



AMDG
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
YEAR A
10TH MAY 2020



Ring out your joy to the Lord!

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God,
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us,
that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may,
under your protective care,
bear much fruit and come to the joy of life eternal.

This week's readings speak powerfully of faith, hope and trust in God. During the coming week and for the weeks ahead, God's word inspires, sustains and encourages us as we continue to live with the impacts of current events.

We learn how the early church devised a way to ensure the fair sharing of food and material necessities among all the faithful, so that the apostles could continue preaching and teaching about Jesus (*First Reading*). They accomplished this task with prayer, seeking wisdom from the Holy Spirit in their decision-making.

St Peter (*Second Reading*) speaks of the difficulties of living without faith, and rejoices that those who are believers can be close to Jesus and become a holy people living in the light of God.

We are reminded that our hope is in God who is faithful, who loves justice and right, and who seeks to rescue the people who hope in his love (*Psalms*). I am invited to remember God as the source of my hope in difficulty, and to offer praise and thanksgiving with joy.

The *Gospel* is part of Jesus's farewell to his disciples. Although he will leave them physically, he asks them not to be troubled, to trust in God. He invites us also to trust. We will not be left alone, but will know our Risen Lord as the Way, the Truth and the Life, and be enabled to live the way, truth and life of Jesus for others.

I may like to ponder how am I making my decisions during this difficult time? Perhaps I am called to try to spend some time each day with Jesus, growing closer to him and his values.

I ask Jesus for the grace to live this week in hope, trust and joy.

SECOND READING 1 PETER 2: 4–9

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion a precious cornerstone that I have chosen, and those who rest their trust on it will not be disappointed. That means that for you who are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers, the stone rejected by the builders has proved to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a rock to bring men down. They stumble over it because they do not believe in the word; it was the fate in store for them.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

It can be helpful to come to my place of prayer and allow myself time to settle, to find some stillness. If I have been busy or preoccupied, this may take a while; I take as long as is needed. I may like to begin by making a slow sign of the cross, and asking the Holy Spirit to help me to pray.

Slowly I read the words of Peter concerning our Christian faith and hope, pausing when a word or phrase resonates with me, speaking with the Lord about what is in my mind and heart.

When I am ready, I continue reading, pausing again when moved to do so, then reading again ...

Peter assures us that those who place their trust in Jesus will not be disappointed.

Are there ways in which I need to grow in trust at this time?

I share with Jesus, asking him to help me.

What is it like to be one of God's living stones, part of God's chosen race, holy priesthood, consecrated nation and people set apart to sing praise?

Maybe I have a sense of wonder, gratitude, challenge ... or?

I ponder.

Perhaps I end my prayer recalling the blessings of today or this week, giving praise to God for his faithfulness, thanking him for joy in my Risen Lord.

I may like to use the old Opening Prayer on the back page.

GOSPEL JOHN 14: 1–12

Jesus said to his disciples; ‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God still, and trust in me. There are many rooms in my Father’s house; if there were not, I should have told you. I am now going to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you with me; so that where I am you may be too. You know the way to the place where I am going.’

Thomas said, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?’ Jesus said, ‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No-one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.’

Philip said, ‘Lord, let us see the Father and then we shall be satisfied.’ ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip,’ said Jesus to him, ‘and you still do not know me? To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so how can you say, “Let us see the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak as from myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing this work. You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe it on evidence of this work, if for no other reason. I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself; will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father.’

As I come to pray with this Gospel text, Jesus says to me, as to the disciples, ‘Do not let your heart be troubled – trust in me’.

I notice how I am feeling.

Do I, like the disciples, come with a troubled heart, anxious about current events, concerned for family and friends?

I take time to become still, at peace in God’s presence.

After a time, I read the rest of the text slowly.

Perhaps, like Thomas and Philip, I have questions?

What do I want to say to Jesus?

I look again at the text; where am I most drawn to ponder at this point in my life? I speak to Jesus, remembering his words, ‘Trust in God now, and trust in me’.

I end my prayer slowly, asking for what ever grace I need.

Here's a text if you've only got a minute ...

For the word of the Lord is faithful,
and all his works to be trusted.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

Psalm

Jesus said, 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father.' *Gospel*

Let us pray with the freedom of sons and daughters of God.
Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
you have revealed to the nations your saving power
and filled all ages with the words of a new song.
Hear the echo of this hymn:
Give us voice to sing your praise
throughout this Easter season.

Old Opening Prayer

Acts 6: 1–7; Psalm 32 (33); 1 Peter 2: 4–9; John 14: 1–12



Jesus said, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.'



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