

Daily Prayer

Second Sunday of Easter,
The Year of Luke; Jubilee Year 2025



Readings: Acts 5:12-16; Revelation 1:9-13, 17-19; John 20:19-31

Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope

Source: [Jubilee Resource Pack for Parishes](#)

Jubilee years are a time of newness. They have been celebrated throughout the history of the Church, but their roots go back to the Old Testament, when the Israelites were commanded to celebrate a jubilee every 50 years...

Saint Mary of the Cross Mackillop used to say: 'We are but travellers here.' For the 2025 Jubilee Year, Pope Francis invites us to reflect on what it means to be pilgrims of hope: a people who are not only travellers here but walking in joyful anticipation of 'the heavenly goal to which we have been called' (SNC §25).

Pope Francis believes that, in today's world, hope suffers; that too many people have been robbed by cynicism and despair. During Jubilee 2025, he wants everyone to have 'an intense experience of the love of God that awakens in hearts the sure hope of salvation in Christ' (SNC §6). Only this hope—born from knowing that nothing can separate us from God's love (Rom 8:35-39)—can breathe life back into weary souls.

This hope is not optimism. It is not a forced positivity in the face of hardship and evil. It is a grace from God, a trust in the Lord's promises: that he is good, that he is merciful, and that we are journeying towards the one who says, 'Look, I am making everything new' (Rev 21:5).



For this reason, the most striking part of the logo for this jubilee is the cross: bending towards humanity and forming an anchor, it depicts the cross as something to cling to, especially in rough seas. It is a contemporary 'riff' on an old biblical image. The epistle to the Hebrews describes the hope we have in Christ as 'an anchor of the soul, as sure as it is firm' (6:19).

The cross is not a dead symbol from the past. It is a living sign of God's unfathomable love, and one that carries us together in pilgrimage towards heaven.

Preparations for Daily Prayer

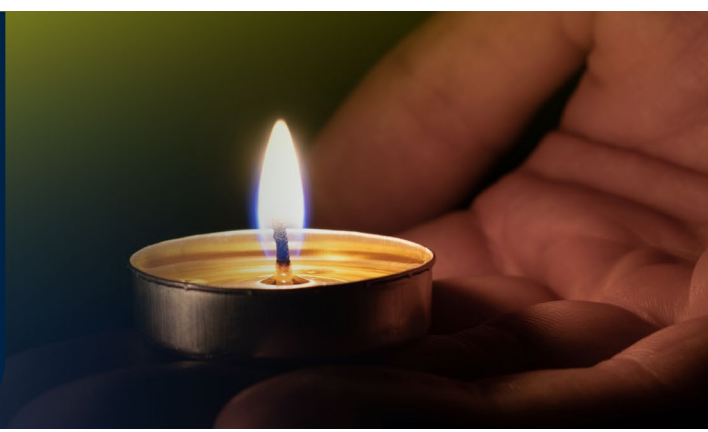
The following daily prayers can be used in their entirety or adapted to meet the needs of the audience. The prayers draw on the Sunday readings, so you may use any of the prayers on any day, although special focus will be given to Feast days, Solemnities, and days of special cultural significance. Feel free to adapt the prayers for special occasions or specific intentions of your own class and school.

The prayers will introduce students to traditional prayer and liturgical practices and responses, as well as a variety of Christian spiritual experiences. Take the opportunity to create a Sacred Space for prayer as you might do in creating a protected garden. This may include a prayer cloth or placemat, a bible, a crucifix, a candle, and flowers. Additional resources (apps, websites, music, videos) will be suggested for those wanting to enrich the prayers or to understand the readings at a deeper level.



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The Year of Luke

The Gospel readings for this Year C are taken from the Gospel of Luke and the Church has now entered the Season of Lent.

The Sunday Gospel for this week is Jesus is tempted in the desert.

Daily Prayer will invite those gathered to participate in prayer rituals and respond respectfully in a prayerful context. This week is about setting up for success in a way that those gathered will become comfortable with the structure, the responses, the gestures, the prayers and the symbols. Daily Prayer will be a time when all feel welcomed and valued.

Overview of the Week

Day and Liturgical Colour	Daily Prayer	Links to Liturgy, Traditional Prayers, and Forms of Prayer
Monday – White	<i>The Apostles work many signs</i>	First reading, meditation
Tuesday – White	<i>Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting</i>	Responsorial Psalm
Wednesday – White	<i>Peace be with you</i>	Gospel, imaginative prayer
Thursday – White	<i>Receive the Holy Spirit</i>	Gospel, reflection Saint Joseph the Worker Feast and International Workers Day
Friday – White	<i>Doubting Thomas</i>	Gospel and Prayers of the Faithful

Note that scripture quotations are from the Lectionary (*Jerusalem Bible*) or NRSV.

