



**A SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER
FOR USE AT HOME
Sunday 3rd May 2020
The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

THE EASTER ACCLAMATION

Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

HYMN: ICH 326*

**Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and corner-stone,
chosen of the Lord and precious,
binding all the Church in one;
holy Zion's help for ever,
and her confidence alone.**

**All that dedicated city,
dearly loved of God on high,
in exultant jubilation
pours perpetual melody,
God, the One in Three adoring
in glad hymns externally**

**To this temple, where we call thee,
come, O Lord of Hosts, today;
with thy wonted loving-kindness
hear thy servants as they pray,
and thy fullest benediction
shed within its walls alway.**

**Here vouchsafe to all thy servants
what they ask of thee to gain,
what they gain from thee, for ever
with the blessed to retain,
and hereafter in thy glory
evermore with thee to reign.**

**Praise and honour to the Father,
praise and honour to the Son,
praise and honour to the Spirit,
ever Three and ever One,
one in might, and one in glory,
while the eternal ages run.**

Words: Latin 7th cent. Tr. John Mason Neale (1818-66) based on 1 Peter 2:4-7; Ephesians 2:20-22

*Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY Adapted from the final section ('Hallelujah') in the anthem 'O God, thou art my God'
by Henry Purcell (c. 1659-95) for the tune Belville in The Psalmist (1843)*

OPENING RESPONSES:

**O Lord, open thou our lips
and our mouth shall show forth thy praise.**

God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

PSALM: 18

I will love thee, O Lord, my strength; the Lord is my stony rock, and my defence *
my Saviour, my God, and my might, in whom I will trust, my buckler, the horn also of my salvation,
and my refuge.

I will call upon the Lord, which is worthy to be praised *
so shall I be safe from mine enemies.

The sorrows of death compassed me *
and the overflowings of ungodliness made me afraid.
The pains of hell came about me *
the snares of death overtook me.
In my trouble I will call upon the Lord *
and complain unto my God.
So shall he hear my voice out of his holy temple *
and my complaint shall come before him, it shall enter even into his ears.
The earth trembled and quaked *
the very foundations also of the hills shook, and were removed, because he was wroth.
There went a smoke out in his presence *
and a consuming fire out of his mouth, so that coals were kindled at it.
He bowed the heavens also, and came down *
and it was dark under his feet.
He rode upon the cherubims, and did fly *
he came flying upon the wings of the wind.
He made darkness his secret place *
his pavilion round about him with dark water, and thick clouds to cover him.
At the brightness of his presence his clouds removed *
hail-stones, and coals of fire.
The Lord also thundered out of heaven, and the Highest gave his thunder *
hail-stones, and coals of fire.
He sent out his arrows, and scattered them *
he cast forth lightnings, and destroyed them.
The springs of waters were seen, and the foundations of the round world were discovered, at thy
chiding, O Lord *
at the blasting of the breath of thy displeasure.
He shall send down from on high to fetch me *
and shall take me out of many waters.
He shall deliver me from my strongest enemy, and from them which hate me *
for they are too mighty for me.
They prevented me in the day of my trouble *
but the Lord was my upholder.
He brought me forth also into a place of liberty *
he brought me forth, even because he had a favour unto me.
The Lord shall reward me after my righteous dealing *
according to the cleanness of my hands shall he recompense me.
Because I have kept the ways of the Lord *
and have not forsaken my God, as the wicked doth.
For I have an eye unto all his laws *
and will not cast out his commandments from me.
I was also uncorrupt before him *
and eschewed mine own wickedness.
Therefore shall the Lord reward me after my righteous dealing *
and according unto the cleanness of my hands in his eye-sight.
With the holy thou shalt be holy *
and with a perfect man thou shalt be perfect.
With the clean thou shalt be clean *
and with the froward thou shalt learn frowardness.
For thou shalt save the people that are in adversity *
and shalt bring down the high looks of the proud.
Thou also shalt light my candle *
the Lord my God shall make my darkness to be light.
For in thee I shall discomfit an host of men *
and with the help of my God I shall leap over the wall.

