

# Prayers and Hymns for the Easter Season

Compiled by Jennifer Gregory Miller, 2011  
<http://familyfeastandferia.wordpress.com>

Bible texts from RSVCE.

## Prayers adapted from:

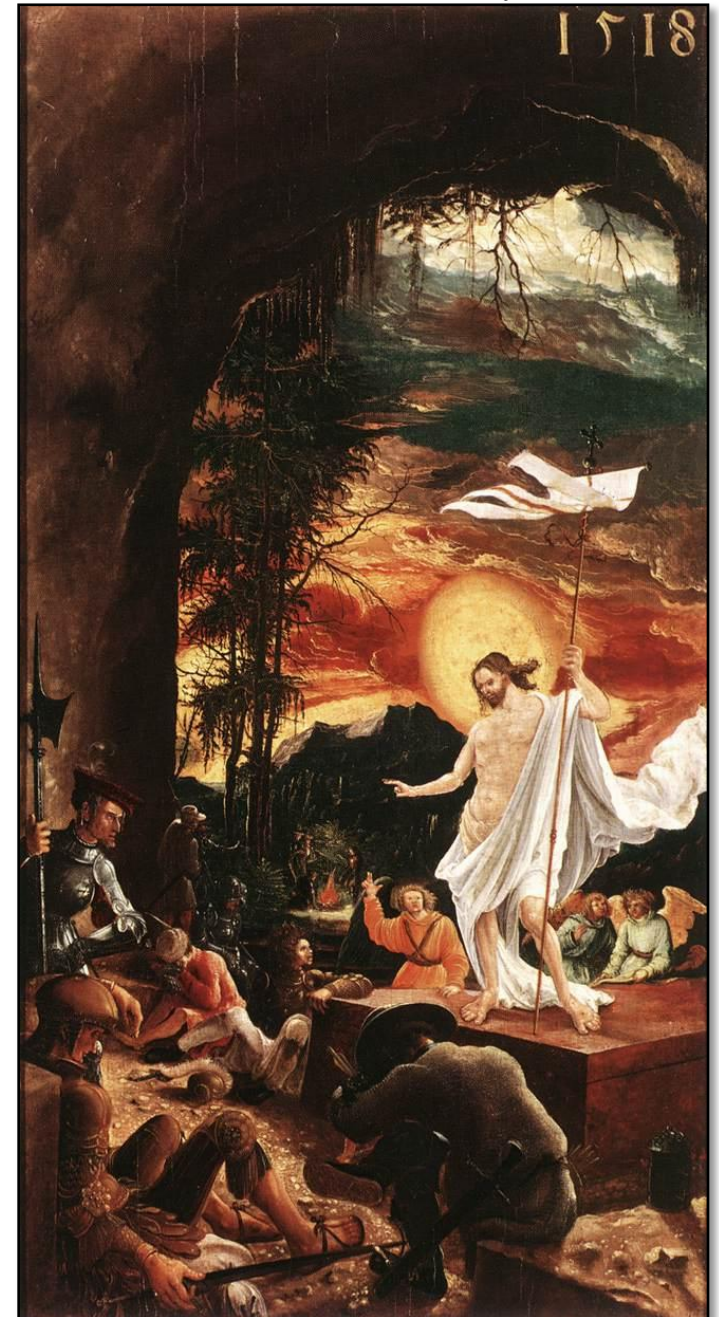
*Family Customs: Easter to Pentecost* by Helen McLoughlin, The Liturgical Press, 1956, 1977.

*Table Blessings: Mealtimes Prayers Throughout the Year* by Brother Victor-Antoine d'Avila-Latourrette, Ave Maria Press, 1994.

Liturgy of the Hours or Divine Office

The Sunday prayers are used for the whole week. Prayers can be used as mealtimes prayers or family prayers throughout the day. Omit sections in parentheses if not using for mealtimes.

Albrecht Altdorfer, *The Resurrection of Christ*, 1516-18





## Hymn: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

1. Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!  
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!  
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!
3. But the pains that He endured, Alleluia!  
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!  
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!  
Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!
4. Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!  
Praise Him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!

