



## Noonday Prayer for Easter



### ABOUT THIS SERVICE

“Let us pray.”

Those words can be so embracing, so soothing. But there are times when they simply remind us that we don't have time to pray -- not the way we long to. We want to pray without ceasing, but we also want to repair that engine and train the puppy and plow the south 40 before sunset. Still, the call to prayer is strong. The call to pray throughout the day has sounded for centuries as a way to deepen our faith.

Daily Prayer for All Seasons, the Episcopal devotional prayer book from which these noonday prayers are taken, provides a holy — and wholly realistic — way to order our days, no matter how full they seem.

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Before service begins, find a quiet place in your home.

Take three long deep breaths,  
breathing in God's love  
breathing out your burdens and fears.

## Noonday Prayer for Monday

### OPENING SENTENCE AND PRAYER

Alleluia! O God, may the empty tomb  
**fill our hearts with faith. Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Jesus, our way, our truth, and our life: As the gift of this new day unfolds, open our hearts and minds to you, that we may see you clearly and follow where you lead; to you, risen Savior, we offer praise, now and always. **Amen.**

### A SONG OF PRAISE: *A Song of Our Adoption (Ephesians 1:3-10)*

Blessed are you, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
**for you have blessed us in Christ  
with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.**  
Before the world was made, you chose us to be yours in Christ,  
**that we should be holy and blameless before you.**

You destined us for adoption as your children through Jesus Christ,  
**according to the good pleasure of your will,**  
To the praise of your glorious grace,  
**that you have freely given us in the Beloved.**  
In you, we have redemption through the blood of Christ,  
**the forgiveness of our sins,**

According to the riches of your grace  
**which you have lavished upon us.**  
You have made known to us, in all wisdom and insight,  
**the mystery of your will,**

According to your good pleasure which you set forth in Christ,  
**as a plan for the fullness of time,**  
To gather together all things in Christ,  
**things in heaven and things on earth.**

### SCRIPTURE

The angel said to the women at the tomb, "I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said." *Matthew 28:6*

### MEDITATION: *The Trouble with Easter*

But ... I want the tomb full, like temple or tent —with the Holy enshrouded in fabric un-rent. Yes, I want death preserved in sweet-smelling spice; not my neighbor perspiring the aroma of Christ. *Julia McCray-Goldsmith*

*How will we together embrace the gift of life in all its fullness today?*

*A few moments of silence are held.*

## **MONDAY PRAYERS**

Loving God, in faith, we pray:

In the work we do this day,  
**May the risen Christ teach us.**  
In the challenges we face this day,  
**May the risen Christ guide us.**  
Through the people we meet this day,  
**May the risen Christ renew us.**  
As we respond to the hungers and hurts of this world,  
**May the Spirit of the risen Christ strengthen us.**

Let us now pray in silence in order to be still and know that He is God.

*The people may pray silently in their own hearts by saying "Lord, I give you thanks for these blessings..." and "I ask your help for..." Silence is held.*

Jesus, our friend and savior: Guide us in this new day, that we may know God's desire for us and gain strength and courage to live as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,  
Your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

**BLESSING:** *(If read by a lay person, the leader says, "us" in place of "you")*

May God, who has redeemed *you* and made *you* his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord bestow upon *you* the riches of his blessings. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon *you* and remain with *you* always. **Amen**

## **THE DISMISSAL**

God's Divine Spirit dwells in us.

**Thanks be to God**

## Noonday Prayer for Tuesday

### OPENING SENTENCE AND PRAYER

Alleluia! Risen Lord, come be with us,  
**and teach our hearts to live in you. Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Jesus, divine companion: As the day unfolds, give us strength to understand and eyes to see, as you teach us to walk the soft earth, related to all that lives. **Amen.**

### A SONG OF PRAISE: *A Song of Wisdom (Wisdom 10:15-19, 20b-21)*

Wisdom freed from a nation of oppressors  
**a holy people and a blameless race.**  
She entered the soul of a servant of the Lord,  
**withstood dread rulers with wonders and signs.**

