



THY WILL BE DONE

A PRAYER RESOURCE FOR CELEBRATING
THE LITURGIES OF HOLY WEEK



THE DIOCESE OF
HOUMA & THIBODAUX

THY WILL BE DONE

“Thy Will be Done” is a prayer resource for all the faithful of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux. In these strange times, we know that we must seek the Lord with our whole hearts, and ever turn our eyes to him in prayer. But our prayer looks very different this Holy Week, and has done for much of Lent as well. This resource seeks to aid Catholics of all walks of life and all depths of faith to pray as best they can as a Diocese and as one Christian people.

How can we do that when we are so far apart from one another? Through preparation, prayer, and processing together as a family. Even when our community may be linked only digitally, if each of us puts forth an effort to really prepare our homes and our hearts to welcome Christ this Holy Week, we will see deep and abiding beauty.

PREPARE

1. CREATE A HOME ALTAR.

Make a place where you and your family can gather. Bring in any statues or religious art you may have, candles, and perhaps some beautiful cloth to cover it. Use a small table, preferably one that you can leave as is for the duration of Holy Week.

2. ARRANGE YOUR TIME FOR PRAYER.

Turn off any alarms, silence your phone, make sure nothing will distract you from your time with the Lord. This may take some foresight! When do I need to start the laundry so that it doesn't finish during the Liturgy? When do my children need their naps? Who do I need to notify about my being “offline” during this time?

3. MAKE YOUR RESOURCES READILY AVAILABLE.

Have this prayer resource and anything else you feel you need to help you focus in on your prayer ready before the liturgy begins. If you are able, read the readings and /or the reflections ahead of time. The words you find below in bold are your responses to say out loud. This helps to prime your heart, “till the ground”, as it were, in order that the Word of God might be more deeply planted to grow in your heart.



PRAY

1. FOCUS ON THE BEAUTIFUL.

Beauty can be seen in so many aspects of our prayer. Particularly in this time of grief and uncertainty, the beauty of the liturgy can lift our weary spirits. Find even just one thing that you find beautiful about the liturgy, and allow it to steep in your mind and heart as you continue to pray.

2. FOCUS ON ONE ASPECT OF THE PRAYER.

If the liturgy seems overwhelming, that's ok; these are long, intense prayers! If it all seems to be too much to take in, choose one thing each time you come to pray: a reading (or even just a few lines), a part of the homily, or a section of the Eucharistic Prayer. Perhaps something special to that particular liturgy moves your heart. Hold on to that! Pray with it!

3. RESPOND AS YOU NORMALLY WOULD.

Does it seem strange to respond to a computer screen? Perhaps. But remember that the graces of the Mass are still flowing, are still sanctifying the world, even when the Body of Christ (that is, the people of God) cannot be physically present. So we give our full attention and hearts to participating as much as we can in the distribution of those graces, as our baptismal priesthood calls us to do.



PROCESS

1. READ THE REFLECTIONS.

If you want to, save the reflections for after Mass and use them to guide your further meditation on the liturgy. Do they speak to you in a particular way? What movements do they cause in your heart? Those reflections can be found on the final pages of this resource.

2. DISCUSS WITH YOUR FAMILY. DISCUSS WITH THE LORD.

It's okay if you and your family are new to discussing Scripture or the liturgy. Start slow. Offer what beauty you saw, or what part of the prayer struck you most. Dive deeper as you feel comfortable. If you desire to go deeper with the Lord, consider spending time journaling about what you read, heard, and felt during the liturgy. Journaling can be a simple exercise, but can have beautiful results.

3. ENCOURAGE SILENCE AFTER THE LITURGY.

Silence is a difficulty in this day-and-age. Even in a time of staying in our homes, there is still much fodder for distraction. Take deliberate time to foster silence after the liturgy. Just 5 minutes can give you the time to absorb the magnitude of what your prayer has provided. Cultivating silence is well worth the effort, and can lead to deeper prayer and deeper understanding of God and his mysteries.

EASTER VIGIL

REMEMBER...

FOCUS ON THE BEAUTY.
FOCUS ON THE PRAYER.
RESPOND.



Those who are able should stand at this time.

