

## A Prayer Service for Easter Day

Adapted for use over a village VHF/CB Radio or in homes

*Whoever will lead this service might consider asking other people to be prepared to lead some of the parts. Individuals could be assigned to the reading or to say some of the prayers.*

*When used by an individual it is acceptable to change 'we' to 'I' as necessary.*

*The service begins with the Easter Acclamation. Be sure to invite people to respond on the radio with the words printed below. Let all the world hear our Easter message of joy!!!*

Leader        Alleluia. Christ is risen.  
People        The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

*Allow time for individuals to respond over the radio.*

*The leader then says:*

Let us pray.

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 be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*The person assigned or the Leader reads the lesson, first saying:*

A reading from the Gospel of **John 20:1-18:**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So 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." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They 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." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" 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.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabi!” (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because 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.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

*The reader then says:*

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

*The Leader invites the village to offer prayers of thanksgiving and hope in the joy of the Risen Lord, first saying:*

Let us offer our prayers of thanksgiving and hope!

*Time is given for people to respond over the radio. Then the Leader invites other prayers saying:*

Let us offer prayers for the sick, those in need, and other concerns of our community.

*People name and share their prayers over the radio. When it seems that people have finished offering their prayers, the Leader or a person assigned reads this prayer:*

O God, whose abiding love and care reaches to the ends of the earth: We humbly beseech you graciously to behold and bless those whom we love who are absent from us. And we humbly beseech you also to be present in your Spirit and care for all of us who are in physical isolation. Defend us from all dangers of soul and body; and grant that we, drawing nearer to you, may be bound together by your love in the communion of your Holy Spirit, and in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The Leader or a person assigned then leads the community in the Lord’s Prayer, first saying:*

Let us gather all our prayers together in the prayer Jesus taught his disciples saying:

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.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

*Then is said the prayer for Spiritual Communion, the Leader first saying:*

While it is not possible for us to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion this day because of our physical isolation, we know that Holy Communion is being celebrated by our bishop, Mark Lattime, at St. Matthew's in Fairbanks. By our faith in Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we join with our Bishop and ask to receive the gifts of Holy Communion in our hearts.

Let us pray:

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church where the Holy Communion is now being celebrated, we desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; We proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. And since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our heart. Cleanse and strengthen us with your Grace, Lord Jesus; and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you and you in us in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

*The service ends with the Peace and a blessing*

<i>Leader</i>	The Peace of the Risen be with you all. Alleluia, alleluia!
<i>People</i>	And also with you. Alleluia, alleluia!

*The Leader or an Elder who has been assigned then says the blessing.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen. (2 Corinthians 13:14)*

Happy Easter to all from Bishop Mark!