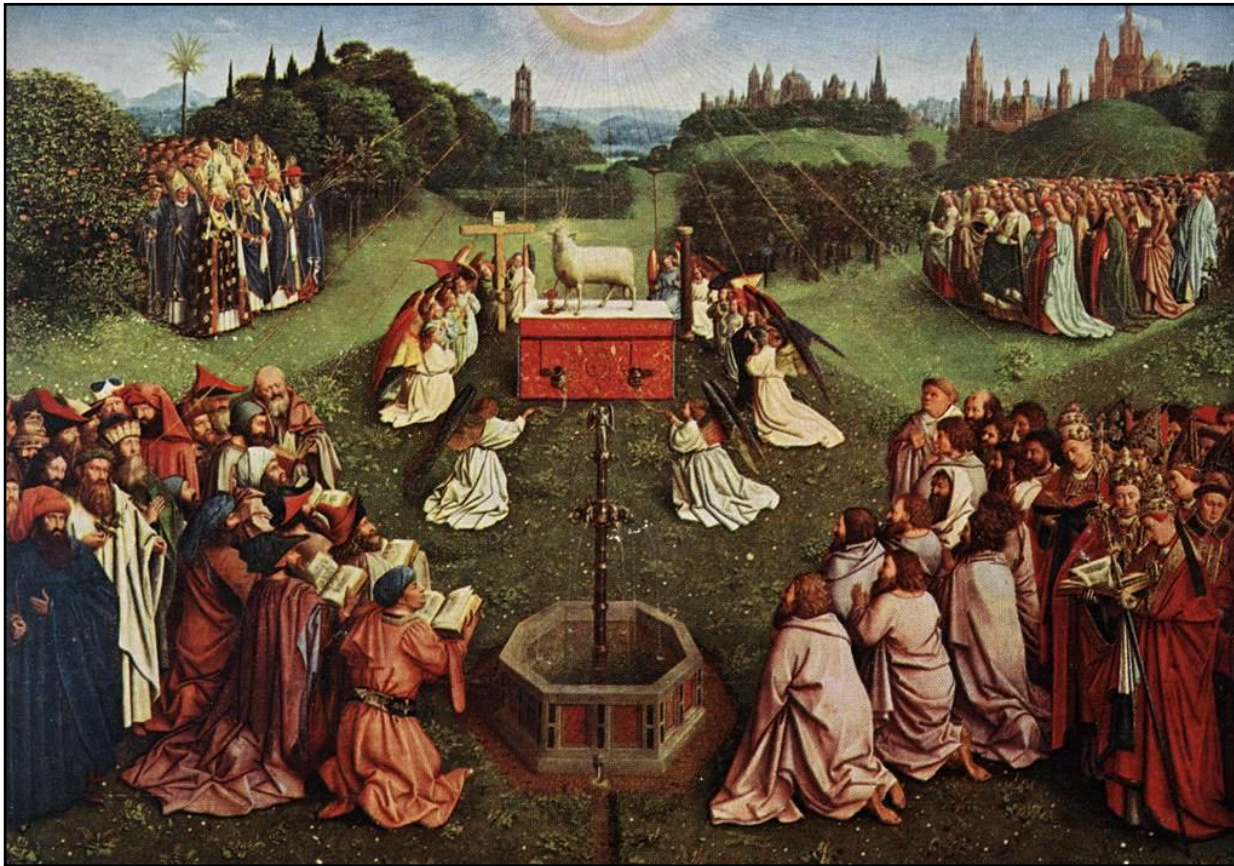
# Hymn: Ye Sons and Daughters

## (O Filii et Filiae)

1. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Ye sons and daughters of the Lord,  
The King of glory, King adored,  
This day Himself from death restored.  
Alleluia!
2. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
That Easter morn, at break of day,  
Went holy women on their way  
To see the tomb where Jesus lay. Alleluia!
3. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
And Magdalen and Salome  
And Mary, mother of James that day  
Came to anoint without delay, Alleluia!
4. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Of spices pure a precious store  
In their pure hands these women bore  
To anoint the sacred body o'er, Alleluia!
5. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
An angel clad in white they see.  
Who sat and spoke unto the three:  
"Your Lord has gone to Galilee." Alleluia!
6. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
The dear belov'd apostle John,  
Could faster than St. Peter run,  
Arriving first before the tomb. Alleluia!
7. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
That night th'Apostles met in fear;  
Amidst them came the Lord most dear,  
And said "My peace be on all here." Alleluia!
8. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
When Thomas, first the tidings heard,  
How they had seen the Risen Lord,  
He doubted the disciples' word. Alleluia!
9. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
"My pierced side, O Thomas, see.  
My hands, my feet, I show to thee;  
Not faithless, but believing be." Alleluia!
10. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
When Thomas saw that wounded side  
a truth no longer he denied  
"Thou art my Lord and God," he cried.  
Alleluia!
11. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
How blest are they who have not seen  
Their Lord and yet believe in Him!  
For they eternal life shall win. Alleluia!
12. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Now let us praise the Lord most high  
and strive His name to magnify  
on this great day, through earth and sky.  
Alleluia!

13. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Whose mercy ever runneth o'er  
Whom men and angel hosts adore  
To Him be glory evermore. Alleluia!
14. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
On this most holy day of days,  
To God your hearts and voices raise.  
In laud and jubilee and praise. Alleluia!





## Hymn: At the Lamb's High Feast

1. At the Lamb's high feast we sing  
Praise to our victorious King:  
Who has washed us in the tide  
Flowing from His pierced side;  
Praise we Him whose love divine  
Gives the guests His blood for wine,  
Gives His body for the feast,  
Love the Victim, Love the Priest.
2. Where the Paschal blood is poured,  
Death's dark angel sheathes his sword;  
Israel's hosts triumphant go  
Through the wave that drowns the foe.  
Christ, the Lamb Whose blood was shed,  
Paschal victim, Paschal bread!  
With sincerity and love  
Eat we Manna from above.
3. Mighty Victim from on high,  
Powers of hell beneath Thee lie;  
Death is broken in the fight  