THE LUCERNARIUM SIGN OF THE CROSS

Dear brothers and sisters, on this most sacred night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, the Church calls upon her sons and daughters, scattered throughout the world, to come together to watch and pray. If we keep the memorial of the Lord's paschal solemnity in this way, listening to his word and celebrating his mysteries, then we shall have the sure hope of sharing his triumph over death and living with him in God.

The Bishop will continue with the blessing of the Paschal Candle. Using a stylus, the Bishop cuts a cross into the candle with a stylus. Then he makes the Greek letter Alpha above the cross, the letter Omega below, and the four numerals of the current year between the arms of the cross, saying meanwhile:

1. Christ yesterday and today
he cuts a vertical line
2. the Beginning and the End
he cuts a horizontal line
3. the Alpha
he cuts the letter Alpha above the vertical line
4. and the Omega
he cuts the letter Omega below the vertical line
5. All time belongs to him
he cuts the first numeral of the current year in the upper left corner of the cross
6. and all the ages
he cuts the second numeral of the current year in the upper right corner of the cross
7. To him be glory and power
he cuts the third numeral of the current year in the lower left corner of the cross
8. through every age and for ever. **Amen.**
he cuts the fourth numeral of the current year in the lower right corner of the cross



When the cutting of the cross and of the other signs has been completed, the Bishop may insert five grains of incense into the candle in the form of a cross, meanwhile saying:

1. By his holy
2. and glorious wounds,
3. may Christ the Lord
4. guard us
5. and protect us. **Amen.**

As the Paschal Candle is lit, the Bishop says:

May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

THE EXSULTET

Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven, exult, let Angel ministers of God exult, let the trumpet of salvation sound aloud our mighty King's triumph! Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King, let all corners of the earth be glad, knowing an end to gloom and darkness. Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice, arrayed with the lightning of his glory, let this holy building shake with joy, filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.

Therefore, dearest friends, standing in the awesome glory of this holy light, invoke with me, I ask you, the mercy of God almighty, that he, who has been pleased to number me, though unworthy, among the Levites, may pour into me his light unshadowed, that I may sing this candle's perfect praises.

- V. The Lord be with you.
R. **And with your spirit.**
V. Lift up your hearts.
R. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
R. **It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just, with ardent love of mind and heart and with devoted service of our voice, to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father, and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten. Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father, and, pouring out his own dear Blood, wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness. These, then, are the feasts of Passover, in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb, whose Blood anoints the doorposts of believers. This is the night, when once you led our forebears, Israel's children, from slavery in Egypt and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea. This is the night that with a pillar of fire banished the darkness of sin.

This is the night that even now, throughout the world, sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices and from the gloom of sin, leading them to grace and joining them to his holy ones. This is the night, when Christ broke the prison-bars of death and rose victorious from the underworld. Our birth would have been no gain, had we not been redeemed.

O wonder of your humble care for us!
O love, O charity beyond all telling, to ransom a slave you gave away your Son! O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed completely by the Death of Christ! O happy fault that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer! O truly blessed night, worthy alone to know the time and hour when Christ rose from the underworld! This is the night of which it is written: The night shall be as bright as day, dazzling is the night for me, and full of gladness. The sanctifying power of this night dispels wickedness, washes faults away, restores innocence to the fallen, and

EASTER VIGIL

joy to mourners, drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty.

On this, your night of grace, O holy Father, accept this candle, a solemn offering, the work of bees and of your servants' hands, an evening sacrifice of praise, this gift from your most holy Church. But now we know the praises of this pillar, which glowing fire ignites for God's honor, a fire into many flames divided, yet never dimmed by sharing of its light, for it is fed by melting wax, drawn out by mother bees to build a torch so precious.

O truly blessed night, when things of heaven are wed to those of earth, and divine to the human.

Therefore, O Lord, we pray you that this candle, hallowed to the honor of your name, may persevere undimmed, to overcome the darkness of this night. Receive it as a pleasing fragrance, and let it mingle with the lights of heaven. May this flame be found still burning by the Morning Star: the one Morning Star who never sets, Christ your Son, who, coming back from death's domain, has shed his peaceful light on humanity, and lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

All may be seated as the Liturgy of the Word begins.

Dear brothers and sisters, now that we have begun our solemn Vigil, let us listen with quiet hearts to the Word of God. Let us

meditate on how God in times past saved his people and in these, the last days, has sent us his Son as our Redeemer. Let us pray that our God may complete this paschal work of salvation by the fullness of redemption.

