

THE ORDER FOR
MORNING PRAYER (abbreviated)

On the
First Sunday after Easter,
called Low Sunday.

Where this is said privately, a layman or laywoman may take the parts marked "Minister", but the Absolution is said by a priest alone, and must be omitted in his absence. If you wish to abbreviate this for the sake of young children who are taking part, you may read just one of the psalms and lessons, omit the canticles, and read just one or two of the collects provided.

PREPARING IN PENITENCE.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 *St. John* i. 8, 9.

A General Confession (*said by all*).

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father; We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy 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 there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore thou those who are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

The Declaration of Absolution, or Remission of Sins

Said by the Priest alone, standing, the People still kneeling.

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live, hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins. He pardoneth and

absolveth all those who truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel.

Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Opening Versicles & Responses (*alternating*)

O Lord, open thou our lips.

Answer. And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

Answer. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Praise ye the Lord.

Answer. The Lord's Name be praised.

PRAISE OF GOD'S GLORY.

Venite, exultemus Domino (*said alternately*)

Antiphon. Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed :

O come let us adore him. Alleluia.

O COME, let us sing unto the LORD; *
let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving; *
and show ourselves glad in him with psalms.

For the LORD is a great God; *
and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are all the corners of the earth; *
and the strength of the hills is his also.

The sea is his, and he made it; *
and his hands prepared the dry land.

O come, let us worship and fall down, *
and kneel before the LORD our Maker.

For he is the Lord our God; *
and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth; *
and with righteousness to judge the world, and the people with his truth.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, *
world without end. Amen.

Antiphon. Alleluia. The Lord is risen indeed :
O come let us adore him. Alleluia.

Psalm 2. *Quare fremuerunt gentes?*

WHY do the heathen so furiously rage together?
* and why do the people imagine a vain thing?

2 The kings of the earth stand up, and the rulers take counsel together
* against the LORD, and against his Anointed:

3 Let us break their bonds asunder,
* and cast away their cords from us.

4 He that dwelleth in heaven shall laugh them to scorn:
* the Lord shall have them in derision.

5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath,
* and vex them in his sore displeasure:

6 Yet have I set my King
* upon my holy hill of Sion.

7 I will rehearse the decree;
* the LORD hath said unto me,
Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.

8 Desire of me, and I shall give thee the nations for thine inheritance,
* and the utmost parts of the earth for thy possession.

9 Thou shalt bruise them with a rod of iron,
* and break them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings;
* be instructed, ye that are judges of the earth.

11 Serve the LORD in fear,
* and rejoice unto him with reverence.

12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry,
and so ye perish from the right way,
if his wrath be kindled, yea but a little.

* Blessed are all they
that put their trust in him.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, *
world without end. Amen.

Psalm 3. *Domine, quid multiplicati?*

LORD, how are they increased that trouble me!
* many are they that rise against me.

2 Many one there be that say of my soul,
* There is no help for him in his God.

3 But thou, O LORD, art my defender;
* thou art my worship, and the lifter up of my head.

4 I did call upon the LORD with my voice,
* and he heard me out of his holy hill.

5 I laid me down and slept, and rose up again;
* for the LORD sustained me.

6 I will not be afraid for ten thousands of the people,
* that have set themselves against me round about.

7 Up, LORD, and help me, O my God,
* for thou smitest all mine enemies upon the cheekbone;
thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly.

8 Salvation belongeth unto the LORD;
* and thy blessing is upon thy people.

GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, *
world without end. Amen.

The First Lesson: Exodus 14:24-15:13, 17-19
The Deliverance of Israel at the Red Sea

In those days: it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, ²⁵ And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians. ²⁶ And the LORD said unto Moses, Stretch out thine hand over the sea, that the waters may come again upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots, and upon their horsemen. ²⁷ And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared; and the Egyptians fled against it; and the LORD overthrew the Egyptians in the midst of the sea. ²⁸ And the waters returned, and covered the chariots, and the horsemen, and all the host of Pharaoh that came into the sea after them; there remained not so much as one of them. ²⁹ But the children of Israel walked upon dry land in the midst of the sea; and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left. ³⁰ Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore. ³¹ And Israel saw that great work which the LORD did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the LORD, and believed the LORD, and his servant Moses.