Thou hast brought us life and light.  
Now Thy banner Thou dost wave,  
Conquering Satan and the grave.  
See the prince of darkness quelled;  
Heaven's bright gates are open held.
4. Paschal triumph, Paschal joy,  
Only sin can this destroy;  
From sin's death do those set free,  
Souls reborn, dear Lord, in thee.  
Hymns of glory, songs of praise,  
Father; unto thee we raise.  
Risen Lord, all praise to Thee,  
Ever with the Spirit be. Amen.

Dieric Bouts, the Elder, *Resurrection*, 1450-60



## Hymn: The Strife is O'er

1. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
The strife is o'er, the battle done,  
The victory of life is won;  
The song of triumph hath begun.  
Alleluia!
2. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
The powers of death have done their  
worst,  
But Christ their legions hath dispersed;  
Let shout of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!
3. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
The three sad days are quickly sped,  
He rises glorious from the dead:  
All glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!
4. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
He closed the yawning gates of hell,  
The bars from heav'n's high portals fell;  
Let hymns of praise His triumphs tell!  
Alleluia!
5. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Lord! By the stripes which wounded  
Thee,  
From death's dread sting Thy servants  
free,  
That we may live and sing to Thee.  
Alleluia!



## Regina Caeli

During the Easter season the **Regina Caeli** is prayed at the 12:00 and 6:00 times of the day, replacing the Angelus.

V. Queen of heaven, rejoice! Alleluia.  
**R. For He whom you did merit to bear, Alleluia.**

V. Has risen, as He said, Alleluia.  
**R. Pray for us to God, Alleluia.**

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, Alleluia.  
**R. For the Lord is truly risen, Alleluia.**

Let us pray.

O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant, we beseech you, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, his Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Regina Caeli (sung)

Regina caeli laetare, alleluia.  
Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia.  
Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia.  
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

*Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia!  
for he whom you were worthy to  
bear, alleluia!  
has risen as he said, alleluia!  
Pray for us to God, alleluia!*



## Octave of Easter

### Antiphon:

**Father:** This is the day the Lord has made, Alleluia.

**Family:** Let us rejoice and be glad in it, Alleluia.

### Family Prayers:

**Father:** Christ is risen, Alleluia.

**Family:** He is truly risen, Alleluia.

**Father:** The Lord is risen from the grave, Alleluia.

**Family:** Who hung upon the Cross for us, Alleluia.

**Father:** Blessed are you, Lord Jesus, Clothed in the splendor of your resurrection. You accepted death on the cross for our sake, and therefore, the power of God raised you on the third day. Grant us the grace to celebrate this Easter festival with the new bread of sincerity of truth.