First Reading | Genesis 1:1-2:2

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters.

Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw how good the light was. God then separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." Thus evening came, and morning followed—the first day.

Then God said, "Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, to separate one body of water from the other." And so it happened: God made the dome, and it separated the water above the dome from the water below it. God called the dome "the sky." Evening came, and morning followed—the second day.

Then God said, "Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin, so that the dry land may appear." And so it happened: the water under the sky was gathered into its basin, and the dry land appeared. God called the dry land "the earth," and the basin of the water he called "the sea." God saw how good it was. Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree

on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it.” And so it happened: the earth brought forth every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. God saw how good it was. Evening came, and morning followed—the third day.

Then God said: “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night. Let them mark the fixed times, the days and the years, and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth.” And so it happened: God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the lesser one to govern the night; and he made the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw how good it was. Evening came, and morning followed—the fourth day.

Then God said, “Let the water teem with an abundance of living creatures, and on the earth let birds fly beneath the dome of the sky.” And so it happened: God created the great sea monsters and all kinds of swimming creatures with which the water teems, and all kinds of winged birds. God saw how good it was, and God blessed them, saying, “Be fertile, multiply, and fill the water of the seas; and let the birds multiply on the earth.” Evening came, and morning followed—the fifth day.

Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures: cattle, creeping things, and wild animals of all kinds.” And so it happened: God made all kinds of wild animals, all kinds of cattle, and all kinds of creeping things of the earth. God saw how good it was. Then God said: “Let us make

man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.” God created man in his image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying: “Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth.” God also said: “See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food.” And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth and all their array were completed. Since on the seventh day God was finished with the work he had been doing, he rested on the seventh day from all the work he had undertaken.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 104 | Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD, my God, you are great indeed! You are clothed with majesty and glory, robed in light as with a cloak.

You fixed the earth upon its foundation, not to be moved forever; with the ocean, as with a garment, you covered it; above the mountains the waters stood.

EASTER VIGIL

You send forth springs into the watercourses that wind among the mountains. Beside them the birds of heaven dwell; from among the branches they send forth their song.

You water the mountains from your palace; the earth is replete with the fruit of your You raise grass for the cattle, and vegetation for man's use, Producing bread from the earth.

How manifold are your works, O LORD!
In wisdom you have wrought them all—
the earth is full of your creatures. Bless the
LORD, O my soul!

All stand as the Bishop prays:

Let us pray. Almighty ever-living God, who are wonderful in the ordering of all your works, may those you have redeemed understand that there exists nothing more marvelous than the world's creation in the beginning except that, at the end of the ages, Christ our Passover has been sacrificed. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Second Reading | Genesis 22: 1-18

God put Abraham to the test. He called to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am, " he replied. Then God said: "Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height that I will point out to you." Early the next morning Abraham saddled his donkey, took with him his son Isaac and two of his servants as well, and with the wood that he had cut for the holocaust, set out for the place of which God had told him.

On the third day Abraham got sight of the place from afar. Then he said to his servants: "Both of you stay here with the donkey, while the boy and I go on over yonder. We will worship and then come back to you."

Thereupon Abraham took the wood for the holocaust and laid it on his son Isaac's shoulders, while he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two walked on together, Isaac spoke to his father Abraham: "Father!" Isaac said. "Yes, son, " he replied.

Isaac continued, "Here are the fire and the wood, but where is the sheep for the holocaust?" "Son," Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the sheep for the holocaust." Then the two continued going forward.

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. Next he tied up his son Isaac, and put him on top of the wood on the altar. Then he reached out and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the LORD's messenger called to him from heaven, "Abraham, Abraham!" "Here I am!" he answered. "Do not lay your hand on the boy," said the messenger. "Do not do the least thing to him. I know now how devoted you are to God, since you did not withhold from me your own beloved son." As Abraham looked about, he spied a ram caught by its horns in the thicket. So he went and took the ram and offered it up as a holocaust in place of his son. Abraham named the site Yahweh-yireh; hence people now say, "On the mountain the LORD will see."

Again the LORD's messenger called to

Abraham from heaven and said: "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you acted as you did in not withholding from me your beloved son, I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing-- all this because you obeyed my command."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 16 | You are my inheritance, O Lord.

