

MORNING PRAYER FOR SUNDAY 11th APRIL  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

Christ is risen!

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

We have come together online in the name of Christ  
to offer our praise and thanksgiving,  
to hear and receive God's holy word,  
to seek the forgiveness of our sins,  
and to pray for the needs of the world,  
that by the power of the Holy Spirit  
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

O Lord, open our lips,  
**and our mouth will proclaim your praise.**

Let us worship the Lord.  
**All praise to his name.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
As once you ransomed your people from Egypt  
and led them to freedom in the promised land,  
so now you have delivered us from the dominion of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of your risen Son.  
May we, the first fruits of your new creation,  
rejoice in this new day you have made,  
and praise you for your mighty acts.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
**Blessed be God for ever.**

**Hymn 260- Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing (words on screen)**

**Penitence**

***The Confession is introduced with these words***

Christ died to sin once for all, and now he lives to God.    *Romans 6: 10*

Let us renew our resolve to have done with all that is evil  
and confess our sins in penitence and faith. Let us confess our sins.

**O God, our loving Father in heaven,  
we confess that we have sinned against you;  
we have broken your commandments;  
we have often been selfish, and we have not loved you as we should. For  
these, and all our sins, forgive us, we pray: through our Lord and Saviour  
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

May the Father of all mercies  
cleanse you from your sins,  
and restore you in his image  
to the praise and glory of his name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

Your word is a lantern to my feet  
**and a light upon our path.** *c.f. Psalm 119:105*  
O Lord, your word is everlasting:  
**it stands firm for ever in the heavens.** *c.f. Psalm 119:89*  
Let us then receive the word of the Lord.  
**so may the light of your presence shine into our hearts.**

The First Reading  
**Acts 4: 32-35**

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

This is the Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### **Psalm 133**

- 1 Behold how good and pleasant it is ♦  
**to dwell together in unity.**
- 2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, ♦  
**running down upon the beard,**

- 3 Even on Aaron's beard, ♦  
**running down upon the collar of his clothing.**
- 4 It is like the dew of Hermon ♦  
**running down upon the hills of Zion.**
- 5 For there the Lord has promised his blessing: ♦  
**even life for evermore.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
**as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever. Amen.**

### **Hymn 255- Christ is Risen, Alleluia (words on screen)**

Holy Gospel

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

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.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 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.'

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.' 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.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' 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.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 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.

### **Thought for the Day**

### *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.**

### **The Prayers of the People**

Let us pray in faith to the Lord who has promised us his blessing

#### *We pray for the church*

God of grace, we thank you for the gift of the leadership of the apostles in the earliest days of your Church, whose powerful and courageous testimony of the resurrection caused many to believe even though they had not seen. May you bless all who lead us today – including Michael our bishop, the clergy and lay ministers and all who preach and teach the good news of your death and resurrection - that they may inspire and support belief in all in their care. May they faithfully teach core Gospel values of generosity and loving service through their words and by their example.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

#### *We pray for the world*

God of grace, we pray for our own country and the nations of the world. We pray especially for all on this island who seek to find peaceful solutions to the conflict that has, once again, surfaced on the streets of Northern Ireland. We ask your blessing on our politicians in this jurisdiction, on those in London and on those in the Northern Ireland Assembly, that they and other community leaders may seek to bring peace, reconciliation and sensible ways forward rather than pursuing selfish or one-sided agendas.

We continue to pray for all involved in the provision and distribution of global vaccine programmes to help in the fight against the impact of the Corona virus.  
Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

*We pray for our homes and our communities*

God of grace, we give thanks for those in our communities, our families and our parish who have helped us through their generosity, sharing their time, resources or friendships at times and on occasions when we were in need. We ask that we may learn from the examples given to us through Scripture and through the faithful discipleship of those around us, to reflect the same generous, communal care that others have enacted in your name and in response to their faith in you. Keep our hearts open to the needs around us for the generous sharing of our own resources, our own time and friendship. May you give us the grace to dwell together in unity rather than in strife. We ask that you open our hearts to peace and reconciliation with all those in our lives, including those with whom we have challenging relationships.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

*We pray for those who are sick or in need*

God of grace, we pray for all who are troubled with illnesses of mind, soul or body, and all who are suffering due to the multiple impacts of the pandemic. We pray for those who are anxious about their own health or that of their loved ones, for those who have lost livelihoods and for those who are alone due to the ongoing lockdown. We continue to give thanks for the staff of hospitals, nursing homes, local healthcare settings and vaccination centres across the country. May you bless all those who staff these front-line places with energy and resilience as they continue to work in challenging circumstances. We pray this morning for all those who care for the very sick and the dying, and all who come to life today. We also give thanks for the work of teachers and SNAs in our schools and ask your blessing on the full opening tomorrow of all primary and post-primary school buildings across the country. *Lord in your mercy*

*We give thanks for the witness of those who have died*

God of grace, we remember and give thanks to you for the witness of all those who have departed this world after living lives of faithful discipleship and Christian witness. We pray for their families, their friends and all for whom their departure from this world has brought sadness. We ask that you comfort them in their sorrow and their loss.

Bless them with the hope that we all have in the promise of eternal life through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ your only son, our Lord.

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer**

*We take a few moments to lift our own prayers to our Father in Heaven ...*

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

### **The Collect of the Day**

Risen Christ,  
whose absence leaves us in despair  
but whose presence is overwhelming:  
breathe on us with your abundant life,  
that where we cannot see  
we may have courage to believe  
that we may be raised with you. Amen

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, we are bold to pray:

**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.**

### **Going Out as God's People**

### **A Thanksgiving**

Blessed are you, Holy God, creator,  
redeemer and life-giver;  
you have spoken the world into being  
and filled it with wonder and beauty.

For every blessing we have received  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, Holy God,  
for people of every language and culture  
and for the rich variety you give to life.

For every blessing we have received  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, Holy God,  
for Jesus Christ our Saviour,  
truly divine and truly human,  
living and dying for us,  
and going before us into heaven.

For every blessing we have received  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, Holy God,  
for your Spirit, the fire of love burning in our hearts,  
bringing us to faith, and calling us to holiness  
in the Church and in the world.

For every blessing we have received  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

### *The Dismissal*

**Be with us Lord, as we go out into the world.**

**May the lips that have sung your praise always speak the truth;  
may the ears which have heard your Word listen only to what is good  
and may our lives as well as our worship be always pleasing in your sight,  
for the glory of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

God the Father,  
by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead,  
raise you up to walk with him in the newness of his risen life:  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **Hymn 263- Crown Him With Many Crowns (words on screen)**

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**