

**“THANKS BE TO GOD, WHO GIVES THE VICTORY
THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.”
1 CORINTHIANS 15:57**



Eugène Burnand | The Disciples Peter & John Running to the Empty Tomb | 1898 | Oil on Canvas

ENTERING INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

*God calls us out of the world and welcomes us into his presence.
Opening our hearts to him in love, we respond by confessing our sins,
receiving his forgiveness, and fully devoting our lives to him
in praise and adoration.*

*Congregational responses are indicated in **boldface**.*

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*A "collect" is a particular type of prayer that, in the context of a worship service, summarizes (or collects) all the parts of the worship service.

Think of it as a prayer that focuses on the theme of this particular service.

COLLECT* FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUMMARY OF THE LAW

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY

Lyra Davidica, 1708; Public Domain

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia

Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia

Who'd die 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

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia
Praise eternal as his love, Alleluia
Praise him all yet heavenly hosts, Alleluia
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
Let us pray.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, who through your only begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection, may, by your life-giving Spirit, be delivered from sin and raise from death; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

We encounter our Risen Lord in Scripture. As a people defined by God's Word, we respond to God through confession of faith, corporate prayer, and a demonstration of our reconciliation with one another in passing the peace of Christ

THE LESSONS

A reading from **EPHESIANS 1:1, 16-21**

¹Paul, An apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, to the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus...¹¹I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers,

¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power towards us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

*Our psalm is **PSALM 100:1-5**, and will be read responsively by whole verse.*

Psalm 100:1 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

2 Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

³ Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his, we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

⁵ For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures for ever, and his faithful ness to all generations.

JOHN 20:1–2, 11–18

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, Lord Christ

¹Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ...¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she stooped to look into the tomb. ¹²And she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. ¹³They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴Having said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned and said to him in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!”—and that he had said these things to her.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ

THE SERMON

*The Nicene Creed has been prayed and recited since AD 325. It is the most widely used encapsulation of the essential and unifying beliefs of Christianity.

THE NICENE CREED*

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only—begotten Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures: he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*“Catholic,” here means that every local church founded on the gospel is part of the one universal church founded by God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Since God first gathered a people to himself, a fundamental part of public worship has been that his people pray together. In the presence of God, we ask for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and salvation.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Let us pray for the Church and for the world, saying, "hear our prayer."**

For the peace of the whole world, and for the well being and unity of the people of God...Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

For Foley, our Archbishop, and Clark, our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people of our Diocese and Congregation...Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

For all those who proclaim the Gospel at home and abroad; and for all who teach and disciple others...Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

For our brothers and sisters in Christ who are persecuted for their faith...Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

For our nation, for those in authority, and for all in public service especially for our President...Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

For family members serving in the armed forces: Andrew, Steve, Keith, Ryan, Chris, Joshua, Katy, Adam, Alex, and Zach...Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

For medical personnel working to care for the sick and for those searching to find a cure to this disease; protect their health and bless their work that many may be restored...Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

For all those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity...Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

For all those who have departed this life in the certain hope of the resurrection, in thanksgiving let us pray...
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, grant these our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*When we confess our sins to God we are not groveling in guilt; we are dealing with our guilt. If we deny our sins, we will never get free of from them.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN*

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and apart from your grace, there is no health in us.

O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare all those who confess their faults. Restore all those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to all people in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may now live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of your holy Name. Amen.

*Only God can forgive sins. In announcing God's forgiveness, we are declaring the miraculous work of God to restore and unite us both to himself and one another.
(See 1 John 1:4-10).

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins,

confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COMFORTABLE WORDS

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

*Matthew 11:28

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

*John 3:16

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, what whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

*1 Timothy 1:15

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.*

CELEBRATING THE LORD'S SUPPER

God welcomes his people to feast with him at his table. This meal, a means of grace for us, is a rehearsal of the central act of the Christian Faith: Christ's death on the cross, offering himself as a sacrifice for our sins; his body broken, his blood shed.

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 to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

*"Paschal" is a late Middle English word which stems from the Hebrew word, "Pesha," meaning "Passover." Thus, "Paschal Lamb" refers to the lamb sacrificed for Passover.

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal* Lamb, who was offered for us, and has taken away the sin of the world; who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

***Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord: God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord: God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory***

*Hosanna is a Hebrew word that carries a twofold meaning: to praise Jesus as the Son of God sent to save us and to cry out to Jesus for that salvation.

***Hosanna!* Hosanna in the highest
Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest***

***Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord: God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory***

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had sinned against you and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent your only Son Jesus Christ into the world for our salvation.

By the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary he became flesh and dwell among us. In obedience to your will, he stretched out his arms upon the Cross and offered himself once for all, that by his suffering and death we might be saved.

By his resurrection he broke the bonds of death, trampling Hell and Satan under his feet.

As our great high priest, he ascended to your right hand in glory, the we might come with confidence before the throne of grace.

On the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my Body, which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the forgiveness of sins: Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Word and Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Sanctify us also, that we may worthily received this holy Sacrament, and be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us and we in him.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us with all your saints into the joy of your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord face to face.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. Amen.

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

***Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.***

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

HOLY COMMUNION

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray

Heavenly Father, we thank you for feeding us with the food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal Kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

*More than 3,500 years ago God instructed the priests of Israel to bless his people (Number 6:22-27). The result is that God will put his name upon the people, and he will bless them.

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 our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

HE IS RISEN

Words by Cecil Frances Alexander (1846), Music by Joachim Neander (1650-1680); Public Domain

He is risen, He is risen!
Tell it out with joyful voice
He has burst his three day's prison
Let the whole wide earth rejoice
Death is conquered, we are free
Christ has won the victory

Come with high and holy hymning
Hail our Lord's triumphant day
Not one darksome cloud is dimming
Yonder glorious morning ray
Breaking o'er the purple east
Symbol of our Easter feast

He is risen! He is risen!
He hath opened heaven's gate
We are free from sin's dark prison
Risen to a holier state
And a brighter Easter beam
On our longing eyes shall stream

THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!