O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup,
you it is who hold fast my lot. I set the LORD
ever before me; with him at my right hand I
shall not be disturbed.

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul
rejoices, my body, too, abides in confidence;
because you will not abandon my soul to the
netherworld, nor will you suffer your faithful
one to undergo corruption.

You will show me the path to life, fullness
of joys in your presence, the delights at your
right hand forever.

All stand as the Bishop prays:

Let us pray. O God, supreme Father of the
faithful, who increase the children of your
promise by pouring out the grace of adoption
throughout the whole world and who
through the Paschal Mystery make your
servant Abraham father of nations, as once
you swore, grant, we pray, that your peoples
may enter worthily into the grace to which
you call them. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Third Reading | Exodus 14:15—15:1

The LORD said to Moses, "Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. And you, lift up your staff and, with hand outstretched over the sea, split the sea in two, that the Israelites may pass through it on dry land. But I will make the Egyptians so obstinate that they will go in after them. Then I will receive glory through Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots and charioteers. The Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I receive glory through Pharaoh and his chariots and charioteers."

The angel of God, who had been leading Israel's camp, now moved and went around behind them. The column of cloud also, leaving the front, took up its place behind them, so that it came between the camp of the Egyptians and that of Israel. But the cloud now became dark, and thus the night passed without the rival camps coming any closer together all night long. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD swept the sea with a strong east wind throughout the night and so turned it into dry land. When the water was thus divided, the Israelites marched into the midst of the sea on dry land, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left.

The Egyptians followed in pursuit; all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and charioteers went after them right into the midst of the sea. In the night watch just before dawn the LORD cast through the column of the fiery cloud upon the Egyptian force a glance that threw it into a panic; and he so clogged their chariot wheels that they could hardly drive. With that the Egyptians sounded the retreat before Israel, because the LORD was fighting for them against the Egyptians.

EASTER VIGIL

Then the LORD told Moses, “Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may flow back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and their charioteers.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea flowed back to its normal depth. The Egyptians were fleeing head on toward the sea, when the LORD hurled them into its midst. As the water flowed back, it covered the chariots and the charioteers of Pharaoh’s whole army which had followed the Israelites into the sea. Not a single one of them escaped. But the Israelites had marched on dry land through the midst of the sea, with the water like a wall to their right and to their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel on that day from the power of the Egyptians. When Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the seashore and beheld the great power that the LORD had shown against the Egyptians, they feared the LORD and believed in him and in his servant Moses.

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant; horse and chariot he has cast into the sea.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Exodus 15 | Let us sing to the Lord; he has covered himself in glory.

I will sing to the LORD, for he is gloriously triumphant; horse and chariot he has cast into the sea. My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior. He is my God, I praise him; the God of my father, I extol him.

The LORD is a warrior, LORD is his name! Pharaoh’s chariots and army he hurled into the sea; the elite of his officers were submerged in the Red Sea.

The flood waters covered them, they sank into the depths like a stone. Your right hand, O LORD, magnificent in power, your right hand, O LORD, has shattered the enemy.

You brought in the people you redeemed and planted them on the mountain of your inheritance the place where you made your seat, O LORD, the sanctuary, LORD, which your hands established. The LORD shall reign forever and ever.

All stand as the Bishop prays:

Let us pray. O God, who by the light of the New Testament have unlocked the meaning of wonders worked in former times, so that the Red Sea prefigures the sacred font and the nation delivered from slavery foreshadows the Christian people, grant, we pray, that all nations, obtaining the privilege of Israel by merit of faith, may be reborn by partaking of your Spirit. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Fourth Reading | Isaiah 54: 5-14

The One who has become your husband is your Maker; his name is the LORD of hosts; your redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, called God of all the earth. The LORD calls you back, like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, a wife married in youth and then cast off, says your God. For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with great tenderness I will take you back. In an outburst of wrath, for a moment I hid my face from you; but with enduring love

I take pity on you, says the LORD, your redeemer. This is for me like the days of Noah, when I swore that the waters of Noah should never again deluge the earth; so I have sworn not to be angry with you, or to rebuke you. Though the mountains leave their place and the hills be shaken, my love shall never leave you nor my covenant of peace be shaken, says the LORD, who has mercy on you. O afflicted one, storm-battered and unconsoled, I lay your pavements in carnelians, and your foundations in sapphires; I will make your battlements of rubies, your gates of carbuncles, and all your walls of precious stones. All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children. In justice shall you be established, far from the fear of oppression, where destruction cannot come near you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 30 | I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

I will extol you, O LORD, for you drew me clear and did not let my enemies rejoice over me. O LORD, you brought me up from the netherworld; you preserved me from among those going down into the pit.

