



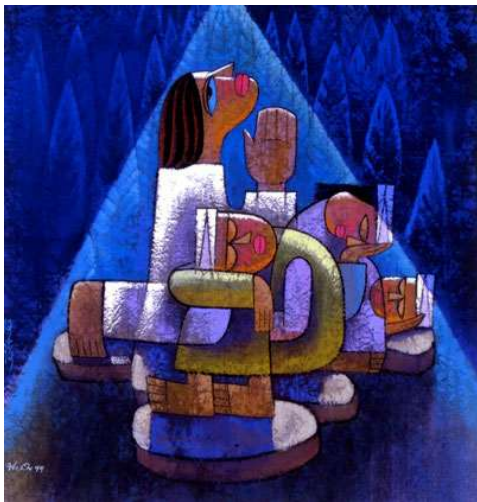
LITURGICAL RESOURCES
from around the world for
Lent and Easter

Introduction

Lent is a time for us to look afresh at ourselves, to repent, to turn away from sin, and to prepare to celebrate the most sacred mysteries at Easter. Easter is a time that brings with it new life, hope and joy.

This resource was compiled from liturgists around the world to aid in your prayer during Lent and Easter either personally or within your churches. You can find this resource at the following link: <https://www.uspg.org.uk/forsuchatime/>

You may also find our Lent course helpful and can also find information about our Lent Appeal here: <https://www.uspg.org.uk/forsuchatime/>



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GLOBAL MISSION



*But he was pierced for our offenses,
crushed for our sins; upon him was the
chastisement that makes us whole,
by his stripes we were healed.*



The Season of Lent

Your Word reveals to us a simple truth,
that sin entered this world
through human folly
in believing we could be like you,
and permeated history
through envy, selfishness and greed.
Yet sin, which holds us tight
within its grasp
cannot resist a heart that is touched
by your grace through Jesus Christ,
cannot contend with Living Water
pouring into hearts and souls.
Your Word reveals to us a simple truth,
that sin is defeated
and we can become
the people we were always meant to be,
by your grace through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Remind us often Lord,
when we are feeling
proud,
arrogant,
beyond reproach,
pleased with ourselves,
self-sufficient in our ways,
that for such as us
and better
and worse
you walked a road
that took you to a cruel cross,
and rose again to show us where
we might look for rescue
as from this lofty perch
we fall.

Amen.

Inscribed upon our heart,
the maker's mark,
indelible,
the Word of God,
'Love'
beautifully written,
heartfelt,
that all God's people
might know
that we are precious,
children
of a heavenly Father
becoming family together,
and may eyes lift upward
as we listen together
to hear angels worship.

Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God,
when you walked this earth
you did not consider
heavenly equality,
though that was yours to choose,
but took the role of servant,
and in humility
and obedience
allowed the rough nails of our sin
to be hammered into your flesh
for the sake of our salvation.
And so it is
that we acknowledge you
as Lord of all,
to the glory of God the Father,
Son and Spirit, Three.

Amen.

Forgive those things we have done
which have caused you sadness,
and those things we should have done
that would have brought you joy.
In both we have failed
ourselves,
and you.

Bring us back to that place
where our journey began,
when we said that we would follow
the way that you first trod.
Lead us to the Cross
and meet
us there.

Amen.

You chose a people for your own,
to lavish love upon,
raise up prophets, priests and kings,
to be the nation through which
the Messiah would be revealed to the world,
and through whom your kingdom would come.
You chose this people gathered here
to be your children,
loved and blessed, forgiven
through the one who knew no sin,
the King of Glory whose crown was made of thorns,
and whose name we raise in worship.

Amen.

Jesus, ever flowing fountain, give us water from your well. In the gracious gift you offer there is joy no tongue can tell.

Come, all who are thirsty
says Jesus, our Lord,

Jesus, ever flowing fountain, give us water from your well. In the gracious gift you offer there is joy no tongue can tell.

come, all who are weak,
taste the living water
that I shall give.

Jesus, ever flowing fountain, give us water from your well. In the gracious gift you offer there is joy no tongue can tell.

Dip your hands in the stream,
refresh body and soul, drink from it,
depend on it, for this water
will never run dry.

Jesus, ever flowing fountain, give us water from your well. In the gracious gift you offer there is joy no tongue can tell.

Come, all who are thirsty
says Jesus, our Lord.

Jesus, ever flowing fountain, give us water from your well. In the gracious gift you offer there is joy no tongue can tell.

God is our refuge
in times of trouble,
keeping our feet steady upon the road,
watching over us and keeping us from harm.
Where does our help come from?