15:1 Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying,

I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously:
the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

²The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation:
he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation;
my father's God, and I will exalt him.

³The LORD is a man of war:
the LORD is his name.

⁴Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea:

his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red sea.

⁵ The depths have covered them:
they sank into the bottom as a stone.

⁶ Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power:
thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

⁷ And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them
that rose up against thee:

thou sentest forth thy wrath,
which consumed them as stubble.

⁸ And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together,
the floods stood upright as an heap,
and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.

⁹ The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake,
I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them;
I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.

¹⁰ Thou didst blow with thy wind, the sea covered them:
they sank as lead in the mighty waters.

¹¹ Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods?
who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

¹² Thou stretchedst out thy right hand,
the earth swallowed them.

¹³ Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed:
thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation.

¹⁷ Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance,
in the place, O LORD, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in,
in the Sanctuary, O LORD, which thy hands have established.

¹⁸ The LORD shall reign for ever and ever.

¹⁹ For the horse of Pharaoh went in with his chariots and with his horsemen into the
sea, and the LORD brought again the waters of the sea upon them; but the children
of Israel went on dry land in the midst of the sea.

Canticle: Te Deum laudamus.

WE praise thee, O God; we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship thee, the Father everlasting.
To thee all Angels cry aloud; the Heavens, and all the Powers therein;
To thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry,
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty of thy glory.
The glorious company of the Apostles praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praise thee.
The noble army of Martyrs praise thee.
The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge thee;
The Father of an infinite Majesty;
Thine adorable, true and only Son;
Also the Holy Ghost the Comforter.

THOU art the King of Glory, O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.
When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man, thou didst humble thyself
to be born of a Virgin.
When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death, thou didst open the
Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.
Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father.
We believe that thou shalt come to be our Judge.
We therefore pray thee, help thy servants, whom thou hast redeemed
with thy precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with thy Saints, in glory everlasting.

OLORD, save thy people, and bless thine heritage.
Govern them and lift them up for ever.
Day by day we magnify thee;
And we worship thy Name ever, world without end.
Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
O Lord, have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.
O Lord, let thy mercy be upon us, as our trust is in thee.
O Lord, in thee have I trusted; let me never be confounded.

The Second lesson: The Gospel of St John 20:19-31
Christ appears to the disciples, and to Thomas.

At that time: the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. ²⁰ And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the LORD. ²¹ Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: ²³ Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained. ²⁴ But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the LORD. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. ²⁶ And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. ²⁷ Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. ²⁸ And Thomas answered and said unto him, My LORD and my God. ²⁹ Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. ³⁰ And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: ³¹ But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Benedictus. *St. Luke i. 68. (read by all, or alternating by verse)*

BLESSED be the Lord God of Israel; *
for he hath visited and redeemed his people;

And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us, *
in the house of his servant David;

As he spake by the mouth of his holy Prophets, *
which have been since the world began;

That we should be saved from our enemies, *
and from the hand of all that hate us.

To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers, *
and to remember his holy covenant;

To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham, *

that he would give us;

That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies *
might serve him without fear;

In holiness and righteousness before him, *
all the days of our life.

And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: *
for thou shalt go. before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;

To give knowledge of salvation unto his people *
for the remission of their sins,

Through the tender mercy of our God; *
whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us;

To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

GLORY be to the Father, and to the Son, *
and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, *
world without end. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR GOD'S GRACE.

The Apostles' Creed (said be all)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth:
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy
Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead,
and buried: He descended into hell; The third day he rose again from the dead: He
ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty:
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost: The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints:
The Forgiveness of sins: The Resurrection of the body: And the Life everlasting.
Amen.

Minister. The Lord be with you.

Answer. And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Minister. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Answer. Christ, have mercy upon us.

Minister. Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Lord's Prayer (said by all)

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 trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil. Amen.

Minister. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

Answer. And grant us thy salvation.

Minister. O Lord, save the State.

Answer. And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Minister. Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

Answer. And make thy chosen people joyful.

Minister. O Lord, save thy people.

Answer. And bless thine inheritance.

