St. Matthew Anglican Church
St. Thomas Anglican Church

Home Prayers
A Form of Prayer for Groups or Families

Easter 6A

A candle or candles placed on the table or in the worship area may be lit. A cross and flowers by the candle on the table is appropriate.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED. ALLELUIA!**
May his grace and peace be with you. **MAY HE FILL OUR HEARTS WITH JOY!**

Opening: For The Beauty of the Earth **CP 429**

For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies,
'Christ our God, to Thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower
Sun and Moon and stars of light,
'Christ our God, to Thee we raise

This our sacrifice of praise.

For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight,
'Christ our God, to Thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child.
Friends on earth and friends above
For all gentle thoughts and mild,
'Christ our God, to Thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.

For each perfect gift of Thine
To our race so freely given.
Graces human and divine
Flowers of earth and buds of heaven.
'Christ our God, to Thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.

The Collect

Risen Christ, whose gift to us is the Spirit of truth:
COME, MAKE YOUR HOME WITH US, SO THAT,
KEEPING YOUR COMMANDMENTS,
WE MAY DWELL WITH YOU AND THE FATHER. AMEN.

Song of Praise: Glory to God CP 702

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND PEACE TO HIS PEOPLE ON EARTH.
LORD GOD, HEAVENLY KING, ALMIGHTY GOD AND FATHER, WE WORSHIP YOU,
WE GIVE YOU THANKS, WE PRAISE YOU FOR YOUR GLORY.
GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND PEACE TO HIS PEOPLE ON EARTH.

LORD JESUS CHRIST, ONLY SON OF THE FATHER, LORD GOD, LAMB OF GOD,
YOU TAKE AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD: HAVE MERCY ON US;
YOU ARE SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER: RECEIVE OUR PRAYER.
GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND PEACE TO HIS PEOPLE ON EARTH.

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.
GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST, AND PEACE TO HIS PEOPLE ON EARTH.

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading: Elisa and Ben **Acts 17:22-31**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles,

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him--though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'

Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

Hear what the Spirit of the Lord is saying to us today: **WITH YOUR HELP, O LORD, WE WILL LISTEN AND LIVE!**

Psalm 66:8-20 Elisa and Ben

8 Bless our God, you peoples; make the voice of God's praise to be heard;

9 WHO HOLDS OUR SOULS IN LIFE, AND WILL NOT ALLOW OUR FEET TO SLIP.

10 For you, O God, have proved us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

11 YOU BROUGHT US INTO THE SNARE; YOU LAID HEAVY BURDENS UPON OUR BACKS.

12 You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water; but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

13 I WILL ENTER YOUR HOUSE WITH BURNT-OFFERINGS AND WILL PAY YOU MY VOWS,

14 which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

15 I WILL OFFER YOU SACRIFICES OF FAT BEASTS WITH THE SMOKE OF RAMS; I WILL GIVE YOU OXEN AND GOATS.

16 Come and listen, all you who fear God, and I will tell you what the Lord has done for me,

17 THE ONE TO WHOM I CALLED OUT WITH MY MOUTH AND WHOSE PRAISE WAS ON MY TONGUE.

18 If I had found evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;

19 BUT IN TRUTH GOD HAS HEARD ME AND HAS ATTENDED TO THE VOICE OF MY PRAYER.

20 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld steadfast love from me.

GLORY BE TO THE FATHER AND TO THE SON AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT, AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING IS NOW AND EVER SHALL BE, WORLD WITHOUT END. AMEN.

Children's Talk

Second Reading: Elisa and Ben **1 Peter 3:13-22**

A reading from the first book of Peter,

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame.

For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you--not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Hear what the Spirit of the Lord is saying to us today: **WITH YOUR HELP, O LORD, WE WILL LISTEN AND LIVE!**

Gradual: From the Falter of Breath **CP 489**

From the falter of breath, through the silence of death,
To the wonder that's breaking beyond,
God has woven a way, unapparent by day,
For all those of whom heaven is fond.

From frustration and pain, through hope hard to sustain,
To the wholeness here promised, there known,
Christ has gone where we fear and has vowed to be near
On the journey we make on our own.

Gospel: Rev. Jennifer Burgoyne **John 14:15-21**

The Lord be with you: **AND ALSO WITH YOU.**
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John: **GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST.**
Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will

give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.

This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you. "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

The Gospel of Christ. **PRAISE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST.**

Gradual: From the Falter of Breath CP 489

From the dimming of light, through the darkness of night,
To the glory of goodness above,
God the Spirit is sent to ensure heaven's intent
Is embraced and completed in love.

From today till we die, through all questioning why,
To the place from which time and tide flow,
Angels tread on our dreams, and magnificent themes
Of heaven's promise are echoed below.

Devotional **Fr. Allen Doerksen**

(pause for reflections)

Affirmation of Faith *adapted from the Te Deum by Rev. Dr. Richard Leggett*

Let us affirm our faith in God.

WE LONG FOR YOU, O GOD,
WE CONFESS OUR DEEP DESIRE;
FOR THE HEAVENS ARE ARRAYED
WITH YOUR UNHIDDEN BEAUTY.

YOU ARE THE SOURCE OF OUR YEARNING, O CHRIST:
YOU ARE THE WAY OF GLORY.
BEARING OUR SWEET AND HUMBLE FLESH,
FRUIT OF A WOMAN'S WOMB,
YOU WERE MADE AND MOULDED AS WE ARE.

