

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

He has brought us out of darkness.

He has made us light to the world.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Prayer of Confession

O Jesus Christ, risen and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength,
and not by the power of your resurrection.

Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes,
as faithless and not believing.

Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

We have lived for this world alone,
and doubted our home in heaven.

Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.

The Absolution

May the God of love and power
forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer

We praise you and we bless you,
our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for in you our God reveals the awesome power of love
that is stronger even than death.

As in your dying you destroyed death,
so in your rising may we be raised above
the trials and torments of this world's woe.

To you, Lord Jesus,
the fullness of your life revealed in an empty tomb,
be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Psalm 22:25-31

- 25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation; ♦
I will fulfil my vows in the presence of those that fear you.
- 26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; ♦
those who seek the LORD shall praise him;
their hearts shall live for ever:
- 27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD, ♦
and all the families of the nations shall bow down before him.
- 28 For the kingdom is the LORD'S ♦
and he rules over the nations.
- 29 How can those who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; ♦
or those who go down to the dust kneel before him?
- 30 He has saved my life for himself; my descendants will serve him; ♦
this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.
- 31 They shall come and make known his salvation, to a people yet unborn: ♦
declaring that he, the Lord has done it!

**Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

The Bible readings for the Fifth Sunday of EASTER

- Acts 8:26-40 – *Philip's insights into the suffering servant of Isaiah 53, opens the eyes of the Ethiopian Official and he is baptised at the roadside.*
- 1 John 4:7-21 – *God first loved us and in response we love God, and through him one another, so that his love is made complete in us.*
- John 15:1-8 – *Jesus is the true vine and the source of all life.*

A few moments of quiet for thought, thanksgiving & reflection.

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. *(1 John 4:10-11)*

Let us declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Jesus Christ died for our sins
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried;
he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles:**

**this we have received,
and this we believe,
to the glory of God:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Prayers

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for as you were sent by the Father, so you send us.

Guide and direct your Church at this time and we pray for...

Equip your Church with the gifts to fulfil our calling
that we may love as you loved, serve as you served,
and willingly follow wherever you lead.

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for your resurrection overturns our expectations of life
and even your closest friends could not see truth before them.

As the angel helped them to grasp your triumph and overcome their fear,
so help us to see your hand at work through the events that overtake us...

To you, Lord Jesus, whose ways astonish beyond our imagining,
so renew and refresh your turbulent world in the places of conflict and oppression.

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for you are with us, even when our eyes are closed to your companionship.

Walk this day alongside the disconsolate, the despairing, and those without hope,
And we pray for all those suffering, whom we are concerned for...

open their eyes to your gentle illumination,
and may they know your healing love and power at work within them.

We praise you and we bless you, our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for your resurrection is a revelation to the whole world.

Draw close to all those who mourn the loss of loved ones...

Risen Lord Jesus, may the eternal hope of your resurrection
bring comfort, peace and faith to those who bear the pain of grief.

We praise you and we bless you,
our risen Lord Jesus, King of glory,
for your single-minded commitment to your Father's will.

May we be free from distractions of envy or self,
that we might walk the way of the cross
and know the power of your risen life.

To you, Lord Jesus,
treading boldly on the path of suffering,
be honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Collect for the Fifth Sunday of EASTER

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires, so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect; through Jesus Christ our risen Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *(or traditional form, if you prefer)*

**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.
Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Final Prayer

Eternal God, whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life: grant us to walk in his way, to rejoice in his truth, and to share his risen life; who is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Blessing

God the Father,
by whose glory Jesus Christ was raised from the dead,
strengthen us to walk with him in his risen life;
and the peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God
and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, now and always. **Amen.**

We are raised to new life with Christ.
Go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.