Minister. Give peace in our time, O Lord.

Answer. For it is thou, Lord, only, that makest us dwell in safety.

Minister. O God, make clean our hearts within us.

Answer. And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collect for the First Sunday after Easter

ALMIGHTY Father, who hast given thine only Son to die for our sins, and to rise again for our justification; Grant us so to put away the leaven of malice and wickedness, that we may always serve thee in pureness of living and truth; through the merits of the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

A Collect for Peace.

O God, who art the author of peace and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom; Defend us thy humble servants in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in thy defence, may not fear the power of any adversaries, through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Collect for Grace.

O Lord, our heavenly Father, Almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to the beginning of this day; Defend us in the same with thy mighty

power; and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings, being ordered by thy governance, may be righteous in thy sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer for all in Civil Authority.

ALMIGHTY God, whose kingdom is everlasting and power infinite; Have mercy upon this whole land; and so rule the hearts of thy servants **THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, *The Governor of this State***, and all others in authority, that they, knowing whose ministers they are, may above all things seek thy honour and glory; and that we and all the People, duly considering whose authority they bear, may faithfully and obediently honour them, according to thy blessed Word and ordinance; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth ever, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

A Prayer for the Clergy and People.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift; Send down upon our Bishops, and other Clergy, and upon the Congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace; and, that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honour of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

A Prayer for all Conditions of Men.

OGOD, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that thou wouldest be pleased to make thy ways known unto them, thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for thy holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to thy fatherly goodness all those who are any ways afflicted, or distressed, in mind, body, or estate; [**especially those for whom our prayers are desired;*] that it may please thee to comfort and relieve them, according to their several

** This may be said when any desire the prayers of the Congregation.*

necessities; giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

In Time of Great Sickness and Mortality.

O Most mighty and merciful God, in this time of grievous sickness, we flee unto thee for succour. Deliver us, we beseech thee, from our peril; give strength and skill to all those who minister to the sick; prosper the means made use of for their cure; and grant that, perceiving how frail and uncertain our life is, we may apply our hearts unto that heavenly wisdom which leadeth to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Trustfulness in a time of anxiety.

O Most loving Father, who willest us to give thanks for all things, to dread nothing but the loss of thee, and to cast all our care on thee, who carest for us; Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, and grant that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which thou hast manifested unto us in thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For the Faithful Departed

I bid your prayers for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed:

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord;
Answer. and let light perpetual shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. *Amen.*

The Sermon – Father Dunbar

A General Thanksgiving (*may be said by all*).

ALmighty God, Father of all mercies, we, thine unworthy servants, do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all men; We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for thine inestimable 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 beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful; and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our

Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

The Blessing (*said by the priest*)

Or (*when said privately*): A Prayer of St. Chrysostom & the Grace.

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests; Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. *Amen.* (2 Cor. xiii. 14.)

Come, ye faithful, Raise the strain of triumphant gladness;
God hath brought his Israel into joy from sadness;
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters,
Led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.

'Tis The Spring Of Souls Today; Christ Has Burst His Prison,
And From Three Days' Sleep In Death As A Sun Hath Risen;
All The Winter Of Our Sins, Long And Dark, Is Flying
From His Light, To Whom We Give Laud And Praise Undying.

Now The Queen Of Seasons, Bright With The Day Of Splendor,
With The Royal Feast Of Feasts, Comes Its Joy To Render;
Comes To Glad Jerusalem, Who With True Affection
Welcomes In Unwearied Strains Jesus' Resurrection.

Neither Might The Gates Of Death, Nor The Tomb's Dark Portal,
Nor The Watchers, Nor The Seal Hold Thee As A Mortal;
But Today Amidst The Twelve Thou Didst Stand, Bestowing
That Thy Peace Which Evermore Passeth Human Knowing.

"Alleluia!" Now We Cry To Our King Immortal,
Who, Triumphant, Burst The Bars Of The Tomb's Dark Portal;
"Alleluia!" With The Son, God The Father Praising,
"Alleluia!" Yet Again To The Spirit Raising. Amen

Hymn #94 St. John of Damascus, tr. J. M. Neale, 1853