

# Morning Prayer for the Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 24, 2020

## Hymn 214

Hail the day that sees him rise!

Hail the day that sees Him rise, Alleluia!  
Glorious to his native skies! Alleluia!  
Christ awhile to mortals given, Alleluia!  
Enters now the highest heaven. Alleluia!

There the glorious triumph waits; Alleluia!  
Lift your heads, eternal gates! Alleluia!  
Wide unfold the radiant scene; Alleluia!  
Take the King of glory in. Alleluia!

See, he lifts his hands above! Alleluia!  
See, he shows the prints of love: Alleluia!  
Hark, his gracious lips bestow, Alleluia!  
Blessings on his church below. Alleluia!

Lord beyond our mortal sight, Alleluia!  
Raise our hearts to reach thy height, Alleluia!  
There thy face unclouded see, Alleluia!  
Find our heaven of heavens in thee. Alleluia!

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

## The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips.  
People And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as  
it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia. Christ the Lord ascendedeth into heaven: O come,  
let us adore him. Alleluia..

**Christ our Passover** *Pascha nostrum*

*1 Corinthians 5:7-8; Romans 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22*

Alleluia.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; \*  
therefore let us keep the feast,  
Not with old leaven,  
neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness, \*  
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. Alleluia.

Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; \*  
death hath no more dominion over him.  
For in that he died, he died unto sin once; \*  
but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.  
Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, \*  
but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Alleluia.

Christ is risen from the dead, \*  
and become the first fruits of them that slept.  
For since by man came death, \*  
by man came also the resurrection of the dead.  
For as in Adam all die, \*  
even so in Christ shall all be made alive. Alleluia.

**Psalm 68:1-10, 33-36**

1 Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; \*  
let those who hate him flee before him.

2 Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; \*  
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of  
God.

3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; \*  
let them also be merry and joyful.

4 Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;  
exalt him who rides upon the heavens; \*  
YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!

5 Father of orphans, defender of widows, \*  
God in his holy habitation!

6 God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into  
freedom; \*  
but the rebels shall live in dry places.

7 O God, when you went forth before your people, \*  
when you marched through the wilderness,

8 The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,  
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, \*  
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

9 You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; \*  
you refreshed the land when it was weary.

10 Your people found their home in it; \*  
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.

33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; \*  
sing praises to the Lord.

34 He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; \*  
he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.

35 Ascribe power to God; \*  
his majesty is over Israel;  
his strength is in the skies.

36 How wonderful is God in his holy places! \*  
the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!  
Blessed be God!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

### **Acts 1:6-14**

When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Here endeth the reading.

**The Song of Mary**    *Magnificat*  
*Luke 1:46-55*

My soul doth magnify the Lord, \*  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

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 showed 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 to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

### **1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself

restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

Here endeth the reading.

### **Hymn 542**

### **Christ is the world's true light**

1 Christ is the world's true light,  
its captain of salvation,  
the day-star clear and bright,  
desire of every nation;  
new life, new hope awakes  
for all who own his sway:  
freedom her bondage breaks,  
and night is turned to day.

2 In Christ all races meet,  
their ancient feuds forgetting,  
the whole round world complete,  
from sunrise to its setting:  
when Christ is throned as Lord,  
all shall forsake their fear,  
to ploughshare beat the sword,  
to pruning-hook the spear.

3 One Lord, in one great name  
unite us all who own you;  
cast out our pride and shame  
that hinder to enthrone you;  
the world has waited long,  
has travailed long in pain;  
to heal its ancient wrong,  
come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

### **John 17:1-11**

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given

him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

Here endeth the reading.

Sermon:

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

I have to admit that the reading from I Peter spoke to me in a lot of ways this week. The writer talks about a "fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you." Yes, we have an ordeal taking place among us right now but I do not believe it is a test. It is a situation that can be explained by science that is harmful to humanity and it is happening to humans all around the world. To my way of thinking, because I am a scientist as well as a priest, it is part of the way creation works. However, that is not the point of this sermon. The point is that we are all going through something that requires us to rely on God to see us through.

The writer says, “cast all your anxiety on God, because God cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert.” Keep your faith in Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit as well. Using God in all three persons of the Trinity will guide us through this and we will be stronger on the other side. The writer says: God will “restore, support, strengthen and establish you.”

Let us be mindful of this as we move into a different phase of life that relaxes some of the guidelines, let us not abandon what we’ve learned from “sheltering in grace”. Let us continue to wash our hands for at least 20 seconds, wear masks in public and remain at least 6 feet away from other people. No matter how much we long for human touch, let us refrain from handshakes, hugs and high fives. These precautions are not only to protect ourselves but also to protect our neighbors.

And let us continue to be mindful of our neighbors. Let us continue to order take out from local restaurants and provide a decent tip to the workers there. Let us continue to thank those who put themselves in harm’s way so that we can buy food, receive our mail, newspapers and packages. Let us continue to check on friends, family members, actual neighbors and those that are vulnerable to the virus and help them receive what they need. Let us pray for those who do not understand the risks to themselves and others if they do not follow the guidelines for whatever reason. Let us be a voice of reason if we find ourselves in a confrontational situation.

Have faith that we will one day be able to worship together again in community. Have patience that we can wait until it is safe for everyone. Have understanding that life will never be as it was but will be even better. Trust that God is present in this ordeal and knows what we need. God will provide, Christ will answer our prayers and the Holy Spirit will guide us in truth.

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

## **The Apostles' Creed**

*Officiant and People together, all standing*

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 Ghost,  
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 Ghost,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **The Prayers**

Officiant The Lord be with you.  
People And with thy spirit.  
Officiant Let us 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, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

*The Collect of the Day*

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.  
*Amen.*

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all people: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Dorsey, our bishop, and all bishops and other ministers especially Nancy, our priest, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially Donald, our President and Tom, our Governor, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor those on our parish prayer list and all those who in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. We pray especially for all those around the world who are affected by the Covid-19 virus.

Additional petitions and thanksgivings may be included here.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially Lois Bender, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of St. Mark and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

*The General Thanksgiving*

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we thine unworthy servants  
do give thee most humble and hearty thanks  
for all thy goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all men.  
We bless thee for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;

but above all for thine inestimable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we beseech thee,  
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,  
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;  
and that we show forth thy praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to thy service,  
and by walking before thee  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,  
be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

*A Prayer of St. Chrysostom*

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one  
accord to make our common supplication unto thee; and  
hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two  
or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the  
midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions  
of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this  
world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life  
everlasting. *Amen*

**Hymn 719**

**America the beautiful**

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!  
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,  
Who more than self their country love and mercy more than life!  
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,  
Confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law!

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years,  
Thine alabaster cities gleam undimmed by human tears!  
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

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

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and  
the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore.  
*Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14*