Our help comes from the Lord, maker of heaven and earth!

God is our fortress
in times of distress,
circling us in the safety of his arms,
granting peace when our lives are not at ease.
Where does our help come from?

Our help comes from the Lord, maker of heaven and earth!

God is our Father
who knows us so well,
wanting only the best for his children,
willing always to forgive and forget.
Where does our help come from?

Our help comes from the Lord, maker of heaven and earth!

Forty days alone,
a wilderness of thoughts,
tempting and inviting thoughts,
which could so easily have distracted you
from your task, your mission,
your vision.
Yet you emerged, stronger and more attuned
to all that had to be done,
despite a time constraint
that to our eyes would have seemed hopeless.
We too live in stressful times.
Demands are made of our time,
that leave so little
for the important things of life.
We are easily distracted
in the wilderness of our lives,
by every call to go this way or that,
to turn stone to bread
leap from mountains,
and do all that would keep us from the truth.
We listen to the voices of this world,
and ignore the one who endured all this
and so much more,
and emerged triumphant,
that we might not have to suffer so.
Forgive us, Father,
when we get distracted from our task.
Forgive us those times when we try
to be all things to all men,
and fail to be anything to anyone

Amen.



Father in Heaven,
the light of your truth bestows sight
to the darkness of sinful eyes.
May this season of repentance
bring us the blessing of Your forgiveness
and the gift of Your light.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

International Committee on English in the Liturgy (ICEL)

O Lord,
The house of my soul is narrow;
enlarge it that you may enter in.
It is ruinous, O repair it!
It displeases Your sight.
I confess it, I know.
But who shall cleanse it,
to whom shall I cry but to you?
Cleanse me from my secret faults, O Lord,
and spare Your servant from strange sins.

St. Augustine of Hippo (AD 354-430)

O my all-merciful God and Lord,
Jesus Christ, full of pity:
Through Your great love You came down
and became incarnate in order to save everyone.
O Savior, I ask You to save me by Your grace!
If You save anyone because of their works,
that would not be grace but only reward of duty,
but You are compassionate and full of mercy!
You said, O my Christ,
"Whoever believes in Me shall live and never die."
If then, faith in You saves the lost, then save me,
O my God and Creator, for I believe.
Let faith and not my unworthy works be counted to me, O my God,
for You will find no works which could account me righteous.
O Lord, from now on let me love You as intensely as I have loved sin,
and work for You as hard as I once worked for the evil one.
I promise that I will work to do Your will,
my Lord and God, Jesus Christ, all the days of my life and forever
more.

Prayer of St. John Chrysostom

Evening Thanksgiving

As day passes into evening we praise you, Almighty God, Giver of Life, Light, and darkness, for your invisible majesty in all that surrounds us.

Gratefully we say:

Praise and thanks to you God of Power.

As flickering candles burn and pierce the darkness, we thank you, for the light that illumines our soul and gives us breath.

Gratefully we say:

Praise and thanks to you God of true Light.

As the evening sun moves toward the golden rays of dawn, we wait in expectant hope, for your Son.

Gratefully we say:

Praise and thanks to you God Redeemer.

As we journey out of ashes to Easter joy, dispel the darkness of our hearts and shine your light within us so our spirits may proclaim unending praise to you.

Gratefully we say:

Praise and thanks to you God of Freedom.

Illumine our darkness and draw us to your unfailing light for to you all honour and glory is due forever, and ever.

Amen.

Let us praise our loving redeemer who gave for us this season of grace. Let us call upon him and say Lord:

Save the people you have redeemed.

Christ our Life, through the Sacrament of Baptism, we were buried with you and rose to life with you. May we walk today in newness of life. Lord:

Save the people you have redeemed.

Lord, you bestow upon us all that is good, keep us mindful of all your blessings. Help us share your concern for the good of all. Lord:

Save the people you have redeemed.

May we work together to build up the earthly city with our eyes fixed on the city that lasts forever. Lord:

Save the people you have redeemed.

Healer of body, mind, and soul, cure the sickness of our spirit, so that we may grow through your constant care. Lord:

Save the people you have redeemed.

May those who have died in your peace, give you everlasting glory in heaven; where we too, hope to praise you forever. Lord:

Save the people you have redeemed.

