

SAFFRON WALDEN AND VILLAGES TEAM MINISTRY

PRAYERS FOR SUNDAY 26 APRIL 2020 (3RD OF EASTER)

Today we recall the disciples walking to Emmaus. Jesus met them on the road as they walked in sorrow: and they recognised him in the breaking of the bread. May we too know his presence with us, even amidst the turmoil of our world. You might like to light a candle at home while you use this leaflet, symbolising Jesus as the Light of the World: and to say the prayers and readings out loud.

Introduction

We gather together, united in purpose though separate in place, in the name of God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

*We say together (or why not **sing!**) an opening hymn:*

1. Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
His the sceptre, his the throne.
Alleluia! His the triumph,
His the victory alone.
Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by His blood.

2. Alleluia! Not as orphans
are we left in sorrow now.
Alleluia! He is near us;
faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received
him
when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget His promise,
"I am with you evermore"?

3. Alleluia! Bread of heaven,
here on earth our food, our stay.
Alleluia! Here the sinful
flee to thee from day to day.
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
earth's Redeemer, plead for me
where the songs of all the sinless
sweep across the crystal sea.

4. Alleluia, King eternal,
Thee the Lord of lords we own;
alleluia, born of Mary,
earth thy footstool, heaven thy
throne:
Thou within the veil hast entered,
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest:
Thou on earth both priest and victim
in the Eucharistic Feast.

The Lord is here: Alleluia!

His Spirit is with us. Alleluia!

We have come together as the family of God in this community. And especially we thank you, Heavenly Father, for your family, the Church; and for your love in sending us your Son Jesus who walks by our side wherever we may be. Help us to pray to you in faith, to sing your praise with gratitude, and to listen to your word with eagerness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God. Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil, and confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life.

Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins.

Christ, have mercy. *Christ, have mercy.*

Lord Jesus, you feed us with the living bread.

Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*

Hearing God's forgiveness

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins, heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Readings *We now follow the readings on the Grapevine:*

Collect (the special prayer for today)

First Reading: Acts Chapter 2, verses 14a and 36-41

Gospel reading: St Luke's Gospel, Chapter 24, verses 13-35

Reflection *If you are using this prayer sheet privately, you may wish to read the Reflection on the Grapevine. In a moment of quiet, think what message this may have for you, and ask God to help you live it out in your life this week.*

We declare our faith together

**We believe and trust in God the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.**

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Father of all, we thank you for offering us your new life through your gift of your Son, who suffered death and rose again for us. May his presence beside us ease the path ahead, however hard it seems, and lead us into his green pastures.

Lord, in your mercy **Hear our prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ, teach us to love as you love us. Give us strength to comfort the fearful, to bring help to the sick, and to reassure the isolated. Give grace to your Church throughout the world, that we may live as your people of Easter hope.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Loving God, hold in your arms all who suffer in body, mind or spirit, especially*do name those on your own heart*. Comfort and strengthen the weak, the sick and the dying, especially facing death alone. Be with all who fear for their livelihood; with the hungry, the homeless and the refugees. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

Gracious God, give your strength and energy to all hospital staff and carers, and all key workers and volunteers determined to keep society running, and inspire all who seek a cure. Give wisdom to our government and all who make decisions; and keep us ever mindful of each other.

Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sharing Christ's Peace

The risen Christ stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then were they glad when they saw the Lord.

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

As you say this, hold in your mind all who are joining in these prayers today.

If you are joining the Eucharist celebrated live via Zoom, do follow the priest saying the Eucharistic prayer, with the standard responses. While only the priest can physically receive the consecrated bread and wine, all will be invited to say this prayer of Spiritual Communion, inviting Jesus to enter your deepest being.

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

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. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together as Jesus has taught us

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. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

We ask God's grace for the week ahead

Heavenly Father, sustain us in our joys and in our anxieties. Enfold us in your peace in our waking and in our sleeping, and may we know your presence with us now and always: in the name of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

We say (or sing!) a final hymn:

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

*Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.*

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John -
they came with me and the dance went on. *Dance, then....*

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame.
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high,
and they left me there on a cross to die. *Dance, then....*

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black -
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance, and I still go on. *Dance, then....*

They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me -
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. *Dance, then....*

May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit, be with us all now and evermore: and may we go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Alleluia! Amen.