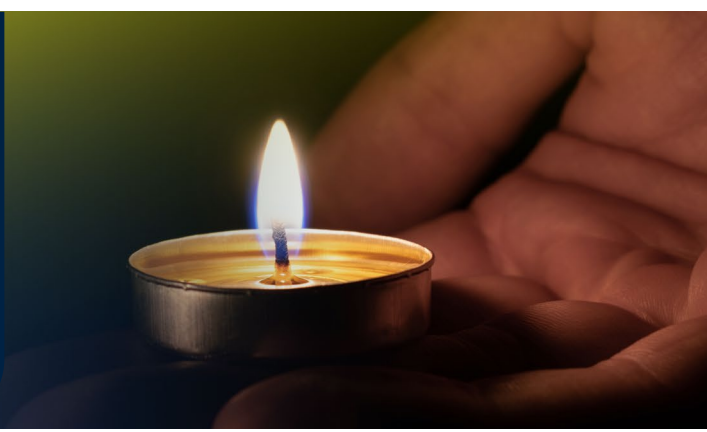
Suggested Teacher Background for the Readings

- Liturgy Help: [Commentaries and Homilies & Reflections](#)
- Loyola Press: [Sunday Connection](#)
- The Emmaus Series: [Sunday Reflections](#).



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Readings: Acts 5:12-16, Revelation 1:9-13, 17-19; John 20:19-31.

Monday

Today's Daily Prayer – The Apostles work many signs

Preparation: Choose a reader and someone to light the candle.

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of their breath. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

The Sign of the Cross

Leader:

As Easter people and people of prayer may this be a time for each of us to grow in our relationship with the Risen Christ. *(Pause. A candle may be lit)*

All: **May we know and recognise the light of Christ.**

Leader:

Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God ...
Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of each other ...
Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of ourselves ...
Let us take time to STOP and simply breathe ...
Be aware of our breath ...
Notice the pattern of our 'in' breath and our 'out' breath ...
Slow down our breathing as we remain in silence and stillness ...
(Pause 30 seconds)

Let us make the Sign of the Cross slowly and mindfully, being aware of the movement of our hands and the words that we are saying.

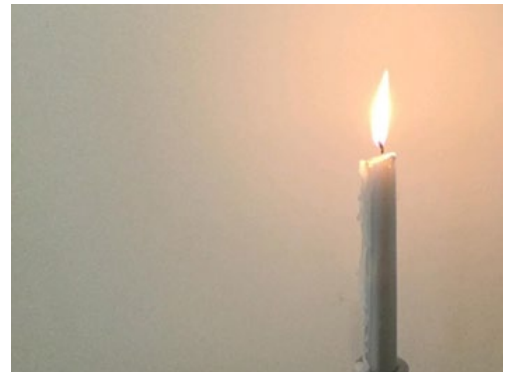


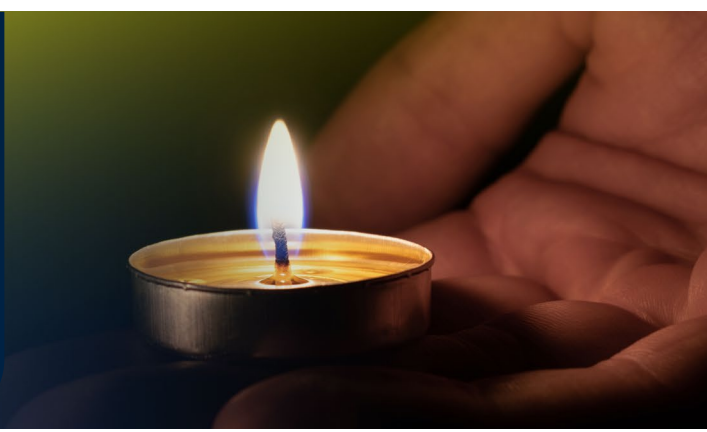
Photo: Margaret Connors

All: **In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen**



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Listen

If possible, the scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the Word of God and treat the text with reverence.

Leader: *Let us prepare to listen to the First Reading from Sunday. The Christian Church was very new and was starting to grow as more and more people came to believe in Jesus.*

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the Apostles. *(Pause)*

The faithful all used to meet by common consent in the Portico of Solomon. No one else ever dared to join them, but the people were loud in their praise and the numbers of men and women who came to believe in the Lord increased steadily. So many signs and wonders were worked among the people at the hands of the apostles that the sick were even taken out into the streets and laid on beds and sleeping mats in the hope that at least the shadow of Peter might fall across some of them as he went past. People even came crowding in from the towns round about Jerusalem, bringing with them their sick and those tormented by unclean spirits, and all of them were cured.

The Word of the Lord.

(Pause)

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Go Forth

Leader:

Gracious God, give us hearts of faith so we may come together and believe like the disciples of the early church. May our hearts be full of the hope and joy this Easter season promises and may we journey forward in peace.