God of love
hear the cry of those who yearn for love;
fractured families, broken homes
neglected, unwanted, alone.
God of love **ALL: hear our prayer**

God of justice
hear the cry of those who yearn for justice;
persecuted and oppressed,
exploited, ill-treated, broken.
God of justice **ALL: hear our prayer**

God of peace
hear the cry of those who yearn for peace;
in battle zones and broken states,
frightened, fearful, anxious
God of peace **ALL: hear our prayer**

God of healing
hear the cry of those who yearn for healing;
physical and spiritual
hurting, weakened, depressed
God of healing **ALL: hear our prayer**

God of mercy
Hear the cry of those who yearn for mercy;
convicted, in need of your Grace,
contrite, humble, bowed down,
God of mercy **ALL: hear our prayer**

May you know
The peace of God, The love of God
The justice of God, The healing and mercy of God
This day and all days
Amen

Heavenly Father, source of our life and salvation

All: Be the centre of all we are, and the life we lead

Lord Jesus, Light in this dark World, illuminate our hearts and minds

All: Be the centre of all we are, and the life we lead

Holy Spirit, Water of Life, flow through our hearts and into our lives

All: Be the centre of all we are, and the life we lead

Father, make our lives fruitful as branches and shoots of the one True Vine

All: Be the centre of all we are, and the life we lead

Jesus Christ, Servant King, may we understand the meaning of service

All: Be the centre of all we are, and the life we lead

Holy Spirit, empower us to be the people we could be

All: Be the centre of all we are, and the life we lead

Good Shepherd, within your embrace we are safe and secure. Within your embrace we know that we are precious in your sight. Within your embrace we feel the warmth of family and belonging. Within your embrace we grow and are nurtured together as one flock, the people of your pasture under your loving care and protection.

Come, let us bow down

ALL: Before the LORD our Maker

Good Shepherd, within your embrace we find comfort and healing. We bring to you those who are weak, or struggling with physical, mental or spiritual health. You are the great healer, and we pray for healing of mind and body for those we now name in the silence of our hearts.

Come, let us bow down

ALL: Before the LORD our Maker

Good Shepherd, within your embrace we find justice. We bring to you the brave voices who cry out for freedom, those prepared to stand up and be heard without counting the cost. We pray for those who have been imprisoned or tortured for their race, colour, caste or faith. For all Christians who have taken up the Cross and know its weight and pain.

Come, let us bow down

ALL: Before the LORD our Maker

Good Shepherd, within your embrace we find peace. We bring to you those orphaned, crippled or dispossessed by war, for refugees wandering this earth in search of a home, for all victims of strife and warfare, and for all those who have dedicated their lives for the search for peace and reconciliation.

Come, let us bow down

ALL: Before the LORD our Maker

Almighty and ever living God,
you invite us deeper into your world, your people, your Lent.
May this time be one of outward focus;
seeking you in those we often ignore.
Help us live a Lent focused on freedom, generosity, and encounter.
Give us hearts hungry to serve you
and those who need what we have to give.

- Author Unknown

While fasting with the body,
brothers and sisters,
let us also fast in spirit.
Let us lose every bond of iniquity;
let us undo the knots of every contact made by violence;
let us tear up all unjust agreements;
let us give bread to the hungry
and welcome to our house
the poor who have no roof to cover them,
that we may receive mercy from Christ our God.

- Byzantine Vespers



Come, my Light,
and illumine my darkness.
Come, my Life,
and revive me from death.
Come, my Physician,
and heal my wounds.
Come, Flame of divine love,
and burn up the thorns of my sins,
kindling my heart
with the flame of thy love.

- Dimitrii of Rostov

Jesus,
you have known us from the beginning of time,
you have known us in the depths of
our dreams and in the darkness of our shame,
you know us as your beloved.

Help us to own that core identity more and
more in this season of repentance and mercy.
Give us the rock-solid assurance of your unwavering
faith in us as we seek the same in you.

Amen.

- Author Unknown

Fast from judging others;
Feast on Christ dwelling in them.
Fast from fear of illness;
Feast on the healing power of God.
Fast from words that pollute;
Feast on speech that purifies.
Fast from discontent;
Feast on gratitude.
Fast from anger;
Feast on patience.
Fast from pessimism;
Feast on hope.
Fast from negatives;
Feast on encouragement.
Fast from bitterness;
Feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self-concern;
Feast on compassion.
Fast from suspicion;
Feast on truth.
Fast from gossip;
Feast on purposeful silence.
Fast from problems that overwhelm;
Feast on prayer that sustains.
Fast from anxiety;
Feast on faith.

