

# Prayer at Home Fourth Sunday of Lent 2020

Sisters and brothers, this Sunday we gather in family groups, in small groups with neighbours and alone in our homes. In all instances God is with us and the Church is at prayer. This prayer resource is for you this Sunday.

This prayer form uses a Psalm, the Sunday Gospel and a Seder Table Blessing.

The Seder Table Blessing takes us back to the origin of the Eucharist and the Last Supper. This ancient rite of blessing is associated with table fellowship, the Passover, the Liberation of Israel, the celebration of Holy Thursday and Easter. For this you will need a small piece of bread for each person and a small glass of wine for each.

This is written to be adapted.

Fr. Joe

## Opening:

ALL: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Leader: Heavenly Father we turn to you.

All: We give you thanks for the night and ask you: bless this day.

Leader: Lord, open our lips.

All: Let our voices give you praise.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

## Opening Prayer

Lord, we gather in your presence,  
united with the Church throughout the world.  
We ask you to bless our prayer with your Holy Spirit.  
Open our ears to hear your voice in the scriptures.  
Open our hearts to those in need.  
We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

## A Morning Psalm.

*The psalm can be read together or with people taking a verse each.*

All: **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
beside restful waters he leads me;  
he refreshes my soul.

All: **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

He guides me in right paths  
for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk in the dark valley  
I fear no evil; for you are at my side  
With your rod and your staff  
that give me courage.

All: **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

You spread the table before me  
in the sight of my foes;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

All: **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

Only goodness and kindness follow me  
all the days of my life;  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
for years to come.

All: **The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

## Reading of the Gospel

*Read the following text at a usual rate and listen for the word or phrase that speaks to you.*

As Jesus passed by he saw a man blind from birth.  
He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva,  
and smeared the clay on his eyes,  
and said to him,  
“Go wash in the Pool of Siloam” — which means Sent —.  
So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

His neighbours and those who had seen him earlier as a beggar said,  
“Isn't this the one who used to sit and beg?”  
Some said, “It is, “  
but others said, “No, he just looks like him.”  
He said, “I am.”

They brought the one who was once blind to the Pharisees.  
Now Jesus had made clay and opened his eyes on a sabbath.  
So then the Pharisees also asked him how he was able to see.  
He said to them,  
“He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and now I can see.”  
So some of the Pharisees said,  
“This man is not from God,  
because he does not keep the sabbath.”  
But others said,

“How can a sinful man do such signs?”  
And there was a division among them.  
So they said to the blind man again,  
“What do you have to say about him,  
since he opened your eyes?”  
He said, “He is a prophet.”

They answered and said to him,  
“You were born totally in sin,  
and are you trying to teach us?”  
Then they threw him out.

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out,  
he found him and said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”  
He answered and said,  
“Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”  
Jesus said to him,  
“You have seen him, and  
the one speaking with you is he.”  
He said,  
“I do believe, Lord,” and he worshiped him.

### **Time for reflection:**

Did a word or phrase strike you? Why did it? Reflect on that word or phrase in silence.

Read the text again, slowly

Listen for a word or phrase and offer this to God in prayer.

*When you are ready continue.*

### **Seder Table Blessing**

*If you wish, follow the ancient Jewish tradition of the Table Seder.  
Place the bread and cups of wine on the table.*

*Blessing is said together:*

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the Universe.  
You have sanctified us by your commandments,  
You have given us an inheritance of life,  
You have given us an abundance of mercy.

Father, we thank you for your gift Christ to the world.  
Father, we see your presence in all of creation, and give you thanks.  
Father, we give you thanks for human life.  
Father, we thank you for the sanctification of human death.  
Father, we thank you for the salvation given us in Christ your Son

Blessed and holy God we remember all that Jesus did to save us:

his words of life,  
his life of faith,  
his death of love.

We give you thanks Eternal God that you have raised Jesus to life again as the eternal Christ.

Blessed and eternal God,  
may this bread of the earth and wine of the vine that we share,  
remind us of the Eucharist we cannot celebrate today.  
Let this ordinary bread and wine be a sign today of the bread and cup for which we long.

Amen

*Share the bread and cup*

### **Benedictus, The Song of Zechariah – Luke 1:68-79**

*The Benedictus can be prayed together or with people taking a verse each.*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;  
he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty saviour,  
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
To give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

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

## Prayers of Intercession

We pray for all those infected by the Coronavirus around the world, for those who care for them, for health specialists and authorities who are combatting the spread of infection, and for all who at this time are feeling anxious, especially for those with friends and family in the infected countries and here in New Zealand ... E te Ariki...(Lord hear us)

We pray for those who are searching for meaning: God will lead them to new insights and guide them with your wisdom. Enable them to find meaning and hope in the present situation. .... E te Ariki...(Lord hear us)

For those who are frail or suffering from illness: that they may have gentle caregivers to attend to them and know the comfort of God's love ... E te Ariki...(Lord hear us)

For those who have died: that they may rest in the loving presence of the Lord ... E te Ariki...(Lord hear us)

*Please add your own prayers*

## The Lord's Prayer

*Everyone prays this together*

Our Father, ...

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are your,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## Final prayer:

All:

O God, you enlighten all peoples of the earth.

Illuminate our hearts with your wisdom.

Guide us today to live in your love and to serve you in our sisters and brothers. Amen.

Leader: Let us bless the Lord

All: God is our help, now and for all time. Amen

Blessing

*As you say the blessing below make the sign of the Cross over yourself.*

All: Bless us merciful God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.