(Bless our paschal meal as you once blessed the meal with your disciples, and be forever present as guest at our table until the day we join you in the paschal feast of heaven.)

**Family:** Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Father:** This is the day the Lord has made, Alleluia.

**Family:** Let us rejoice and be glad in it, Alleluia.

**Father:** To God the Father let us sing, to God the Son, our Risen King.

**Family:** And let us equally adore the Spirit, God forever more, Alleluia.

*The Incredulity of Saint Thomas, 1601-02, Caravaggio*



On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, *“Peace be with you.”* When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, *“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.”* And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, *“Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”*

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, *“We have seen the Lord.”* But he said to them, *“Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe.”*

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said, *“Peace be with you.”* Then he said to Thomas, *“Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing.”*

Thomas answered him, *“My Lord and my God!”* Jesus said to him, *“Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”* (John 20:19-31)

## **Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)**

### **Antiphon:**

Because you have seen me, Thomas, you have believed; blessed are they who have not seen me and yet believe, alleluia.

### **Family Prayers:**

**Family:** The Lord is truly risen, Alleluia.

**Father:** Blessed are you, Lord Jesus, Christ, the true Paschal Lamb, and the conqueror over death. After your resurrection, you wished to share joyfully with your apostles, a simple meal of bread and fish.

(Bless the food and drink at this table, and) make us partake in the joy your disciples felt when they discovered your presence in the breaking of the bread.

**Family:** Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Father:** Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and divinity and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.

**Family:** Alleluia.



*Supper at Emmaus, Caravaggio, 1601*



That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “*What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?*” And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” And he said to them, “*What things?*” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive.”

And he said, “*O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?*” And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He appeared to be going further, but they constrained him. So he went in to stay with them. When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened and they recognized him; and he vanished out of their sight. They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?” And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem; they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread. (Luke 24:13-35)

## Third Sunday of Easter

### Antiphon:

Jesus said to his disciples: Bring me some of the fish you have just caught. Simon Peter went aboard and hauled ashore the net, full of fish. Alleluia.

### Family Prayers:

**Father:** The disciples rejoiced, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Family:** When they saw the risen Lord, Alleluia.

**Father:** Praise and glory be given to You, God our Father, who gives us the joy to partake in the rising of Christ to new life. May the joy of our paschal celebration remain with us all the days of our lives, and be forever a sign of your loving presence among us.

(Bless our daily nourishment and all those present at this table, and make us always mindful of the needs of others.) We ask You through Christ our risen Lord.

**Family:** Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Philippe de Champaigne, *Good Shepherd*, 17<sup>th</sup> century



*“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber; but he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens; the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”* This figure Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So Jesus again said to them, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not heed them. I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”* (John 10:1-11)

## Fourth Sunday of Easter (Good Shepherd Sunday)

### Antiphon:

My sheep will hear my voice. I, their Lord,  
know them. Alleluia

### Family Prayers:

**Father:** Alleluia. Risen is the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep and who deigned to die for His flock, Alleluia.

**Family:** Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Father:** Lord Jesus Christ, on the evening of your resurrection, with eyes of faith and love, your disciples recognized your presence during the breaking of bread. Increase the gift of faith in all of us. May it daily transform our lives, and allow us to discover you anew in our brothers and sisters in need. (Bless this meal and those who partakes of it, and) keep us always safe under the protection of your love.

**Family:** Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia.



*“Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way where I am going.”*

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “*I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also; henceforth you know him and have seen him.*”

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

### Antiphon:

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you, says the Lord, alleluia.

### Family Prayers:

**Father:** The Lord is truly risen, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Family:** He has appeared to Simon, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Father:** Blessed are you, God of our fathers and mothers, who makes us recall during this blessed season the rising of Christ to new life, the springtime of our redemption. By the power of His resurrection grant us true renewal of mind and body, that we may walk in the steps of the Gospel with renewed courage and strength.