- Author Unknown

Lord, as we enter Lent help us to draw near to you in praise, stripping away all that distracts us from worship. **Amen**

As Jesus resisted temptation by the devil in the wilderness, help us reflect on his faithfulness to God, his rejection of worldly values and hold these thoughts in our hearts throughout Lent and beyond. **Amen**

Jesus, you prayed and fasted. As your disciple teach me about spiritual discipline in my relationship with you. **Amen**

Lord may Lent be a time of inward searching that makes me more able to look with compassion at the needs of the world. **Amen**

Thank you Lord for desert experiences, when being confronted with myself makes me realise my need of you. **Amen**

Lord, you've guided us through the difficult days of Lent, encouraging us along the way. We pray as we move towards the darkest day, that you'll not forsake us but remind us of our Saviour's ultimate gift and promise of new, abundant, eternal life for all who believe and trust in him, your precious son, Jesus. **Amen**

Mindful of the Commandments that you gave to Moses we pray that you would be worshiped above all else in our land and that we can at all times be given the strength to reject the idolatry of our secular world.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

Creator God, we pray for the governments of the world, that they may always seek for peaceful solutions in their dealings with other nations and rule their own countries with compassion and justice. At this time of the worldwide Pandemic we especially pray for the leaders of our countries, states, and cities, as they seek to help manage the challenges of the economic impact of the virus, in travel, manufacturing, hospitality, energy or so many other industries.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for our families, friends and neighbours and for the people with whom we work or share our daily lives. We pray for those who are lonely, those isolated because of Coronavirus and those who find it difficult to make friends or be accepted.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

Gracious God, we pray for all who are in pain or are suffering at this time. We remember especially those who are facing long or incurable illnesses. In a moment of quietness we pray for them, and any we know who are in any kind of need at this time.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

Merciful God, we pray for those we love but see no longer. Grant them your peace, let light perpetual shine upon them, May they rest in peace and rise in glory. We remember before God those who have recently died especially...

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

Faithful God, we thank you for the help you give us to resist the temptations that will assail in the weeks ahead.

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

God our Creator,
we rejoice in the life of Your world.
Jesus our Redeemer,
we rejoice in the new life You offer.
Holy Spirit our guide,
we rejoice in Your life-giving companionship.
May all our rejoicing bring praise and glory to You.
Amen

Confession

Voice 1: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

Voice 2: Merciful God, Through Jesus our Lord, every sin is forgiven, every debt released, every record of wrong erased. We come before You now to confess our sin, and ask for that forgiveness.

Voice 1: When I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Voice 2: For all those times when we think we can go it alone, for all our tendencies to cover-up what we have done, for our habit of observing our neighbour's sin while being blind to our own, forgive us, Lord.



All glory laud and honour to thee
Redeemer King. To whom the lips of
children made sweet hosannas ring.

Dear Lord Jesus,
by Your Passion and Resurrection
You brought life to the world.
But the glory of the Resurrection
came only after the sufferings of the Passion.

You laid down Your life willingly
and gave up everything for us.
Your body was broken and fastened to a Cross,
Your clothing became the prize of soldiers,
your blood ebbed slowly but surely away,
and Your Mother was entrusted to the beloved disciple.

Stretched out on the Cross,
deprived of all earthly possessions and human aid,
You cried out to Your Father that the end had come.
You had accomplished the work given You,
and You committed into His hands,
as a perfect gift,
the little life that remained to You.

Lord, teach me to accept all afflictions
after the example You have given.
Let me place my death in Yours
and my weakness in Your abandonment,
Take hold of me with Your love,
that same foolish love that knew no limits,
and let me offer myself to the Father
with You so that I may rise with You to eternal life.



The Season of Easter

Your love,
which breathed this world into being,
established a covenant people,
brought them out of captivity
and into a promised land.

Hallelujah!

Your love,
which from the moment of our birth
has known and called us by name
from out of this world's slavery
into the kingdom of God.

Hallelujah!

Your love,
poured into the heart of Jesus
who endured the nails of our sin,
defeated death to rise again
and causes our hearts to sing

Hallelujah!

Hallelujah!
Jesus is risen!
He is risen indeed!

May this declaration
resound not only in these walls
but touch the lives
of all we meet
and forever be
the truth of which we speak.
Your love,
once sown within a garden,
tended for your own people,
neglected and rejected,
now spreads its sweet perfume
in this place
and wherever it is shown.

Hallelujah!
Jesus is risen!
He is risen indeed!

