

PRAYER SERVICE

CHAPTER 6—The Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ: Source of Our Salvation

THEME

Reader One:

Dear Jesus, you have risen from the dead! The mission for which you were born, has been accomplished! Your identity is known in its fullness to those who believe in you! You are the Word Made Flesh, the Splendor of the Father! You are the God-Man, the Savior of the world!

Let us take some time to ponder this mystery today.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1–4a

Second Reader:

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

But now, thus says the LORD,

who created you, Jacob, and formed you, Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name: you are mine.

When you pass through waters, I will be with you;

through rivers, you shall not be swept away.

When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned,

nor will flames consume you.

For I, the LORD, am your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your savior.

I give Egypt as ransom for you,

Ethiopia and Seba - in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my eyes

and honored, and I love you.

The Word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 93:1–5

Reader Three:

Response: The Lord is King, robed with majesty.

The LORD is king, robed with majesty;

the LORD is robed, girded with might.

The world will surely stand in place,

never to be moved.

Response: The Lord is King, robed with majesty.

More powerful than the roar of many waters,

more powerful than the breakers of the sea,

powerful in the heavens is the LORD.

Response: The Lord is King, robed with majesty.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthian 15:17–19, 25

Reader Four:

A reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the Gospel, and not with the wisdom of human eloquence, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its meaning.

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written:

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the learning of the learned I will set aside.”

For, the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

GOSPEL: Luke 24:13–34

Reader Five:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, “What are you discussing as you walk along?” They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?” And he replied to them, “What sort of things?” They said to him, “The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty

in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him.

As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning [within us] while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

MEDITATION

Reader Six:

Jesus died and rose for us so that we might have life. He is the source of our nourishment. Let us be a source of strength, compassion and mercy to others in His name.

Let us find a way to feed the hungry this week by volunteering at a shelter or soup kitchen this week.

Let us give drink to the thirsty this week by collecting food and canned goods for a food pantry this week.

Let us clothe those who are in need of decent garments by organizing a clothing collection sponsored by our team or club.

Let us shelter the homeless by collecting toiletries for a needy family who has lost everything.

Let us visit the sick this week, especially those who are our family members or are elderly and homebound.

Let us remember those who are imprisoned by praying for them and collecting wholesome reading materials for them.

Let us mourn with those who have lost someone by praying for them and writing them a special note of care and concern, or offering to do them a favor like mowing their lawn or baby-sitting, or going food shopping for them.

Than you, Lord for giving us the grace to engage in these acts of mercy in which we can be your feet, your hands, your eyes, and be your resurrected presence to others.

We ask all of this in your name.

Response: Amen.

PETITIONS

Reader Seven

Response: Hear us, O Lord.

For all those who are struggling with their faith, that they might find faith, hope and love in the person of Jesus Christ, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Hear us, O Lord.

For those who are strong in their faith, that they may have a renewed sense of purpose and commitment in the Risen Lord, for this we pray to the Lord.

Response: Hear us, O Lord.

For our and its leaders that they may never doubt the glory of the Risen Lord and find ways to communicate that holy truth to their congregations, for this we pray to the Lord.

Response: Hear us, O Lord.

For those most in need, for those who are being persecuted for their religious faith, for those who are suffering in any way, may they experience the healing touch of the Risen Lord, for this we pray to the Lord.

Response: Hear us, O Lord.

We gather all these prayers and offer them to the Father, in the name of his Risen Son, Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Response: Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

Reader Eight:

Lord, you have created us to be with you. You have redeemed us through your Life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. Sometimes we doubt. Strengthen us when we doubt. Sometimes we fall. Help us up when we falter. Be our light and Salvation so that we may be your light and salt to others. We ask this in your name.

Response: Amen.