Sing praise to the LORD, you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. For his anger lasts but a moment; a lifetime, his good will. At nightfall, weeping enters in, but with the dawn, rejoicing.

Hear, O LORD, and have pity on me; O LORD, be my helper. You changed my mourning into dancing; O LORD, my God, forever will I give you thanks.

All stand as the Bishop prays:

Let us pray. Almighty ever-living God, surpass, for the honor of your name, what you pledged to the Patriarchs by reason of their faith, and through sacred adoption increase the children of your promise, so that what the Saints of old never doubted would come to pass your Church may now see in great part fulfilled. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Fifth Reading | Isaiah 55:1-11

Thus says the LORD: All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! Why spend your money for what is not bread, your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David. As I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of nations, so shall you summon a nation you knew not, and nations that knew you not shall run to you, because of the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked man his thoughts; let him turn to the LORD for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts.

For just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there

EASTER VIGIL

till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 12 | You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid. My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior. With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.

Give thanks to the LORD, acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name.

Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth. Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!

All stand as the Bishop prays:

Let us pray. Almighty ever-living God, sole hope of the world, who by the preaching of your Prophets unveiled the mysteries of this present age, graciously increase the longing of your people, for only at the prompting of your grace do the faithful progress in any kind of virtue. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sixth Reading | Baruch 3:9-15, 32--4:4

Hear, O Israel, the commandments of life: listen, and know prudence! How is it, Israel, that you are in the land of your foes, grown old in a foreign land, defiled with the dead, accounted with those destined for the netherworld? You have forsaken the fountain of wisdom! Had you walked in the way of God, you would have dwelt in enduring peace. Learn where prudence is, where strength, where understanding; that you may know also where are length of days, and life, where light of the eyes, and peace. Who has found the place of wisdom, who has entered into her treasuries?

The One who knows all things knows her; he has probed her by his knowledge--The One who established the earth for all time, and filled it with four-footed beasts; he who dismisses the light, and it departs, calls it, and it obeys him trembling; before whom the stars at their posts shine and rejoice; when he calls them, they answer, "Here we are!" shining with joy for their Maker. Such is our God; no other is to be compared to him: he has traced out the whole way of understanding, and has given her to Jacob, his servant, to Israel, his beloved son.

Since then she has appeared on earth, and moved among people. She is the book of the precepts of God, the law that endures forever; all who cling to her will live, but those will die who forsake her. Turn, O Jacob, and receive her: walk by her light toward splendor. Give not your glory to another, your privileges to an alien race. Blessed are we, O Israel; for what pleases God is known to us!

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19 | Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul;
the decree of the LORD is trustworthy,
giving wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing
the heart; the command of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eye.

The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring
forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true,
all of them just.

They are more precious than gold, than a
heap of purest gold; sweeter also than syrup
or honey from the comb.

All stand as the Bishop prays:

Let us pray. O God, who constantly increase
your Church by your call to the nations,
graciously grant to those you wash clean in
the waters of Baptism the assurance of your
unfailing protection. Through Christ our
Lord. **Amen.**

Seventh Reading | Ezekiel 36:16-17A, 18-28

The word of the LORD came to me, saying:
Son of man, when the house of Israel lived
in their land, they defiled it by their conduct
and deeds. Therefore I poured out my fury
upon them because of the blood that they
poured out on the ground, and because they
defiled it with idols. I scattered them among
the nations, dispersing them over foreign
lands; according to their conduct and deeds
I judged them. But when they came among
the nations wherever they came, they served