From the darkness of the grave
Blood poured out, a crown of thorns
Christ the Lord is risen to-day **ALL: Alleluia!**

From the triumph that is won
Over the power and fear of death
Christ the Lord is risen to-day **ALL: Alleluia!**

Walking from the empty tomb
Opening wide the gates of life
Christ the Lord is risen to-day **ALL: Alleluia!**

Lord of life
You defeated death
To show that we can rise
From all that binds us to the world
Pride, envy, anger, fear
The debt of sin that holds us here
Christ the Lord is risen to-day **ALL: Alleluia!**

Lord of life
You defeated death
To demonstrate a love that is
Beyond our understanding
That reaches out even to me
Saving Grace to all who hear
Christ the Lord is risen to-day **ALL: Alleluia!**

Lord of life
We pray for all who bring your word of life
As a light to those in darkness
For those who bring your word of peace
To those enslaved by fear
For those who bring your word of love
To those in need of comfort
Lord of love and Lord of peace
Lord of resurrection life
Be known
Through our lives
and through your power
Christ the Lord is risen to-day **ALL: Alleluia!**

**We give thanks to you, Lord,
for you have done marvellous things!**

When we were walking in darkness
you were there, you were there,
when we were kneeling in weakness
you were there, you were there,
when we drew near feeling worthless
you were there, you were there,
when we were needing forgiveness
you were there, you were there,
when we were searching for your grace
you were there, you were there.

**We give thanks to you, Lord,
for you have done marvellous things!**

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us a little child
one of us, flesh and blood to share in our humanity
For God so loved the world

ALL: That all might have eternal life

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as carpenter
and yet in whose creative hands a world was fashioned
For God so loved the world

ALL: That all might have eternal life

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as fisherman
and yet pointed to a harvest that was yet to come
For God so loved the world

ALL: That all might have eternal life

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as teacher
and opened eyes to truths that only
the poor could understand
For God so loved the world

ALL: That all might have eternal life

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as healer
and opened hearts to the reality of wholeness
For God so loved the world

ALL: That all might have eternal life

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as prophet, priest and king
and yet humbled himself
to take our place upon the cross
For God so loved the world

ALL: That all might have eternal life

Blest are you, Lord Jesus who came to us as servant
and revealed to us the extent of his Father's love
for human kind

For God so loved the world

ALL: That all might have eternal life

Blest are you, Lord Jesus, who rose
from the ignominy of a sinner's death
to the triumph of a Saviour's resurrection
For God so loved the world

ALL: That all might have eternal life

Lamb of God, you shed for me
Your life upon a blood stained tree,
Your life for mine, love re-defined,
An offering, a ransom, release.
You gave so much, O Lamb of God.

ALL: Just as I am, I come

The doubts I have, the pain I feel,
When at your feet I humbly kneel,
You take it all, both great and small,
Give freedom, forgiveness and peace,
I have the choice, O Lamb of God.

ALL: Just as I am, I come

Lamb of God, I hear your voice,
And hearing know I have a choice,
To make a start, within my heart,
A willingness, to journey by faith.
You ask no more, O Lamb of God.

ALL: Just as I am, I come

By waters still, through fire and storm,
Your love continues to transform,
And with that call, you welcome all,
No barriers now, no limits, just grace.
No more excuses Lamb of God.

ALL: Just as I am, I come

Christ is Risen: The world below lies desolate
Christ is Risen: The spirits of evil are fallen
Christ is Risen: The angels of God are rejoicing
Christ is Risen: The tombs of the dead are empty
Christ is Risen indeed from the dead,
the first of the sleepers,
Glory and power are his forever and ever

St. Hippolytus (AD 190-236)

O Jesus, King,
receive my supplication,
and consider my supplication,
as a pledge to You.

For you, O living King,
have gone forth and gone up,
out of Hell,
as Conqueror.

Woe to those who have rejected you;
For, to evil spirits and demons,
You are sorrow,
to Satan and to Death,
You are pain,
To Sin and Hell,
You are mourning.

Yet, joy has come today,
for those who are born anew.
On this great day therefore,
We give great glory to You,
who died and is now alive,
that to all you may give
life and resurrection!

*Adapted by David Bennett
from Nisibene Hymn 36:17,18, by St. Ephrem the Syrian*

It is only right,
with all the powers of our heart and mind,
to praise You Father
and Your Only-begotten Son,
Our Lord Jesus Christ:
Dear Father, by Your wondrous
condescension of loving-kindness toward us,
Your servants, You gave up Your Son.
Dear Jesus You paid the debt of Adam
for us to the Eternal Father by
Your Blood poured
forth in loving-kindness.
You cleared away the darkness of sin
By Your magnificent and radiant Resurrection.
You broke the bonds of death
and rose from the grave as a Conqueror.
You reconciled heaven and earth.
Our life had no hope of eternal happiness
before You redeemed us.
Your Resurrection has washed away our sins,
restored our innocence and brought us joy.
How inestimable is the tenderness
of Your love!

