

CELEBRATING EASTER SUNDAY

BEFORE YOU BEGIN: Continue to celebrate Easter Sunday with these prayers in the morning and/or before for the First Meal of Easter with the following traditional blessing. A simple prayer space can be created with white/gold table clothes, candles, crucifix, and/or plants and flowers; or, the prayer could be moved into the kitchen before the Easter Meal with at least some of the foods for the meal present which remind us of this festive season and God's bountiful love. If Holy Water is available, place in a small bowl for use. If the hymn is unfamiliar, you may find it on the internet (example: YouTube), shorten it, or simply move on to the other prayers. A leader should divide up the roles and adjust the service as necessary to make sure everyone is able to participate.

1. Hymn

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let the holy anthem rise,
And the choirs of heaven chant it
In the temple of the skies;
Let the mountains skip with gladness,
And the joyful valleys ring
With Hosannas in the highest
To our Savior and our King.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Like the sun from out the wave,
Christ has risen up in triumph
From the darkness of the grave,
Glorious splendor of the nations,
And the lamp of endless day;
Christ the very Lord of glory
Who is risen up today.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Blessed Jesus, make us rise
From the life of this corruption
To the life that never dies.
May your glory be our portion
When the days of time are past,
And the dead shall be awakened
By the trumpet's mighty blast.

2. Introduction

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (All make the Sign of the Cross together.)

All: Amen

Leader: Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and homes with peace. Blessed be God for ever.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Leader: Throughout Lent we prepared for Easter by prayer, fasting, and works of service and charity. When we gather during his feast of Easter, we remember it is the Risen Christ who now fills us with joy, for he has conquered death. Alleluia!



3. Gospel Reading : Jn 20:1-9

Reader: Let us listen to the Gospel according to John:

On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him." So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



4. Renewal of Baptismal Promises

[NOTE: If the baptism promises were not renewed the night before, you may renew them now. Otherwise, skip to the next section/page.]

Leader: When we were Baptized, we were joined to the same death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We will now renew our baptismal promises. If so, say "I do" to each promise:

Leader: Do you renounce Satan?

All: I do.

Leader: And all his works? R:/

Leader: And all his empty promises? R:/

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? R:/

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father? R:/

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting? R:/

Leader: May the Lord bless and give us strength to live these baptismal promises in our lives, now and always.

All: Amen.

(If Holy Water is present: the Leader signs himself/herself with Holy Water with the Sign of the Cross and invites others to do the same.)

6. Our Father

Leader: Remember us Lord when you come into your kingdom and teach us to pray as you taught us:

All: Our Father...

7. Conclusion

Leader: Let us pray.

God our Father, by raising Christ your Son you conquered the power of death and opened for us the way to eternal life. Let our celebration today raise us up and renew our lives by the Spirit that is within us. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Leader: May the Lord bless, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

(All make the Sign of the Cross together.)

5. Intercessions

Leader: The Son of God who invites us to the Paschal feast stands ready to help. Let us call upon him in our need.

Please respond: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That Easter may find us cleansed of sin and ready to live anew our Christian faith. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: That the bread we share may be a reminder of the bread of life we share in the eucharist.

Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: That we may be ready to give from our table to those who hunger and thirst. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: That all who are sick may be strengthened by the Risen Christ to overcome their illness and those who care for them may be kept safe. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: That we may one day enjoy the banquet of the Lord in the heavenly kingdom. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

Reader: For all who are sick and for all who have died as a result of the Coronavirus, as well as for the safety of healthcare workers, for the consolation of those who cannot leave their homes, and for the encouragement of all who feel anxiety, fear or doubt during this health crisis. Let us pray to the Lord. R:/

7. Blessing of Food for the Easter Meal

[NOTE: If the food for the First Easter Meal is to be blessed, the Leader turns to the Food and prays the following blessing prayer. If there is no food to be blessed, move to the next section.]

Leader: Let us pray.

God of glory, the eyes of all turn to you as we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death. Bless us and this food of our first Easter meal. May we who gather at the Lord's table continue to celebrate the joy of his resurrection and be admitted finally to his heavenly banquet. Grant this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