to profane my holy name, because it was
said of them: "These are the people of the
LORD, yet they had to leave their land." So
I have relented because of my holy name
which the house of Israel profaned among
the nations where they came. Therefore say to
the house of Israel: Thus says the Lord GOD:
Not for your sakes do I act, house of Israel,
but for the sake of my holy name, which you
profaned among the nations to which you
came. I will prove the holiness of my great
name, profaned among the nations,
in whose midst you have profaned it. Thus
the nations shall know that I am the LORD,
says the Lord GOD, when in their sight I
prove my holiness through you. For I will
take you away from among the nations,
gather you from all the foreign lands, and
bring you back to your own land. I will
sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse
you from all your impurities, and from all
your idols I will cleanse you. I will give you a
new heart and place a new spirit within you,
taking from your bodies your stony hearts
and giving you natural hearts. I will put my
spirit within you and make you live by my
statutes, careful to observe my decrees. You
shall live in the land I gave your fathers; you
shall be my people, and I will be your God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 51 | Create a clean heart in me, O God.

A clean heart create for me, O God,
and a steadfast spirit renew within me.
Cast me not out from your presence,
and your Holy Spirit take not from me.

Give me back the joy of your salvation,
and a willing spirit sustain in me.
I will teach transgressors your ways,

EASTER VIGIL

and sinners shall return to you.

For you are not pleased with sacrifices; should I offer a holocaust, you would not accept it. My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit; a heart contrite and humbled, O God, you will not spurn.

All stand as the Bishop prays:

Let us pray. O God of unchanging power and eternal light, look with favor on the wondrous mystery of the whole Church and serenely accomplish the work of human salvation, which you planned from all eternity; may the whole world know and see that what was cast down is raised up, what had become old is made new, and all things are restored to integrity through Christ, just as by him they came into being. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All who are able remain standing for the Gloria.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For You alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT

Let us pray. O God, who make this most sacred night radiant with the glory of the Lord's Resurrection, stir up in your Church a spirit of adoption, so that, renewed in body and mind, we may render you undivided service. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Epistle | Romans 6:3-11

Brothers and sisters: Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him. As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God. Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as being

dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

Those who are able should stand at this time.

Gospel Acclamation | Psalm 118

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever. Let the house of Israel say, "His mercy endures forever."

The right hand of the LORD has struck with power; the right hand of the LORD is exalted. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.

The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the LORD has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes.

Gospel | Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow. The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men. Then the angel said to the women in reply, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.' Behold, I have told you." Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him

homage. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

All may be seated.

HOMILY

RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES

All who are able should stand.

Dear brothers and sisters, through the Paschal Mystery we have been buried with Christ in Baptism, so that we may walk with him in newness of life. And so, now that our Lenten observance is concluded, let us renew the promises of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and his works and promised to serve God in the holy Catholic Church. And so I ask you:

Do you renounce Satan?

R: I do.

And all his works?

R: I do.

And all his empty show?

R: I do.

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

R: I do.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death and was buried,

EASTER VIGIL

rose again from the dead
and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

R: I do.

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: I do.

And may almighty God, the Father of our
Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us new birth
by water and the Holy Spirit and bestowed
on us forgiveness of our sins, keep us by his
grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord, for eternal life.
Amen.

The Bishop sprinkles those present with holy water.

Sprinkling Rite Antiphon

I saw water flowing from the
Temple, from its right-hand side,
alleluia; and all to whom this water
came were saved and shall say:
Alleluia, alleluia.

UNIVERSAL PRAYERS

That the joy of Christ's resurrection might not
be overshadowed by the trials and difficulties
we face, we pray to the Lord: **Lord, hear our
prayer.**

That faith in Christ's resurrection may inspire

those who are struggling to find hope, we
pray to the Lord: **Lord hear our prayer.**

That our lives might always reflect the new
persons we became as we passed through the
waters of baptism, we pray to the Lord: **Lord
hear our prayer.**

That patience, tolerance, compassion and
kindness may be afforded to those who have
lost the sources of their livelihoods during this
pandemic, we pray to the Lord: **Lord hear our
prayer.**

That those who have died during this
pandemic may be united to the risen Lord and
enjoy eternal life, we pray to the Lord: **Lord
hear our prayer.**

*All may be seated. During the Offertory, it is a
noble practice for the faithful to call to mind those
prayers, works, joys, and sufferings that are close
to their hearts, and to lay them on the altar with
the gifts of bread and wine.*

Offertory Antiphon

The right hand of the Lord has struck
with power, the right hand of the
Lord has exalted me; I shall not die,
but live, and declare the works of the
Lord. Alleluia.

OFFERTORY

Offertory Antiphon

Those who are able should stand at this time.