Saint Gregory the Great's Easter Prayer

May the light of Jesus shine
continually to drive away all darkness.
May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting,
find his light ever burning in our hearts—
he who gives his light to all creation,
and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

*adapted from the Book of Common Prayer -1979,
the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America.*

Almighty God,
who hast given thine only Son
to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin,
and also an ensample of godly life;
Give us grace that we may always
most thankfully receive that his inestimable benefit,
and also daily endeavour ourselves
to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Almighty Father,
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples
with the sight of the risen Lord:
Give us such knowledge of his presence with us,
that we may be strengthened
and sustained by his risen life
and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Living God,
your Son made himself known to his disciples
in the breaking of bread.
Open the eyes of our faith,
that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

By his Resurrection, Christ has conquered all that stands between us and God. We therefore approach the Father now with great confidence.

That all Church leaders will be renewed in their mission of leading all people to Jesus, the Risen Lord, we pray to the Lord.

Lord Hear our Prayer.

For a deeper unity among all Christians, as they acknowledge together and proclaim to the world the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, we pray to the Lord.

Lord Hear our Prayer.

That the Risen Christ may bless, guide, and protect all who serve in public office, we pray to the Lord.

Lord Hear our Prayer.

That the victory of Jesus over death may encourage all who work to end abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia, we pray to the Lord.

Lord Hear our Prayer.

That the sick may be comforted and healed, and that all who have died may share in the Resurrection, we pray to the Lord.

Lord Hear our Prayer.

Father, you have already granted us more than we can ask for in the Resurrection of Christ. As you answer our prayers, make us ever more faithful to him, who is Lord forever and ever. **Amen**



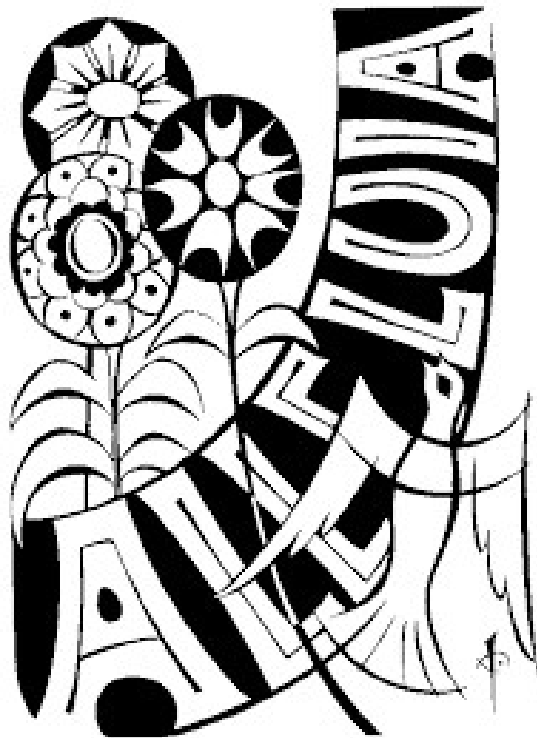
Good and gracious God,
Our most glorious Creator,
As we greet the signs in nature around us:
Of Spring once again regaling us in bloom,
In the songs of returning birds and fields soon to be planted,
We give you praise for an even greater sign of new life:
the resurrection of your Son,
Our Lord Jesus Christ, that we especially celebrate at this time.
The sadness and despair of his death has given way
to the bright promise of immortality.
For the Resurrection is our guarantee that justice will triumph over treason,
Light will overcome darkness, and love will conquer death.
As we celebrate, we also dare to ask for your grace that we may live the
promise given to us,
By imitating the life of Jesus in reaching out to the poor,
the marginalized, the least among us,
As we strive to be neighbour to all those we meet,
We ask your special blessings each and every day on our President.
Working with him may we strive to make this great country of ours a beacon of
hope and justice in a world hungry for peace and so in need of your love.
We praise you in this Easter season. Change our lives, change our hearts to be
messengers of Easter joy and hope.
We make our prayer through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord forever.

Amen.

May the glory
and the promise
of this joyous time of year
bring peace
and happiness to you
and those you hold most dear.

And may Christ,
Our Risen Saviour,
always be there by your side
to bless you
most abundantly
and be your loving guide.

