

A Short Act of Worship for Sunday 16 May

In your resurrection, O Christ, let heaven and earth rejoice. Alleluia!

*Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise*

*Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.*

A pause for reflection ...

Like Mary at the empty tomb, we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence. Lord, have mercy.
Like the disciples behind locked doors, we are afraid to be seen as your followers. Christ, have mercy.
Like Thomas in the upper room, we are slow to believe. Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love and power forgive us and free us from our sins,
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit, and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

God's Word:

Jesus said, 'I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

(John 17: 6-19)

*Ascended Christ, who gained the glory that we sing,
anointed and ordained our prophet, priest, and king:
by many tongues the church displays your power and praise in all her songs.*

*You call us to belong within one body here;
in weakness we are strong and all your gifts we share:
in you alone we are complete and at your feet with joy bow down.*

*All strength is in your hand, all power to you is given;
all wisdom to command in earth and hell and heaven:
beyond all words creation sings the King of kings and Lord of lords.*

Our prayers:

Jesus, our exalted Lord, has been given all authority. Let us seek his intercession that our prayers may be perfected by his prayer. Jesus Christ, great high priest, living for ever to intercede for us, pray for the Church, your broken body in the world ...

Jesus Christ, King of righteousness, enthroned at the right hand of the majesty on high, pray for the world, and make it subject to your gentle rule ...

Jesus Christ, Son of Man, drawing humanity into the life of God, pray for your sisters and brothers in need, distress, or sorrow ...

Jesus, pioneer of our salvation, bringing us to glory through your death and resurrection, surround with your saints and angels those who have died trusting your promises ...

Jesus Christ, Lord over all things, ascended far above the heavens and filling the universe, pray for us who receive the gifts you give us for work in your service ...

Jesus Christ, keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at your feet; for you are alive and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A pause for silence prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name ...

(or)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name ...

Risen, ascended Lord, as we rejoice at your triumph, fill your Church on earth with power and compassion, that all who are estranged by sin may find forgiveness and know your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

God the Holy Spirit, who filled the disciples with the life of the risen Lord, empower us and fill us with Christ's peace, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

*In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.*

*In Christ shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find.
His service is the golden cord close-binding humankind.*

*Join hands, then, all the human race, whate'er your nation may be.
All children of the living God are surely kin to me.*

*In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north;
All Christly souls are one in him, throughout the whole wide earth.*

May the risen Christ grant us the joys of eternal life.
Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.