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, we ask, O Lord, the prayers of your people with the sacrificial offerings, that what has begun in the paschal mysteries may, by the working of your power, bring us to the healing of eternity. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PREFACE

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, at all times to acclaim you, O Lord, but on this night above all to laud you yet more gloriously, when Christ our Passover has been sacrificed. For he is the true Lamb who has taken away the sins of the world; by dying he has destroyed our death, and by rising, restored our life. Therefore, overcome with paschal joy, every land, every people exults in your praise and even the heavenly Powers, with the angelic hosts, sing together the unending hymn of your glory, as they acclaim:

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

All who are able are encouraged to kneel as the Eucharistic Prayer is continued.

Memorial Acclamation

The mystery of faith:

Save us, Savior of the world, for by your cross and resurrection, you have set us free.

Doxology

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God Almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Those who were kneeling may stand.

OUR FATHER

At the Savior's command and informed by divine teaching, we dare to say: **Our Father...**

Angus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

All who are able are encouraged to kneel at this point in adoration.

ECCE AGNUS DEI

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

EASTER VIGIL

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Communion Antiphon

Pascha nostrum immolatus est
Christus, alleluia; itaque epulemur
in azymis sinceritatis et veritatis,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

English Translation:

Christ our Passover has been
sacrificed, alleluia; therefore let us
keep the feast with the unleavened
bread of purity and truth, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, almighty God, that, just as we are renewed by the Supper of your Son in this present age, so we may enjoy his banquet for all eternity. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Bow down for the blessing.

All here bow.

May almighty God bless you through today's Easter Solemnity and, in his compassion, defend you from every assault of sin. **Amen.**

And may he, who restores you to eternal life in the Resurrection of his Only Begotten, endow you with the prize of immortality. **Amen.**

Now that the days of the Lord's Passion have drawn to a close, may you who celebrate the gladness of the Paschal Feast come with Christ's help, and exulting in spirit, to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy. **Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. *The faithful make the sign of the cross.* **Amen.**

Go in peace, alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!

Regina Caeli

Regina caeli, laetare,
alleluia;
Quia quem meruisti portare,
alleluia,
Resurrexit, sicut dixit,
alleluia:
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

English Translation:
Queen of heaven, rejoice,
alleluia.
The Son you merited to bear,
alleluia,
Has risen as he said,
alleluia.
Pray to God for us, alleluia.

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Jesus Christ is risen today,
Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day,
Alleluia!
Who did once upon the Cross,
Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss,
Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing,
Alleluia!
Unto Christ our Heavenly King,
Alleluia!
Who endured the Cross and grave,
Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save,
Alleluia!



REFLECT. DISCUSS. BE JOYOUS.
THE LORD IS RISEN. HE IS RISEN INDEED.

PROCESS

You have prepared, you have prayed, and now it's time to process. As a reminder, here are the three steps of processing the Mass after you have joined in the celebration:

1. READ THE REFLECTIONS.

If you want to, save the reflections for after Mass and use them to guide your further meditation on the liturgy. Do they speak to you in a particular way? What movements do they cause in your heart?

2. DISCUSS WITH YOUR FAMILY. DISCUSS WITH THE LORD.

It's okay if you and your family are new to discussing Scripture or the liturgy. Start slow. Offer what beauty you saw, or what part of the prayer struck you most. Dive deeper as you feel comfortable. If you desire to go deeper with the Lord, consider spending time journaling about what you read, heard, and felt during the liturgy. Journaling can be a simple exercise, but can have beautiful results.

3. ENCOURAGE SILENCE AFTER THE LITURGY.

Silence is a difficulty in this day-and-age. Even in a time of staying in our homes, there is still much fodder for distraction. Take deliberate time to foster silence after the liturgy. Just 5 minutes can give you the time to absorb the magnitude of what your prayer has provided. Cultivating silence is well worth the effort, and can lead to deeper prayer and deeper understanding of God and his mysteries.