- Author Unknown



As the world sings triumphant cries to heaven over death that you conquered, help us, Lord, tomorrow as well, when the dresses are put away and the candy is all eaten and on with life we go let us not forget.

The celebration of your resurrection over death is a celebration of life that should continue well beyond the sunrise service and the music, rehearsed for days prior; it is beyond the sign of spring, beyond the lily, beyond new lambs grazing in open fields.

Resurrection is a daily celebration over fear; man's greatest and most powerful enemy. Fear of tomorrow, fear of our yesterdays, fear of what shall become of our young our old our unborn. Resurrection is replacing fear with physical action.

This alone, the most touching and profound of your signs that fear is dead and belief in you brings, not just hope but life.

What better living parable could You have brought? All fear death. All. Even in the garden, You took on our fear if for only moments, it was as real as our fears can be real and You knew then that this single enemy must be destroyed.

And, You sacrificed your life, leaving those who had been comfort, and follower; You left them behind, to conquer fear.

I shall cling to this now, and the tomorrows given me.
Peace and thanksgiving lifted unto you.

Amen.

- Author Unknown

Creator God and Lord of Life,
You who call forth from the darkness of death
all those who love You,
we rejoice, on this Easter Sunday,
in the resurrection from the dead
of our Lord, Jesus Christ.
Visit our home and this table
with Your bright blessing of peace and life.
We pause in the midst of this prayer
to remember all the holy dead of our family
who live now in You and who await
the final and glorious resurrection of the dead.

Pause for silent reflection to remember those who have died.

May they and we,
because of our faith in You, our God,
taste in the victory of life over death.
May the Risen Christ, our Lord and Savior,
be our guest as we celebrate His resurrection
with this Easter Sunday dinner.
Bless those whose work to prepare this meal
has truly been a work of prayer,
and bless all of us who shall share it
with Easter love and joy.

May You, then, bless this table and this food,
and each of us
in Your holy name.

Amen.

- Edward Hays,
*"Prayers for the Domestic Church:
A Handbook for Worship in the Home"*

Draw us forth, God of all creation.
Draw us forward and away from limited certainty
into the immense world of your love.
Give us the capacity to even for a moment
taste the richness of the feast you give us.
Give us the peace to live with uncertainty,
with questions,
with doubts.
Help us to experience the resurrection anew
with open wonder and an increasing ability
to see you in the people of Easter.

- Author Unknown



Christ is Risen: The world below lies desolate
Christ is Risen: The spirits of evil are fallen
Christ is Risen: The angels of God are rejoicing
Christ is Risen: The tombs of the dead are empty
Christ is Risen indeed from the dead,
the first of the sleepers,
Glory and power are his forever and ever.

- St. Hippolytus of Rome

A sleeping world emerges to new possibilities,
weakening winter's icy grip,
and birdsong and bleating lamb
announce to all the promise
that in due season
creation bursts into life.
And whilst leaves that fell in winter
lie upon the ground,
soon to feed the earth,
in nature's wondrous cycle
of death and rebirth,
within the tree is a stirring of new growth.

- Found on: http://www.faithandworship.com/Prayers_Spring.htm

For seasons on life
When fall turns to winter
and winter to spring
let me embrace
the seasons of life.

From highs and lows
From joy to sorrow
and back again
From birth to breath
and life to death.

God, make yourself known.

- Author Unknown



Spirit of life

ALL: Fill our emptiness with your fullness

Spirit of power

ALL: Stir our hearts afresh

Spirit of love

ALL: Touch us, and through us, our neighbour

Spirit of Creativity

ALL: Enable and empower the gifts you have given

Spirit of Eternity

ALL: Draw us ever deeper into your Kingdom

The Spirit came
and your Church was born,
in wind and fire
and words of power.

The Spirit came
blowing fear aside,
and in its place
weak hearts were stronger.

The Spirit came
as your word foretold,
with dreams and signs,
visions and wonders.

The Spirit came
and is here today,
to feed the hearts
of a world that hungers.

Almighty God, who on this day
didst open the way of eternal life
to every race and nation
by the promised gift of thy Holy Spirit:
Shed abroad this gift throughout the world
by the preaching of the Gospel,
that it may reach to the ends of the earth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth
with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

(The Book of Common Prayer)

O God, who on this day
didst teach the hearts of thy faithful people
by sending to them the light of thy Holy Spirit:
Grant us by the same Spirit
to have a right judgment in all things,
and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort;
through the merits of Christ Jesus our Savior,
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the same Spirit,
one God, world without end. Amen.

