which the water teems, and all kinds of winged birds. God saw how good it was, and God blessed them, saying, “Be fertile, multiply, and fill the water of the seas; and let the birds multiply on the earth.” Evening came, and morning followed—the fifth day.

Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures: cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds.” And so it happened: God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle, and all kinds of creeping things of the earth. God saw how good it was. Then] God said: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.”

God created man in his image;/ in the image of God he created him;/ male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying: “Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth.” God also said: “See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food.” And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good. [Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed. Since on the seventh day God was finished with the work he had been doing, he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken.]

The word of the Lord.

— . PSALM 104. —

R/ (30) Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!
You are clothed with majesty and glory,
robed in light as with a cloak. **R/**

You fixed the earth upon its foundation,
not to be moved forever;

with the ocean, as with a garment, you covered it;
above the mountains the waters stood. *R/*

You send forth springs into the watercourses
that wind among the mountains.

Beside them the birds of heaven dwell;
from among the branches they send forth their
song. *R/*

You water the mountains from your palace;
the earth is replete with the fruit of your works.

You raise grass for the cattle,
and vegetation for man's use,
producing bread from the earth. *R/*

How manifold are your works, O LORD!

In wisdom you have wrought them all—
the earth is full of your creatures.

Bless the LORD, O my soul! *R/*

Or:

— .PSALM 33. —

R/ (5b) The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Upright is the word of the LORD,
and all his works are trustworthy.

He loves justice and right;
of the kindness of the LORD the earth is full. *R/*

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made;
by the breath of his mouth all their host.

He gathers the waters of the sea as in a flask;
in cellars he confines the deep. *R/*

Blessed the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people he has chosen for his own inheritance.

From heaven the LORD looks down;
he sees all mankind. *R/*

Our soul waits for the LORD,
who is our help and our shield.

May your kindness, O LORD, be upon us
who have put our hope in you. *R/*

SECOND READING

The sacrifice of Abraham our father in faith.

**A reading from
the Book of Genesis**

22:1-18

[For the shorter form (22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18), omit the text in brackets.]

GOD PUT ABRAHAM to the test. He called to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. Then God said: “Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you.” [Early the next morning Abraham saddled his donkey, took with him his son Isaac and two of his servants as well, and with the wood that he had cut for the holocaust, set out for the place of which God had told him.]

On the third day Abraham got sight of the place from afar. Then he said to his servants: “Both of you stay here with the donkey, while the boy and I go on over yonder. We will worship and then come back to you.” Thereupon Abraham took the wood for the holocaust and laid it on his son Isaac’s shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two walked on together, Isaac spoke to his father Abraham: “Father!” Isaac said. “Yes, son,” he replied. Isaac continued, “Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the sheep for the holocaust?” “Son,” Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the sheep for the holocaust.” Then the two continued going forward.]

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. [Next he tied up his son Isaac, and put him on top of the wood on the altar.] Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the LORD’s messenger called to him from heaven, “Abraham, Abraham!” “Here I am,” he answered. “Do not lay your hand on the boy,” said the messenger. “Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son.” As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son. [Abraham named the site Yahweh-yireh; hence people now say, “On the mountain the LORD will see.”]

Again the LORD’s messenger called to Abraham from heaven and said: “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing—all this because you obeyed my command.” The word of the Lord.

—.**PSALM 16.**—

R/ (1) You are my inheritance, O Lord.

O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup,
you it is who hold fast my lot.

I set the LORD ever before me;
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed. *R/*

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices,
my body, too, abides in confidence;
because you will not abandon my soul to the
netherworld,
nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo
corruption. *R/*

You will show me the path to life,
fullness of joys in your presence,
the delights at your right hand forever. *R/*

THIRD READING

The Israelites marched on dry land through the midst of the sea.

A reading from the Book of Exodus

14:15–15:1

THE LORD SAID to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. And you, lift up your staff and, with hand outstretched over the sea, split the sea in two, that the Israelites may pass through it on dry land. But I will make the Egyptians so obstinate that they will go in after them. Then I will receive glory through Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots and charioteers. The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I receive glory through Pharaoh and his chariots and charioteers.”

The angel of God, who had been leading Israel’s camp, now moved and went around behind them. The column of cloud also, leaving the front, took up its place behind them, so that it came between the camp of the Egyptians and that of Israel. But the cloud now became dark, and thus the night passed without the rival camps coming any closer together all night long. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD swept the sea with a strong east wind throughout the night and so turned it into dry land. When the water was thus divided, the Israelites marched into the midst of the sea on dry land, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left.

