



- 3 Though the idols are legion that many run after,  
their drink offerings of blood I will not offer,  
neither make mention of their names upon my lips.
- 4 The Lord himself is my portion and my cup;  
in your hands alone is my fortune.
- 5 My share has fallen in a fair land;  
indeed, I have a goodly heritage.
- 6 I will bless the Lord who has given me counsel,  
and in the night watches he instructs my heart.
- 7 I have set the Lord always before me;  
he is at my right hand; I shall not fall.
- 8 Wherefore my heart is glad and my spirit rejoices;  
my flesh also shall rest secure.
- 9 For you will not abandon my soul to Death,  
nor suffer your faithful one to see the Pit.
- 10 You will show me the path of life;  
in your presence is the fullness of joy  
and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

### **First Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9**

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice,<sup>l</sup> even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

### **The Easter Anthems**

- 1 Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us:  
so let us celebrate the feast,
- 2 not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:  
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.
- 3 Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:  
death has no more dominion over him.
- 4 In dying he died to sin once for all:  
in living he lives to God.
- 5 See yourselves therefore as dead to sin:  
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

6 Christ has been raised from the dead:  
the first fruits of those who sleep.  
7 For as by man came death:  
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;  
8 for as in Adam all die:  
even so in Christ shall all be made alive  
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen.

### **The Gospel: John 20:19-31**

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." <sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." <sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

**Reflection on the Gospel Passage** – *See attached email video clip.*

### ***The Apostles' Creed***

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again, he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living 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.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our loving Father in heaven, as we recall the change that came over the disciples when they met the risen Christ on that first Easter Day, we pray for the renewal of faith, hope and love among your people today:

We pray for our fellow human beings living in fear of persecution and violence, and we remember all refugees. Strengthen their hope that peace and justice will prevail. Guide our President, our Government and help them to promote the cause of peace and justice.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who, like Thomas, struggle with doubts and hard questions. Make yourself known to them that they may experience for themselves the good news that Christ is alive, through the care and faithful witness of his followers.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who, like the disciples, are burdened by guilt, failure or grief. Give them a fresh awareness of Christ's love and forgiveness.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are sent into the world to bear witness to Christ; for Paul our bishop for clergy, missionaries and aid workers. Lead us by your Holy Spirit into new ways of serving you.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are ill or frail in hospitals and nursing homes. We remember those who have contracted COVID-19 and pray those who care for them. Grant all in any kind of need, healing and encouragement.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We remember those who have died, giving thanks for their faithful example. We join with all Christians in lifting our voices to proclaim the living Christ as **our Lord and our God. Amen.**

### *The Lord's Prayer*

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

God of life, source of all faith, through the waters of baptism you have raised us up in Christ and given us life that endures. Day by day, refine our faith that we who have not seen the Christ, may truly confess him as our Lord and God, and share the blessedness of those who believe. Grant this through Jesus Christ, the resurrection and the life, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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.**

Christ is risen! **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**