The way of God is an undefiled way *
 the word of the Lord also is tried in the fire; he is the defender of all them that put their trust in him.

For who is God, but the Lord *
 or who hath any strength, except our God?
 It is God, that girdeth me with strength of war *
 and maketh my way perfect.

He maketh my feet like harts' feet *
 and setteth me up on high.

He teacheth mine hands to fight *
 and mine arms shall break even a bow of steel.

Thou hast given me the defence of thy salvation *
 thy right hand also shall hold me up, and thy loving correction shall make me great.

Thou shalt make room enough under me for to go *
 that my footsteps shall not slide.

I will follow upon mine enemies, and overtake them *
 neither will I turn again till I have destroyed them.

I will smite them, that they shall not be able to stand *
 but fall under my feet.

Thou hast girded me with strength unto the battle *
 thou shalt throw down mine enemies under me.

Thou hast made mine enemies also to turn their backs upon me *
 and I shall destroy them that hate me.

They shall cry, but there shall be none to help them *
 yea, even unto the Lord shall they cry, but he shall not hear them.

I will beat them as small as the dust before the wind *
 I will cast them out as the clay in the streets.

Thou shalt deliver me from the strivings of the people *
 and thou shalt make me the head of the heathen.

A people whom I have not known *
 shall serve me.

As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me *
 but the strange children shall dissemble with me.

The strange children shall fail *
 and be afraid out of their prisons.

The Lord liveth, and blessed be my strong helper *
 and praised be the God of my salvation.

Even the God that seeth that I be avenged *
 and subdueth the people unto me.

It is he that delivereth me from my cruel enemies, and setteth me up above mine adversaries *
 thou shalt rid me from the wicked man.

For this cause will I give thanks unto thee, O Lord, among the Gentiles *
 and sing praises unto thy Name.

Great prosperity giveth he unto his King *
 and sheweth loving-kindness unto David his Anointed, and unto his seed for evermore.

Glory be to the Father:
 and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be:
 world without end. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Ezra 3:1-13

When the seventh month came, and the Israelites were in the towns, the people gathered together in Jerusalem. Then Jeshua son of Jozadak, with his fellow priests, and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel with his kin set out to build the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt-offerings on it, as prescribed in the law

of Moses the man of God. They set up the altar on its foundation, because they were in dread of the neighbouring peoples, and they offered burnt-offerings upon it to the LORD, morning and evening. And they kept the festival of booths, as prescribed, and offered the daily burnt-offerings by number according to the ordinance, as required for each day, and after that the regular burnt-offerings, the offerings at the new moon and at all the sacred festivals of the LORD, and the offerings of everyone who made a freewill-offering to the LORD. From the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt-offerings to the LORD. But the foundation of the temple of the LORD was not yet laid. So they gave money to the masons and the carpenters, and food, drink, and oil to the Sidonians and the Tyrians to bring cedar trees from Lebanon to the sea, to Joppa, according to the grant that they had from King Cyrus of Persia.

In the second year after their arrival at the house of God at Jerusalem, in the second month, Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and Jeshua son of Jozadak made a beginning, together with the rest of their people, the priests and the Levites and all who had come to Jerusalem from the captivity. They appointed the Levites, from twenty years old and upwards, to have the oversight of the work on the house of the LORD. And Jeshua with his sons and his kin, and Kadmiel and his sons, Binnui and Hodaviah along with the sons of Henadad, the Levites, their sons and kin, together took charge of the workers in the house of God.

When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments were stationed to praise the LORD with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, according to the directions of King David of Israel; and they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD,

'For he is good,
for his steadfast love endures for ever towards Israel.'

And all the people responded with a great shout when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. But many of the priests and Levites and heads of families, old people who had seen the first house on its foundations, wept with a loud voice when they saw this house, though many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people's weeping, for the people shouted so loudly that the sound was heard far away.