The Egyptians followed in pursuit; all Pharaoh’s horses and chariots and charioteers went after them right into the midst of the sea. In the night watch just before dawn the LORD cast through the column of the fiery cloud upon the Egyptian force a glance that threw it into a panic; and he so clogged their chariot wheels that they could hardly drive. With that the Egyptians sounded the retreat before Israel, because the LORD was fighting for them against the Egyptians.

Then the LORD told Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may flow back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and their charioteers.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea flowed back to its normal depth. The Egyptians were fleeing head on toward the sea, when the LORD hurled them into its midst. As the water flowed back, it covered the chariots and the charioteers of Pharaoh’s whole army which had followed the Israelites into the

sea. Not a single one of them escaped. But the Israelites had marched on dry land through the midst of the sea, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel on that day from the power of the Egyptians. When Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the seashore and beheld the great power that the LORD had shown against the Egyptians, they feared the LORD and believed in him and in his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD:

I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant;/ horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.

The word of the Lord.

— .RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ex 15). —

R/ (1b) Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant;

horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.

My strength and my courage is the LORD,

and he has been my savior.

He is my God, I praise him;

the God of my father, I extol him. **R/**

The LORD is a warrior,

LORD is his name!

Pharaoh's chariots and army he hurled into the sea;

the elite of his officers were submerged in the Red Sea. **R/**

The flood waters covered them,

they sank into the depths like a stone.

Your right hand, O LORD, magnificent in power,

your right hand, O LORD, has shattered the enemy. **R/**

You brought in the people you redeemed

and planted them on the mountain of your inheritance—

the place where you made your seat, O LORD,

the sanctuary, LORD, which your hands established.

The LORD shall reign forever and ever. **R/**

FOURTH READING

With enduring love, the Lord your redeemer takes pity on you.

**A reading from
the Book of the Prophet Isaiah**

54:5-14

THE ONE WHO has become your husband is your Maker;/ his name is the LORD of hosts;/ your redeemer is the Holy One of Israel;/ called God of all the earth./ The LORD calls you back,/ like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit,/ a wife married in youth and then cast off,/ says your God./ For a brief moment I abandoned you,/ but with great tenderness I will take you

back./ In an outburst of wrath, for a moment/ I hid my face from you;/ but with enduring love I take pity on you,/ says the LORD, your redeemer./ This is for me like the days of Noah,/ when I swore that the waters of Noah/ should never again deluge the earth;/ so I have sworn not to be angry with you,/ or to rebuke you./ Though the mountains leave their place/ and the hills be shaken,/ my love shall never leave you/ nor my covenant of peace be shaken,/ says the LORD, who has mercy on you./ O afflicted one, storm-battered and unconsolated,/ I lay your pavements in carnelians,/ and your foundations in sapphires;/ I will make your battlements of rubies,/ your gates of carbuncles,/ and all your walls of precious stones./ All your children shall be taught by the LORD,/ and great shall be the peace of your children./ In justice shall you be established,/ far from the fear of oppression,/ where destruction cannot come near you.

The word of the Lord.

—•PSALM 30•—

R/ (2a) I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

I will extol you, O LORD, for you drew me clear
and did not let my enemies rejoice over me.

O LORD, you brought me up from the netherworld;
you preserved me from among those going down
into the pit. **R/**

Sing praise to the LORD, you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.

For his anger lasts but a moment;
a lifetime, his good will.

At nightfall, weeping enters in,
but with the dawn, rejoicing. **R/**

Hear, O LORD, and have pity on me;
O LORD, be my helper.

You changed my mourning into dancing;
O LORD, my God, forever will I give you thanks. **R/**

FIFTH READING

Come to me that you may have life. I will renew with you an everlasting covenant.

**A reading from
the Book of the Prophet 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 com-

mander 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.

The word of the Lord.

—•RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Is 12).—

R/ (3) You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

God indeed is my savior;

I am confident and unafraid.

My strength and my courage is the LORD,
and he has been my savior.

With joy you will draw water
at the fountain of salvation. **R/**

Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name;
among the nations make known his deeds,
proclaim how exalted is his name. **R/**

Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement;
let this be known throughout all the earth.

Shout with exultation, O city of Zion,
for great in your midst
is the Holy One of Israel! **R/**

SIXTH READING

Walk toward the splendor of the Lord.