To the saints she gave the reward of their labors,  
**and led them by a marvelous way;**  
She was their shelter by day  
**and a blaze of stars by night.**

She brought them across the Red Sea,  
**she led them through mighty waters;**  
But their enemies she swallowed in the waves  
**and spewed them out from the depths of the abyss.**

And then, Lord, the righteous sang hymns to your Name  
**and praised with one voice your protecting hand;**  
For Wisdom opened the mouths of the mute  
**and gave speech to the tongues of a new-born people.**

### SCRIPTURE

We have been buried with Christ by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. *Romans 6:4*

### MEDITATION

I asked my Lord, and he listened to me. *St. Scholastica*

*Where do we ask for God's wisdom today?*

*A few moments of silence are held.*

## **TUESDAY PRAYERS**

Loving God, in faith, we pray:

Risen Christ, open our hearts to your grace and truth.

**May we walk in newness of life.**

Teach us to love others in the power of the Spirit.

**May we walk in newness of life.**

Strengthen us as witnesses to your love.

**May we walk in newness of life.**

Let us now pray in silence in order to be still and know that He is God.

*The people may pray silently in their own hearts by saying "Lord, I give you thanks for these blessings..." and "I ask your help for..." Silence is held.*

God our Deliverer, by water and the Holy Spirit we have been buried with Christ and raised to the new life of grace: Give us inquiring and discerning hearts, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen**

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,  
Your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

**BLESSING:** *(If read by a lay person, the leader says, "us" in place of "you")*

May God, who has redeemed *you* and made *you* his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord bestow upon *you* the riches of his blessings. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon *you* and remain with *you* always. **Amen**

## **THE DISMISSAL**

God's Divine Spirit dwells in us.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Noonday Prayer for Wednesday

### OPENING SENTENCE AND PRAYER

Alleluia! Risen Lord,  
**deepen our desire for you. Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us pray.

God of steadfast love: Turn our hearts to you, that we may once again delight in your goodness and rejoice in the good news of the risen Christ; in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

### SONG OF PRAISE: *Psalm 118:19-24*

Open for me the gates of righteousness;  
**I will enter them; I will offer thanks to the Lord.**  
“This is the gate of the Lord;  
**the righteous shall enter through it.”**

I will give thanks to you, for you answered me  
**and have become my salvation.**  
The same stone that the builders rejected  
**has become the chief cornerstone.**

This is the Lord’s doing,  
**and it is marvelous in our eyes.**  
On this day that the Lord has acted,  
**we will rejoice and be glad in it.**

### SCRIPTURE

Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. ...They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. *Mark 16:1, 3-4*

### MEDITATION

It is my deepest belief that only by giving our lives do we find life. *Cesar Chavez*

*What enables us to give our lives for others?*

*A few moments of silence are held.*

### WEDNESDAY PRAYERS

Loving God, in faith, we pray:

Lord Jesus, you rise triumphant over death and the grave:  
**Christ our life, save us.**  
Christ, the Lord of life, raise us to new life:  
**Christ our life, save us.**  
In a world where so many suffer because of hunger and injustice:  
**Christ our life, save us**

Let us now pray in silence in order to be still and know that He is God.

*The people may pray silently in their own hearts by saying "Lord, I give you thanks for these blessings..." and "I ask your help for..." Silence is held.*

Living God, long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever: Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. **Amen.**

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,  
Your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

**BLESSING:** *(If read by a lay person, the leader says, "us" in place of "you")*

May God, who has redeemed *you* and made *you* his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord bestow upon *you* the riches of his blessings. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon *you* and remain with *you* always. **Amen**

#### **THE DISMISSAL**

God's Divine Spirit dwells in us.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Noonday Prayer for Thursday

### OPENING SENTENCE AND PRAYER

Alleluia! Come to us, O risen Lord,  
**and enliven us with your eternal love. Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Loving God, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is alive in our world, our church and our hearts. Renew and strengthen us in the risen life we share in Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

### A SONG OF PRAISE: *A Song of Faith (1 Peter 1:3-4,18-21)*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
**by divine mercy we have a new birth into a living hope;**  
Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,  
**we have an inheritance that is imperishable in heaven.**