(We thank You for this meal, which comes to us from Your hands. May Your blessing be upon it, and upon all those who share it with us.) We ask this in Jesus' name.

**Family:** Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Father:** I am the true vine, you are the branches! He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Family:** As the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you, Alleluia.



“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you.

“I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world will see me no more, but you will see me; because I live, you will live also. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me; and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” (John 14:15-21)

## Sixth Sunday of Easter

### Antiphon:

If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him. We will come to him and make our home with him, alleluia.

### Family Prayers:

**Father:** Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on us, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Family:** You have risen from the dead, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Father:** Eternal and merciful God, the yearly celebration of the paschal mystery renews our covenant of reconciliation with You. May this new rebirth we celebrate, through the power of the resurrection of Jesus, show its effects in the way we act and live.  
(Bless the food and drink at this table, and make us always mindful of the needs of the poor and hungry.) We ask this through Christ our risen Lord.

**Family:** Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Father:** Ask, and you shall receive that your joy may be full.

**Family:** For the Father Himself loves you because you have loved Me, and believed, Alleluia, Alleluia.



Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”* (Matthew 28:16-20)

## Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

### Antiphon:

O Victor King, Lord of power and might,  
today you have ascended in glory above the  
heavens. Do not leave me orphans, but send us  
the Father’s promised gift, the Spirit of truth,  
alleluia.

### Family Prayers:

**Father:** God ascends amid shouts of joy, Alleluia.

**Family:** The Lord, amid trumpet blasts, Alleluia.

**Father:** I am ascending to my Father and your Father, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Family:** To my God and your God, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Father:** O Lord, life-giving Christ, after fulfilling for us Your plan of redemption, from the Mount of Olives You ascended in glory, in the presence of Your disciples. You are now enthroned at the right hand of God, and from there You sent to us the Holy Spirit, to enlighten, strengthen, and save our souls.

Send Your blessing upon us (and upon this table today,) as You sent it upon Your disciples before Your departure, (and may this food strengthen us for Your service).

**Family:** Amen. Alleluia.



When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify thy Son that the Son may glorify thee, since thou hast given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom thou hast given him. And this is eternal life, that they know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. I glorified thee on earth, having accomplished the work which thou gavest me to do; and now, Father, glorify thou me in thy own presence with the glory which I had with thee before the world was made.

“I have manifested thy name to the men whom thou gavest me out of the world; thine they were, and thou gavest them to me, and they have kept thy word. Now they know that everything that thou hast given me is from thee; for I have given them the words which thou gavest me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from thee; and they have believed that thou didst send me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom thou hast given me, for they are thine; all mine are thine, and thine are mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to thee.” (John 14:15-21)

## Seventh Sunday of Easter

### Antiphon:

I will send you the Spirit of truth Who comes from the Father. When the Paraclete comes He will bear witness to Me. Alleluia.

### Family Prayers:

**Father:** The Holy Spirit is the Paraclete, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Family:** He will teach you all things, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Father:** Lord Jesus, Christ, our true God. You gloriously ascended into heaven, and gladdened the hearts of Your disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit. Send upon us also, Your life-giving Spirit, that He may heal us of our infirmities, confirm us in the faith, and console us in our affliction.

(Sanctify the food and drink at this table, multiply them in this room and throughout the world, and) bring us all one day to the banquet of eternal life.

**Family:** Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia.



When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?” (Acts 2:1-11)

## Pentecost Sunday

### Antiphon:

Today we celebrate the feast of Pentecost, alleluia; on this day the Holy Spirit appeared before the apostles in tongues of fire and gave them His spiritual gifts. He sent them out to preach to the whole world, and to proclaim that all who believe and are baptized shall be saved, alleluia.

### Family Prayers:

**Father:** The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Family:** He sustains all creation and knows every word that is spoken, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Father:** Let us pray. O God, on this day Thou didst teach the hearts of Thy faithful people by the light of Thy Holy Spirit; grant us by the same Spirit a right judgment in all things and ever to rejoice in His consolations. (Come, O Spirit of truth, and bless the food and drink at this table, and grant that we may be nourished abundantly with the ineffable gift of your presence.) Through Christ our Lord.

**Family:** Amen. Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Father:** Send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Family:** The Spirit of the Lord has filled the whole world, Alleluia.