

A FAMILY EASTER PRAYER SERVICE

NOTE: These are the things you will need for the service:

Each home has an unlighted candle (real or battery) and a candle to represent Christ.

Each home has a small dish of water or each person has a small dish of water.

Each home has some Easter food for blessing.

The Blessing of our home Paschal Candles

L: On this most holy feast in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, we bless and light our paschal candles which shine in our midst as the Light of Life and the symbol of our sure hope of sharing in his triumph over death and living with him in God.

I invite you to light your paschal candle from the Christ candle, or turn your candle on.

All: *(after lighting the candles all say together)*
May the Light of Christ, rising in glory,
dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Prayer

God of undying life, by your mighty hand you raised up Jesus from the grave and appointed him judge of the living and the dead. Bestow upon those baptized into his death the power flowing from his resurrection, that we may proclaim near and far the pardon and peace you give us. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, first born from the dead, who lives with you now and always in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.

R1: **First Reading:** (Acts 10: 34, 37-43)

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism.

You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord

Quiet Reflection (1 min.)

R2: **Second Reading:** (1Cor 5: 6b-8)

A Reading from Saint Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians

Don't you know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough? ⁷ Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. ⁸ Therefore let us keep the Festival, not with the old bread leavened with malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. The Word of the Lord

Quiet Reflection

L: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

All: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

R3: **Gospel:** (John 20: 1-9)

A Reading from the Gospel of John

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) The Gospel of the Lord

Quiet Reflection

Shared Reflections on the readings and meaning of Easter in our times.

Renewal of our Baptismal Vows and Blessing Ourselves with Water

L: Through the sacrament of Baptism
God's spirit has been poured out upon water -
Water poured over and immersing us,
Water that flows freely from all who will receive it,
Water from the streams of God's saving power and justice,
Water that brings hope to all who thirst for righteousness,
Water that refreshes life, nurtures growth and offers new birth.

This Easter Day we come to the waters to renew our commitments in each other presence, to Christ who has raised us, the Spirit who has birthed us, and the Creator who is making all things new.

(invite all to stretch their hands over their own bowl of water)

All:

God of water and of life, this day your people celebrate the great Paschal Feast.
Bless this water: it makes the seed to grow, it refreshes us and makes us clean.
You have made of it a servant of your loving kindness:
through water you set your people free and quenched their thirst in the desert.
With water the prophets announced a new covenant that you would make with humankind.
By water, made holy by Christ in the Jordan, you made us new in the bath that gives rebirth.
Let this water remind us of our baptism; let us share the joys of Christians everywhere.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, the Risen Lord, who lives forever and ever.

L: I ask you now to renew your baptismal commitment. The response is: I DO
Do you believe in God the creator of heaven and earth?
Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

The response now is: I WILL WITH THE HELP OF GOD

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in the prayers?
Will you persevere in resisting evil, and whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human person?

L: In Jesus Christ we have been given a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit. May God keep us faithful to our Lord Jesus Christ who is risen from the dead and lives forever and ever.

L: I invite you to bless yourself with water.

Prayers of the Faithful: (Any and all may say aloud what they wish to pray for.)

Response: Risen Savior, hear our prayer

The Lord's Prayer:

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.

L: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,

we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Sign of Peace:*(at home bump arms/wave to others on screen)*

Blessing of the Easter Food

L: Provident God, the eyes of all turn to you as we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death,
Bless us and this food that we will share today.
May we continue to celebrate the joy of the resurrection and be admitted finally to the heavenly banquet. Grant this through Christ who is risen from the dead and lives forever and ever.

Blessing

L: Let us ask God to bless us this Easter Day.
On this solemn feast of Easter, having followed the Lord Jesus in his suffering, we celebrate the joy of his resurrection. May God bless us and protect us during this time of COVID-19.

All: Amen

L: May the God who restores us to eternal life in the resurrection of Christ complete in us the gift of immortality.

All: Amen

L: Through the grace of Christ may God lead us to the banquet of lasting joy.

All: Amen

L: May almighty God bless us, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

L: Alleluia. Christ is Risen.

All: He Is Risen Indeed. Alleluia