The ransom that was paid to free us  
**was not paid in silver or gold**  
But in the precious blood of Christ,  
**the Lamb without spot or stain.**

God raised Jesus from the dead and gave him glory  
**so that we might have faith and hope in God.**

### SCRIPTURE

Now, after he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went out and told those who had been with him, while they were mourning and weeping. *Mark 16:9-10*

### MEDITATION

For the garden is the only place there is, but you will not find it Until you have looked for it everywhere and found it nowhere that is not a desert. *W. H. Auden, from For the Time Being*

*Through what desert experiences have we found God's garden?*

*A few moments of silence are held.*

### THURSDAY PRAYERS

Loving God, in faith, we pray:

Merciful God, you have not abandoned us to the grave.

**Guide us with your steadfast love.**

In your presence there is fullness of joy.

**Guide us with your steadfast love.**



You send us into the world to tell the story of your divine mercy.

**Guide us with your steadfast love**

Let us now pray in silence in order to be still and know that He is God.

*The people may pray silently in their own hearts by saying "Lord, I give you thanks for these blessings..." and "I ask your help for..." Silence is held.*

Jesus, strong deliverer and our lover, as you sent Mary Magdalene to tell the good news of your resurrection, so fill and embolden us with your love that we may be your faithful witnesses in the world today. In your name we pray. **Amen**

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,  
Your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

**BLESSING:** *(If read by a lay person, the leader says, "us" in place of "you")*

May God, who has redeemed *you* and made *you* his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord bestow upon *you* the riches of his blessings. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon *you* and remain with *you* always. **Amen**

#### **THE DISMISSAL**

God's Divine Spirit dwells in us.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Noonday Prayer for Friday

### OPENING SENTENCE AND PRAYER

Alleluia! By death, Christ tramples death.  
**On those in the tombs, he bestows new life. Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us pray.

God of victory over death, your Son revealed himself again and again to convince his followers of his glorious resurrection: Grant that we may know his risen presence, in love obediently feed his sheep and care for the lambs of his flock, until we join the hosts of heaven in worshiping you and praising the one who is worthy of blessing and honor, glory and power, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### SONG OF PRAISE: *Psalm 113*

Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants of God;  
**praise the Name of the Most High.**  
Let God's Name be blest,  
**from this time forth for evermore.**

From the rising of the sun to its going down  
**let God's holy Name be praised.**  
God is high above all nations,  
**and God's glory above the heavens.**

Who is like our God, who sits enthroned on high,  
**but stoops to behold the heavens and the earth?**  
God takes up the weak out of the dust  
**and lifts up the poor from the ashes.**

To set them up on high,  
**with the rulers of the people.**  
God makes the woman of a childless house  
**to be a joyful mother of children.**

### SCRIPTURE

Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." *John 21:16*

### MEDITATION:

The future will be different if we make the present different. *Peter Maurin*

*How will we make the future different by caring for others now?*

*A few moments of silence are held.*

## **FRIDAY PRAYERS**

Loving God, in faith, we pray:

Jesus, in your life we receive life:

**Raise us to the new life of grace.**

You look with compassion on our human failings:

**Raise us to the new life of grace.**

We proclaim the hope of your resurrection

**as we offer you these prayers:**

You make us bearers of hope in a world of suffering and despair:

**Raise us to the new life of grace.**

Let us now pray in silence in order to be still and know that He is God.

*The people may pray silently in their own hearts by saying "Lord, I give you thanks for these blessings..." and "I ask your help for..." Silence is held.*

All shall be Amen and Alleluia. We shall rest and we shall see. We shall see and we shall know. We shall know and we shall love. We shall love and we shall praise. Behold our end, which is no end. **Amen.**

*(Saint Augustine)*

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,**

**Your kingdom come, your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

**BLESSING:** *(If read by a lay person, the leader says, "us" in place of "you")*

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## **THE DISMISSAL**

God's Divine Spirit dwells in us.

**Thanks be to God.**