(The Book of Common Prayer)

Come, thou Holy Spirit, come:
And from thy celestial home send thy light and brilliancy.
Come, thou father of the poor,
come who givest all our store,
come the soul's true radiancy.
Come, of comforters the best, of the soul the sweetest guest,
sweetly and refreshingly.
Come, in labour rest most sweet,
shade and coolness in the heat, comfort in adversity.
Thou who art the Light most blest,
come fulfill their inmost breast, who believe most faithfully.
For without thy Godhead's dower,
man hath nothing in his power, save to work iniquity.
What is filthy make thou pure,
what is wounded work its cure,
water what is parched and dry.
Gently bend the stubborn will,
warm to life the heart that's chill,
guide who goeth erringly.
Fill thy faithful who adore,
and confess thee evermore,
with thy sevenfold mystery.
Here thy grace and virtue send,
grant salvation in the end, and in heaven felicity. Amen.

(Latin Hymn, 13th century)

Come, Holy Spirit, Creator blest,
and in our souls take up Thy rest;
come with Thy grace and heavenly aid
to fill the hearts which Thou hast made.

O comforter, to Thee we cry,
O heavenly gift of God Most High,
O fount of life and fire of love,
and sweet anointing from above.

Thou in Thy sevenfold gifts are known;
Thou, finger of God's hand we own;
Thou, promise of the Father, Thou
Who dost the tongue with power imbue.

Kindle our sense from above,
and make our hearts o'erflow with love;
with patience firm and virtue high
the weakness of our flesh supply.

Far from us drive the foe we dread,
and grant us Thy peace instead;
so shall we not, with Thee for guide,
turn from the path of life aside.

Oh, may Thy grace on us bestow
the Father and the Son to know;
and Thee, through endless times confessed,
of both the eternal Spirit blest.

Now to the Father and the Son,
Who rose from death, be glory given,
with Thou, O Holy Comforter,
henceforth by all in earth and heaven. Amen.

(Veni, Creator Spiritus - based upon ancient latin hymn)

Come, Holy Spirit, come!
And from your celestial home
Shed a ray of light divine!

Come, Father of the poor!
Come, source of all our store!
Come, within our bosoms shine.

You, of comforters the best;
You, the soul's most welcome guest;
Sweet refreshment here below;

In our labour, rest most sweet;
Grateful coolness in the heat;
Solace in the midst of woe.

O most blessed Light divine,
Shine within these hearts of yours,
And our inmost being fill!

Where you are not, we have naught,
Nothing good in deed or thought,
Nothing free from taint of ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour your dew;
Wash the stains of guilt away:

Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
Guide the steps that go astray.

On the faithful, who adore
And confess you, evermore
In your sevenfold gift descend:

Give them virtue's sure reward;
Give them your salvation, Lord;
Give them joys that never end.



Lord send forth your Spirit and renew
the face of the Earth

Generous God, we thank you for the power of your Holy Spirit. We ask that we may be strengthened to serve you better.

Lord, come to bless us **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the wisdom of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to make us wise to understand your will.

Lord, come to bless us **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the peace of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to keep us confident of your love wherever you call us.

Lord, come to bless us **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the healing of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to bring reconciliation and wholeness where there is division, sickness and sorrow.

Lord, come to bless us **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the gifts of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to equip us for the work which you have given us.

Lord, come to bless us **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the fruit of your Holy Spirit. We ask you to reveal in our lives the love of Jesus.

Lord, come to bless us **and fill us with your Spirit.**

We thank you for the breath of your Holy Spirit, given us by the risen Lord. We ask you to keep the whole Church, living and departed, in the joy of eternal life.

Lord, come to bless **us and fill us with your Spirit.**

Generous God, you sent your Holy Spirit upon your Messiah at the river Jordan, and upon the disciples in the upper room: in your mercy fill us with your Spirit,
Amen.

Holy Spirit,
Comforting fire,
Life of all creation.
Anointing the sick, cleansing body and soul,
Fill this body!

Holy Spirit,
Sacred breath, Fire of love,
Sweetest taste, Beautiful aroma,
Fill this heart!

Holy Spirit,
Filling the world,
from the heights to the deep,
Raining from clouds, filling rivers and sea,
Fill this mind!

Holy Spirit,
Forgiving and giving,
uniting strangers, reconciling enemies,
Seeking the lost, and enfolding us together,
Fill these gathered here!

Holy Spirit,
Bringing light into dark places, igniting praise,
Greatest gift, our Hope and Encourager,
Holy Spirit of Christ,
I praise you!

Amen.

– Hildebrand of Bingen (1098-1179AD)



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