

Traditional Home service Sunday 24th May Easter 7

OPENING PRAYER

O God the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: we beseech you, leave us not comfortless, but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.
Renew a right spirit within us
and restore to us the joy of your
salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PRAISE

Let everything be said and done in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Jesus Christ. Sing psalms, hymns and sacred songs:
Let us sing to God with thankful hearts.
Open our lips, Lord:
and we shall praise your name.

HYMN 1 (*see page 2*)

READINGS - Acts 1:6-14
- 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

TALK (*see page 3*)

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Spend some time praying for our nation, our community and our families.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

HYMN 2 (*see page 2*)

CONCLUSION

God, who through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ has given us the victory, give you joy and peace in your faith; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father Son and Holy Spirit be among us and remain with us always.
Amen.

HYMNS TO USE

645 St Francis of Assisi.
Tr. William Henry Draper.

ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING,

Lift up your voice and with us sing:
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
Thou burning sun with golden
beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam:

*O praise Him, O praise Him,
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!*

Thou rushing wind that art so
strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O praise Him, hallelujah!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice:

And all ye men of tender heart,
Forgiving others, take your part,
O sing ye, hallelujah!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,
Praise God and on Him cast your
care:

Let all things their Creator bless,
And worship Him in humbleness,
O praise Him, hallelujah!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the
Son,
And praise the Spirit, Three-in-One:

418 John Ernest Bode.

O JESUS, I HAVE PROMISED

To serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou forever near me,
My Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle

If Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If Thou wilt be my Guide.

O let me feel Thee near me;
The world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
The tempting sounds I hear;
My foes are ever near me,
Around me and within;
But Jesus, draw Thou nearer,
And shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear Thee speaking
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
To hasten, or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
Thou Guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised
To all who follow Thee
That where Thou art in glory
There shall Thy servants be;
And, Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow
My Master and my Friend.

O let me see Thy footmarks,
And in them plant mine own;
My hope to follow duly
Is in Thy strength alone.
O guide me, call me, draw me,
Uphold me to the end;
And then in heaven receive me,
My Saviour and my Friend.

Louise Morton's talk - 24th May

(1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11)

This passage is great passage, a great way of drawing close to Jesus.

I really like the letters of Peter and I'm fully up for them being written by him. he's helped in this one he says at the end, by a chap called Silvanus.

At the start of the letter, he is so excited and exuberant for the riches and hope we have through faith in Jesus and so honouring to those he is writing to, who are suffering persecution and terrible hardships.

I love verse 8 of Ch 1, I came across it years ago - 'Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy.

Peter saw Jesus, liked what he saw and followed him!

But he acknowledges beautifully and honours those who have not seen him but love him anyway!

A wonderful reminder - treasure of believing in Jesus!

Better crack on exploring the reading itself...

v6 - C.S. Lewis said something like - the way we come to God is by surrender, not because He requires it, but because that's the way it works (from Mere Christianity).

When we humble ourselves before God, and acknowledge He is mighty, we are doing the opposite of what Adam and Eve did in the garden of Eden, guided by the serpent. They decided they knew best!

Life goes best when we place ourselves humbly before God, when we surrender to Him, when we come under his kingship.

v7 - Popular for posters and fridge magnets - but part of the whole

Humbled - you can easily throw (cast is a strong word) all your anxiety.

This is not a suggestion! But the way to go about life.

Why? Because he cares for you.

That's why - He is safe to humble ourselves before, because He cares, He can be trusted.

v8 Peter knows the humbling, the casting - it requires discipline!

We need to do this, to keep alert, because we have an enemy. This is a battle.

To win the battle, our action isn't going directly against the enemy - its to humble ourselves before He who is so much greater.. and to be strict with ourselves about giving Him all our concerns and worries.. because He cares, because He can be trusted.

This is how we overcome!

E.g. In the natural... a few weeks ago Adrian mentioned the blessing of our new dog! Yes she is indeed a blessing. What he didn't mention that the young lady has issues! She is ridiculously reactive towards other dogs.. I mean ridiculously! I have scars! Our way forward has been some online training, the idea being she will cease to worry about the dogs because she is so full on enjoying being with me!

Put this back into the spiritual - the more full on we are with God, the less effect the roaring lion, the anxiety, the fear...

because we see who's bigger - who is more able.

I tell Bessie (our dog!) "I've got this, she doesn't need to worry."

The Lord says to us, He's got this - this is on him, its ok, we can trust Him.

v9 - Steadfast.. globally so ancient, yet so current!

v10 - Who would not want to be restored, supported, strengthened, established.

This letter is bursting with Good News!

Lets pray...