THE CANTICLE MAGNIFICAT:

My soul doth magnify the Lord:

and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded:

the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth:

all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me:

and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him:

throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm:

he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat:

and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things:

and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:

as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:

and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be:

world without end. Amen.

SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 2:13-22

Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, so that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

THE CANTICLE NUNC DIMITTIS:

**Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
according to thy word.**

For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation.

Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people.

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles:

and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:

and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be:

world without end. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord be with you
and with thy Spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon 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. Amen.

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us
and grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen
and mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness
and make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people
and bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord,
because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us
and take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

COLLECT OF THE DAY:

Almighty God, who showest to them that be in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness; Grant unto all them that are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Religion, that they may eschew those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PEACE:

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS:

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord: and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PRAYERS

A Prayer to mark the 75th Anniversary of VE-Day on Friday 8th May

Lord of the nations, we honour the bravery and sacrifice of those who served in military and civilian roles during the Second World War. Grant us similar courage to recognise and restrain evil in our own day, and may those who lead the nations of the world work together to defend human liberty, that we may live peaceably one with another. This we ask in the name of the Prince of Peace, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

A Prayer for the Armed Forces

O Lord God of Hosts, stretch forth, we pray, your almighty arm to strengthen and protect our service men and women. Support them in times of conflict, and in their rest and training keep them safe from all evil; endue them with courage and loyalty; and grant that in all things they may serve without reproach; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Prayer for our nation

God of hope, in these times of anxiety and fear, unite our nation and guide our leaders with your wisdom. Give us courage to overcome our fears, and help us to build a future in which all may prosper and share; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A Prayer for friends during lockdown

O heavenly Father, who has bestowed on us the comfort of earthly friends: look in love upon those dear to us from whom we are presently separated. Protect them from harm; prosper and bless them in all good things; suffer them never to be desolate or afraid, and let no shadow come between them and us to divide our hearts; but in your good time may we renew the comfort of sight and sound; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A prayer against loneliness

In the midst of our isolation, we cry to you, Lord God; give light in our darkness and keep us from the prison of despair and the fog of self-pity; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

A PRAYER FOR CARERS

Holy Spirit, promised Counsellor, we pray at this time of stress and anxiety for those who are called to the ministry of nurse, doctor, all support workers within the Health Trust or private care sector, and also for those who, without special training, bear heavy burdens at home in caring for the ill and elderly. We remember those who have to manage somehow on their own, and ask your blessing on all the ordinary folk who are good neighbours and friends in need. Draw us closer in bonds of loving care and Christian compassion, and help us to see and respond to need around us. In the bearing, and alleviating, of human pain may the Father's will be done, the Father's love be known, and the Father's grace be mighty to help; through Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord.

A PRAYER OF ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

THE GRACE

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

HYMN: ICH 86

**Christ is the King! O friends rejoice;
brothers and sisters, with one voice
let the world know he is your choice.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**O magnify the Lord and raise
anthems of joy and holy praise
for Christ's brave saints of ancient days.**

**They with a faith for ever new
followed the King, and round Him drew
thousands of faithful servants true.**

**O Christian women, Christian men,
all the world over, seek again
the way disciples followed then.**

**Christ through all ages is the same:
place the same hope in his great name;
with the same faith his word proclaim.**

**Let love's unconquerable might
your scattered companies unite
in service to the Lord of light.**

**So shall God's will on earth be done,
new lamps be lit, new tasks begun,
and the whole Church at last be one.**

Words: G.K.A. Bell (1883-1958)

Tune: VULPIUS (GELOBT SEI GOTT) Melody from Melchior Vulpius' Gesangbuch (Jena, 1609)

PRAYER OF BLESSING

May the peace of God which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

THE EASTERTIDE DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of the Risen Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Belfast Cathedral Closure

We regret that, due to current restrictions as a result of the Covid-19 virus, Belfast Cathedral is closed to services, tourism, events and as a public gathering venue.

However, please continue to watch the cathedral website (www.belfastcathedral.org) or our Facebook Page “Belfast Cathedral” for up to date news and online prayer resources.