**A reading from
the Book of the Prophet Baruch**

3:9-15, 32-4:4

HEAR, O ISRAEL, the commandments of life:/ listen, and know prudence!/ How is it, Israel,/ that you are in the land of your foes,/ grown old in a foreign land,/ defiled with the dead,/ accounted with those destined for the netherworld?/ You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom!/ Had you walked in the way of God,/ you would have dwelt in enduring peace./ Learn where prudence is,/ where strength, where understanding;/ that you may know

also/ where are length of days, and life,/ where light of the eyes, and peace./ Who has found the place of wisdom,/ who has entered into her treasuries?

The One who knows all things knows her;/ he has probed her by his knowledge—/ the One who established the earth for all time,/ and filled it with four-footed beasts;/ he who dismisses the light, and it departs,/ calls it, and it obeys him trembling;/ before whom the stars at their posts/ shine and rejoice;/ when he calls them, they answer, “Here we are!”/ shining with joy for their Maker./ Such is our God;/ no other is to be compared to him:/ he has traced out the whole way of understanding,/ and has given her to Jacob, his servant,/ to Israel, his beloved son.

Since then she has appeared on earth,/ and moved among people./ She is the book of the precepts of God,/ the law that endures forever;/ all who cling to her will live,/ but those will die who forsake her./ Turn, O Jacob, and receive her:/ walk by her light toward splendor./ Give not your glory to another,/ your privileges to an alien race./ Blessed are we, O Israel;/ for what pleases God is known to us!
The word of the Lord.

— . PSALM 19 . —

R/ (Jn 6:68c) Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul;
the decree of the LORD is trustworthy,
giving wisdom to the simple. **R/**

The precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the command of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eye. **R/**

The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true,
all of them just. **R/**

They are more precious than gold,
than a heap of purest gold;
sweeter also than syrup
or honey from the comb. **R/**

SEVENTH READING

I shall sprinkle clean water upon you and I shall give you a new heart.

**A reading from
the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel**

36:16-17a, 18-28

THE WORD OF THE LORD came to me, saying: Son of man, when the house of Israel lived in their land, they defiled it by their conduct and deeds. Therefore I poured out my fury upon them because of the blood that they poured out on the ground, and because they defiled it with idols.

I scattered them among the nations, dispersing them over foreign lands; according to their conduct and deeds I judged them. But when they came among the nations wherever they came, they served to profane my holy name, because it was said of them: “These are the people of the LORD, yet they had to leave their land.” So I have relented because of my holy name which the house of Israel profaned among the nations where they came. Therefore say to the house of Israel: Thus says the Lord GOD: Not for your sakes do I act, house of Israel, but for the sake of my holy name, which you profaned among the nations to which you came. I will prove the holiness of my great name, profaned among the nations, in whose midst you have profaned it. Thus the nations shall know that I am the LORD, says the Lord GOD, when in their sight I prove my holiness through you. For I will take you away from among the nations, gather you from all the foreign lands, and bring you back to your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts. I will put my spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees. You shall live in the land I gave your fathers; you shall be my people, and I will be your God.
The word of the Lord.

— .RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Is 12). —

R/ (3) You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

God indeed is my savior;

I am confident and unafraid.

My strength and my courage is the LORD,

and he has been my savior.

With joy you will draw water

at the fountain of salvation. **R/**

Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name;

among the nations make known his deeds,

proclaim how exalted is his name. **R/**

Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement;

let this be known throughout all the earth.

Shout with exultation, O city of Zion,

for great in your midst

is the Holy One of Israel! **R/**

Or:

— .PSALM 51.—

R/ (12a) Create a clean heart in me, O God.

A clean heart create for me, O God,

and a steadfast spirit renew within me.

Cast me not out from your presence,

and your Holy Spirit take not from me. **R/**

Give me back the joy of your salvation,
and a willing spirit sustain in me.
I will teach transgressors your ways,
and sinners shall return to you. *R/*

For you are not pleased with sacrifices;
should I offer a holocaust, you would not accept it.
My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit;
a heart contrite and humbled, O God, you will not spurn. *R/*

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.

Or:

Gloria in excelsis Deo
et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te,
benedicimus te,
adoramus te,
glorificamus te,
gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam,
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.

Domine Fili Unigenite, Iesu Christe,
Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris,
qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis;
qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dominus,
tu solus Altissimus,
Iesu Christe, cum Sancto Spiritu: in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

EPISTLE

Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

6:3-11

BROTHERS AND SISTERS: Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him. As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God. Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as being dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

— . PSALM 118. —

R/ Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
for his mercy endures forever.

Let the house of Israel say,

“His mercy endures forever.” *R/*

The right hand of the LORD has struck with power;
the right hand of the LORD is exalted.

