

**“CHRIST JESUS IS THE ONE WHO DIED—MORE THAN THAT, WHO WAS RAISED—WHO AT IS AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, WHO INDEED IS INTERCEDING FOR US.”  
ROMANS 8:34**



Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn | The Pilgrims at Emmaus | 1648 | Oil on canvas

# AGAPE MEAL LITURGY

*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.*

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

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

***The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!***

The Lord be with you.

***And with your spirit.***

Let us pray.

## COLLECT OF THE DAY\*

\*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.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ went about doing good, and healing all manner of sickness and disease among the people: Continue in our hospitals and research centers his gracious work among us especially those ministering to people affected by the novel coronavirus; console and heal the sick; grant to the researchers, physicians, nurses, and assisting staff

wisdom and skill, diligence and patience; prosper their work, O Lord, and send down your blessing upon all who serve the suffering; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY**

Lyra Davidica; Public Domain

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia  
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia  
Who did 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 ye heavenly host, Alleluia  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost Alleluia

## **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*

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## **THE LESSONS**

*A reading from* **EPHESIANS 4:17-24**

<sup>17</sup>Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. <sup>18</sup>They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. <sup>19</sup>They have become callous and having given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

<sup>20</sup>But that is not the way you learned Christ!—<sup>21</sup>assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, <sup>22</sup>to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, <sup>23</sup>and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, <sup>24</sup>and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

*Here ends the reading.*

*Our psalm is **PSALM 19:1-10**, and will be read responsively by whole verse.*

Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

<sup>2</sup> ***Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.***

<sup>3</sup> There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.

<sup>4</sup> ***Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tent for the sun,***

<sup>5</sup> which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

<sup>6</sup> ***Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.***

<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;.

<sup>8</sup> ***the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;***

<sup>9</sup> the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup> ***More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.***

*A reading from* **JOHN 8:12-19**

<sup>12</sup> Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” <sup>13</sup> So the Pharisees said to him, “You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true.” <sup>14</sup> Jesus answered, “Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. <sup>15</sup> You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. <sup>16</sup> Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. <sup>17</sup> In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true. <sup>18</sup> I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.” <sup>19</sup> They said to him therefore, “Where is your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”

*Here ends the reading.*

## **THE SERMON**

### **THE APOSTLES' CREED\***

***I believe in God, the Father almighty  
creator of heaven and earth.***

***I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.***

***He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.***

***He 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,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.***

***He will come again to judge the living and the dead.***

\*The Apostles' Creed is a theological summary of Christian beliefs, which dates back to the 7th century. However, similar forms of this creed date back to the 3rd century. Today this creed serves as an ecumenical symbol of faith.

\*"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.

***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.***

## **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 hubby 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 you 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 1:4-7).

## THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS\*

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. Amen.

## AGAPE MEAL BLESSING

*God welcomes his people to feast with him at his table. The Agape Meal, while not the same as Eucharist, is a shared experience designed to highlight our connectedness as a body. With roots in early Church practice, this meal is intended to strengthen the fellowship and love among Christ's followers. In this time of physical separation, the agape meal is a great way for us to be one in the Spirit.*

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Blessed are you, O Lord God, King of the Universe, for you give us food and drink to sustain our lives and make our hearts glad; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Let us now share bread and wine and a time of silent prayer.*

## GENERAL THANKSGIVING

***Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives,***

***by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.***

## **MAN OF SORROWS**

Brooke Ligertwood, Matt Crocker; © 2012 Hillsong Publishing; CCLI# 11069486.

Man of sorrows, Lamb of God, by his own betrayed  
The sin of man and wrath of God, has been on Jesus laid  
Silent as he stood accused, beaten mocked and scorned  
Bowling to the Father's will, he took a crown of thorns

Oh that rugged cross, my salvation  
Where your love poured out over me  
Now my soul cries out Hallelujah  
Praise and honor unto thee

Sent of heaven God's own Son to purchase and redeem  
And reconcile the very ones who nailed him to that tree

Now my debt is paid, is paid in full  
By the precious blood that my Jesus spilled  
Now the curse of sin has no hold on me  
Whom the Son sets free, oh, is free indeed

See the stones is rolled away, behold, the empty tomb  
Hallelujah! God be praise! He's risen from the grave

## **THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL**

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the Cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

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. 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. (Phil. 4:7)

## **HAPPY DAY**

Ben Cantelon, Tim Hughes; © 2006 Thankyou Music; CCLI# 11069486.

The greatest day in history, death is beaten  
You have rescued me, sing it out, Jesus is alive  
The empty cross, the empty grave, life eternal  
You have won the day, shout it Jesus is alive, he's alive  
Oh happy day! Happy day! You washed my sins away  
Oh happy day! Happy day! I'll never be the same  
Forever I am changed

When I stand in that place, free at last meeting face to face  
I am yours and, Jesus, you are mine  
Endless joy, perfect peace, earthly pain finally will cease  
Celebrate, Jesus is alive, he's alive

Oh, what a glorious day, what a glorious way  
That you have saved me  
Oh, what a glorious day, what a glorious name

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