SPIRIT OF DISCERNMENT, INTEGRITY AND FIRE:
BREATHE ON OUR FEARFULNESS,
REFINE OUR TRUTHFULNESS,
AND SING THROUGH OUR SPEECHLESSNESS;
SO THAT WE MAY DAILY REFUSE WHAT IS EVIL,
AND BE TAKEN UP WITH PRAISE.

MERCIFUL CREATOR, OF AN INFINITE TENDERNESS;
WOUNDED REDEEMER, BY WHOM ALL FLESH IS MOVED;

COMFORTER OF FIRE, WHO LEADS US INTO TRUTH;
WE OFFER YOU OUR PRAISE. AMEN.

Prayers of the People — Paul Theissen

As we prepare to pray I invite you to sit, stand or kneel as is your custom
O God our creator,
In a few short months the world we as know it has radically changed and things we never imagined possible have become reality. For the past two months we have basically shut our world down and now we are contemplating how to live amidst this pandemic recognizing that peoples mental and economic health also matters.
Holy God… **HEAR OUR PRAYERS.**

Holy God,
As we as a society begin to contemplate easing the restrictions we have lived with for past 2 months we ask for your wisdom as we explore the difficult choices that will surround us both personally and as a community. When we aren't sure, God, help us be calm; when information comes from all sides, correct and not, help us to discern; when fear makes it hard to breathe, and anxiety seems to be the order of the day, slow us down, God; help us to reach out with our hearts, when we can't touch with our hands; help us to be socially connected, when we have to be physically distant; help us to love as perfectly as we can, knowing that "perfect love casts out all fear";
Holy God… **HEAR OUR PRAYERS.**

Oh God our redeemer and healer,
We pray for your church: Your whole church. We pray for all who lead your church, all bishops, priests, elders, deacons, and pastors that collectively make up the universal Body of Christ. We ask that whatever their difference, with the Holy Spirit as their guide they may all work with you for the good of the world. In our parishes of St Thomas and St Matthew we pray for our Primate Linda, our Archbishop and Metropolitan Melissa , and our Priest Father Allen, that you may give them wisdom and strength to live into the fullness of your call on their lives.

God of revelation, you lead and guide all who seek you. We now pray for the many and varied leaders in our community – especially for Elizabeth our Queen, Justin Trudeau our Primer Minister, John Horgan our Premier and Henry Braun our mayor that you may lead and guide them in all they do.
Holy God… **HEAR OUR PRAYERS.**

We pray for the whole people of God, remembering especially those who are sick and those in need that we now name aloud or remember in the silence of our hearts, and for those whose names and needs are known only to you.
Holy God… **HEAR OUR PRAYERS.**

We pray for those who have died, for those who grieve their loss, and for those who are ill and dying separated from those they love. May they all be gathered into your loving embrace.

Holy God… **HEAR OUR PRAYERS.**

Oh God Our sustainer,
We pray for all your children. In this time change and uncertainty, we pray for one another, let us leave no one out – particularly those who see your purposes differently than we do.
Holy God… **HEAR OUR PRAYERS.**

May we who have been inconvenienced remember and respect those who put their lives at stake and those who are most vulnerable.
May we who have the luxury of working from home remember and care for those who must choose between preserving their health and paying the rent.
May we who have been quarantined at home remember and support those who have no home and those for whom home is a dangerous place.

During this time when we cannot physically embrace one another let us find ways of being the loving embrace of God to our neighbours. And especially as we now contemplate moving into a new phase help us to be kind, calm and to love and respect both those who fear we moving too fast and those who are concerned we aren't making changes fast enough. In spite of the epidemic, in spite of the fear. Help us, O God, that we might help each other.
Holy God… **HEAR OUR PRAYERS.**

Oh God in whom we live and move and have our being, open our hearts to your power moving around us and between us and within us, until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and enemy, in communities transformed by justice and compassion, and in the healing of all that is broken. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,
OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME, YOUR KINGDOM COME,
YOUR WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IN HEAVEN. GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD. FORGIVE US OUR SINS AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US.
SAVE US FROM THE TIME OF TRIAL, AND DELIVER US FROM EVIL.
FOR THE KINGDOM, THE POWER, AND THE GLORY ARE YOURS, NOW AND FOREVER. AMEN.

The Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ : and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be amongst you and remain with you always. **AMEN.**

Sending: Sing Praises Old and New CP 469

Sing praises old and new; past and present join as one.
Old covenants renew: new commitments have begun.

God's soaring purpose spans all ages, lives and lands.
Christ's open, wounded hands past and present join in one.

Word, from the heart of God, costly, unexpected grace;
Love, making all things good, Light of all the human race,
Hail, Wisdom, deep and vast, shining in Israel's past,
Raising the least and last: costly, unexpected grace!

Great Spirit, make us wise, doors of promise open wide.
Through evil's deadly lies truth and goodness set aside,
Faith never stands alone, hope rolls away the stone,
Love makes your presence known, doors of promise open wide.

People of hope, be strong! Love is making all things new.
Lift our united song, show what faith can dream and do!
Come, Presence ever near, revive us, year by year.
Sing through our joy and fear, “Love is making all things new!”

The Dismissal

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Risen Lord.

THANKS BE TO GOD! HALLELUJAH!!

"Please don't forget to check your email and/or the website for the Midweek Update put out by Fr. Allen and others on Wednesday of each week. Please feel free to connect with him at any time during the week."