I shall not die, but live,

and declare the works of the LORD. *R/*

The stone which the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done;

it is wonderful in our eyes. *R/*

GOSPEL

He has been raised from the dead and is going before you to Galilee.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

28:1-10

AFTER THE SABBATH, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow. The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men. Then the angel said to the women in reply, “Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ Behold, I have told you.” Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”
The Gospel of the Lord.

Allow for a few minutes of silence and meditation. In a family, the leader could offer some words of consolation at this moment, such as: “Lord Jesus, on this night you passed over from death to life. We, your sons and daughters, pray and keep memorial even though we are not together as a parish. We place our hope firmly and confidently in you. We ask that you inflame us with heavenly desires, purify our minds, and lead us to heaven, the place of perfect and eternal splendor with you and all the saints. You are the same yesterday, today, and forever. To you belongs everything—every place in the entire universe, and every moment of the history of the world. You hold each of us in your love. By your holy and glorious wounds, guard and protect us, and dispel the darkness from our world and from our hearts; give us your grace to share already in your Resurrection.”

M E D I T A T I O N O F T H E D A Y

Why Christ Is in the Tomb

Speaking of Jesus, Paul writes, *and he gave his life for me* (Gal 2:20). Each of us can repeat those words of the apostle: *for me*.

My Jesus,
you have died for me,
how can I doubt your mercy?
And if I can believe in that mercy with a faith
that teaches me that God has died for me,
how can I not risk everything to return such love?

For me...

Words that wipe away the solitude of the most lonely
and give divine value
to every person despised by the world.
Words that fill every heart and make it overflow
upon those who either do not know
or do not remember the Good News.

For me.

For me, Jesus, all those sufferings?
For me that cry on the cross?
Surely, you will never give up on us.
You will do everything imaginable to save us
if only because we have cost you so much.
You gave me divine life
just as my mother gave me human life.
In every moment
you think of me alone,
as you do of each and every person.
This—more than anything in the world—
gives us the courage to live as Christians.

For me. Yes, for me.

And so, Lord,
for the years that remain,
allow me also to say:
for you.

Servant of God Chiara Lubich

Chiara Lubich († 2008) was the founder and president of the Focolare movement.

As we pray the litany of the saints, asking for their intercession, we ask especially for a speedy end to the coronavirus pandemic and for the protection of all those who continue to work on the front lines battling it around the world. We entrust to the Lord all those who are suffering, and all those who have died. And we pray that, in this difficult time, the grace of the Risen Lord will strengthen and comfort the whole Church, giving us a greater love and appreciation for our faith and the sacraments, and a greater belonging in the communion of saints.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Saint Michael,
Holy Angels of God,
Saint John the Baptist,
Saint Joseph,

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.

Saint Peter and Saint Paul,	pray for us.
Saint Andrew,	pray for us.
Saint John,	pray for us.
Saint Mary Magdalene,	pray for us.
Saint Stephen,	pray for us.
Saint Ignatius of Antioch,	pray for us.
Saint Lawrence,	pray for us.
Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicity,	pray for us.
Saint Agnes,	pray for us.
Saint Gregory,	pray for us.
Saint Augustine,	pray for us.
Saint Athanasius,	pray for us.
Saint Basil,	pray for us.
Saint Martin,	pray for us.
Saint Benedict,	pray for us.
Saint Francis and Saint Dominic,	pray for us.
Saint Francis Xavier,	pray for us.
Saint John Vianney,	pray for us.
Saint Catherine of Siena,	pray for us.
Saint Teresa of Jesus,	pray for us.
All holy men and women, Saints of God,	pray for us.
Lord, be merciful,	Lord, deliver us, we pray.
From all evil,	Lord, deliver us, we pray.
From every sin,	Lord, deliver us, we pray.
From everlasting death,	Lord, deliver us, we pray.
By your Incarnation,	Lord, deliver us, we pray.
By your Death and	
Resurrection,	Lord, deliver us, we pray.
By the outpouring	
of the Holy Spirit,	Lord, deliver us, we pray.
Be merciful to us sinners,	Lord, we ask you,
	hear our prayer.
Christ, hear us.	Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.	Christ, graciously hear us.

Our Father....

An Act of Spiritual Communion:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. 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.

May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and lead us to everlasting life. And may the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.

To conclude the celebration, you can sing or recite the following or another suitable hymn. Turn and face an image of Mary, if you have one.



Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
The Son whom you merited to bear, alleluia,
has risen as he said, alleluia.
Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary,
alleluia!

R For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia!

Or:

R*egina caeli, laetare, alleluia,
quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia,
resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia;
ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.*

V *Gaude et laetare, Virgo Maria, alleluia.*

R *Quia surrexit Dominus vere, alleluia.*

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