REFLECTION ON EXODUS 14:15-15:1

The reading is part of the climax of the Exodus story. The Hebrews have been released by Pharaoh, but he has regretted his decision and decided to pursue the Hebrews. They find themselves at the shore of the Red Sea with the Egyptians in hot pursuit. The people complain to Moses that he has only led them there to die. Moses turns to God for help and receives instructions to stretch out his staff over the sea that it may open and then once the Hebrews have crossed over on "dry land" to repeat the action with his staff so that the pursuing Egyptians might be destroyed by the water flowing back upon them. The separation of the waters revealing dry ground recalls the story of creation in Genesis 1, whereby life can emerge on dry ground once God divides the waters. Israel's passage on dry ground represents a new act of creation. Their identity as slaves is now behind them and they become at last a free people. God's causing the water to flow back upon the Egyptian is a reversal of the creative process. The Egyptians are therefore subjected to the chaos of non-existence. Through baptism we have passed through the waters into new life.

We might compare our current experience of the Coronavirus pandemic to the point where the Hebrews are backed up against the sea with the Egyptians pursuing them. We stand in the face of a threat. Confronted by their own danger, Moses told the people "Stand fast and see the victory the LORD will win for you today. This reading encourages us to stand firm with faith in the Lord and look to the day of our deliverance!

REFLECTION ON ISAIAH 55:1-11

The prophet is speaking to the people of Israel captive in Babylon, but on the verge of being released from their captivity. This prophet presumes what was said by Jeremiah and Ezekiel. The exile was the consequence of the people's continual disobedience of the covenant with God. Their exile has

wearied them in every way possible. The prophet likens their weariness to thirst and their relief like water made available to dehydrated people. The water is God's forgiveness and restorative grace. The prophet also compares their weariness and relief to hunger that may be satisfied by a lavish banquet. The food and drink are available to them without cost; God pours it out on them freely and willingly. He encourages them to seek the Lord, confess their sinfulness and experience God's love and mercy. This reading is used to foreshadow the grace of baptism. We come to the water with our sinful selves and our thirst for God is quenched.

As social distancing, which deprives us of many of our beloved activities and relationships, drags on we may feel some weariness. That is understandable. But our prayer this evening invites us to "come to the water" provided by the Lord. Our faith and trust in the Lord, regular prayer and imploring God's help can alleviate our thirst.

REFLECTION ON THE EPISTLE | ROMANS 6:3-11

In 6:1 Paul poses a question that some might ask, "If we are set in a right relationship with God (justified) through faith, does it really matter whether we act sinfully or with virtue." Paul's answer in chapter 6 is, "Yes it does matter." He explains that when we were baptized we entered into a relationship with Christ whereby we died to the old life and rose to a new one. We are no longer helplessly subject to the power of sin. We are new people with a new status before God. To persist in evil deeds, which are representative of life before coming to faith in Christ, would be to contradict what we have become. We are saved by grace, justified before God, acquitted of the guilt of our sins, therefore our actions should reflect the new persons we have become.

In the midst of our daily preoccupations it is easy to forget that we are different because we have been saved and united with Christ through faith. We listen to this reading every year at the Easter Vigil to remind ourselves of this truth and to ask ourselves if our actions reflect our new identity in Christ.

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL | MATTHEW 28:1-10

Matthew's account of the women finding the empty tomb is filled with dramatic symbols: an earthquake and the descent of a heavenly messenger who displays God's victory over death by rolling back the sealing stone and sitting upon it. At the death of Jesus Matthew also reported an earthquake and the "raising of saints who had fallen asleep." These symbols represent great changes, on a cosmic scale. Just as when a cold front comes through with violent weather before the beautiful weather comes behind it, so Jesus brought about the new age, but had to endure a final and climactic struggle with the forces of evil in doing so. He was rejected by a people that did not produce the fruit that God was due, and opened the door for a new people to emerge who would do so faithfully. This new people is formed by those who believe in Jesus, who by dying and rising dealt the ultimate blow to sin and death. We, who this night profess our faith in Jesus, celebrate the fact that we are part of the new people Jesus formed.

While the empty tomb story declares Jesus' victory over evil and death, it is only a beginning. The disciples will have to come to faith not only that Jesus has been raised, but also in the significance of his resurrection. As we face this health crisis we recall in the story of Jesus' resurrection from the dead that he has overcome the forces that threaten us.

We are so blessed by all of your prayers and everyone's digital presence for these liturgies. We hope that these supplements have helped you to pray and find a deeper sense of the Lord's presence this Holy Week. For continuing information about how to pray with us, please visit our Diocesan website at www.htdiocese.org