Pope Francis tells us that “with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again.”

[Source](#)

Let us go forth this Easter sharing the light of hope and message of God’s love in all that we say and do.

All: God, guide us on our journey as ‘Pilgrims of Hope.’

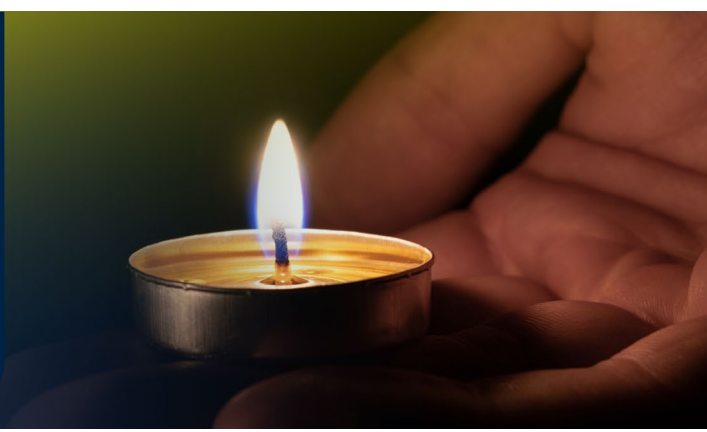
Extinguish candles and pause.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



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Tuesday

Today's Daily Prayer - Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting

Preparation: Choose a reader and someone to light the candle.

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of God present in the word, in each other and in ourselves. Take a few slow, deep breaths to help us focus on this moment. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

The Sign of the Cross

Leader: As Easter people, let us gather for prayer. *(Pause. A candle may be lit.)*

May we know and recognise the light of Christ.

Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God ...

Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of each other ...

Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of ourselves ...

Let us take time to STOP and simply breathe ...

Let us make the Sign of the Cross slowly and mindfully,
aware of the movement of our hands and the words that we are saying.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Listen

If possible, the scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the Word of God and treat the text with reverence.

Leader: Today we will pray with the Responsorial Psalm from the Second Sunday of Easter.

Reader: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

All: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting. (R)

Reader: Let the sons of Israel say: 'His love has no end.'
Let the sons of Aaron say: 'His love has no end.'
Let those who fear the Lord say: 'His love has no end.'

All: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Reader: The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.
This day was made by the Lord; we rejoice and are glad.

All: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.



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Reader: O Lord, grant us salvation; O Lord grant success.
Blessed in the name of the Lord is he who comes.
We bless you from the house of the Lord; the true God is our light.

All: Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.

Respond

Leader:
We are an Easter people, filled with the joy of the resurrection. Share with each other, something that gives you joy and for which you are thankful.

Go Forth (an Echo Blessing)

Leader: Let us pray for God's blessing.

May we be Easter people who know and follow Jesus. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Leader: May we be Easter people who listen and nourish ourselves and others. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Leader: May we be Easter people who experience and share JOY! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Pope Francis tells us that "with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again."

[Source](#)

Let us go forth from here sharing the JOY of the Easter message in all that we say and do.

All: God, guide us on our journey as 'Pilgrims of Hope.'

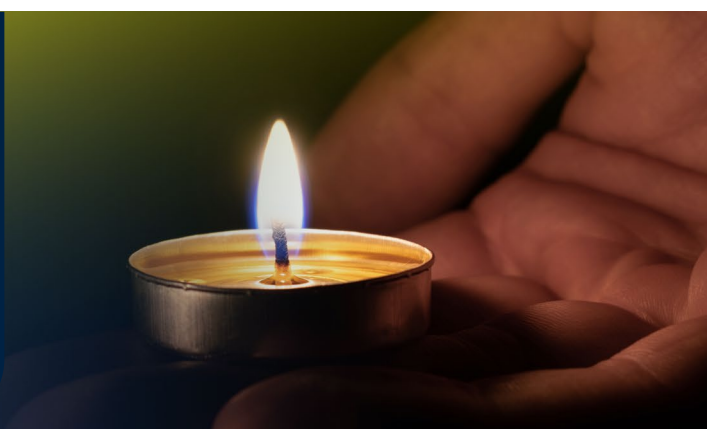
Extinguish candles and pause.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



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Wednesday

Today's Daily Prayer – Peace be with you.

Preparation: Choose a reader and someone to light a candle.

We Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of God present in the word, in each other and in ourselves. Take a few slow, deep breaths to help us to focus on this moment. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer.

The Sign of the Cross

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Light candle and pause.

If possible, read from a lectionary or Bible. When proclaiming the word of God, read slowly and clearly. The text should be treated with reverence and respect.

Background

Leader: Today we will listen to an excerpt from the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Easter. Let us prepare ourselves to listen to the word of God.

Listen

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

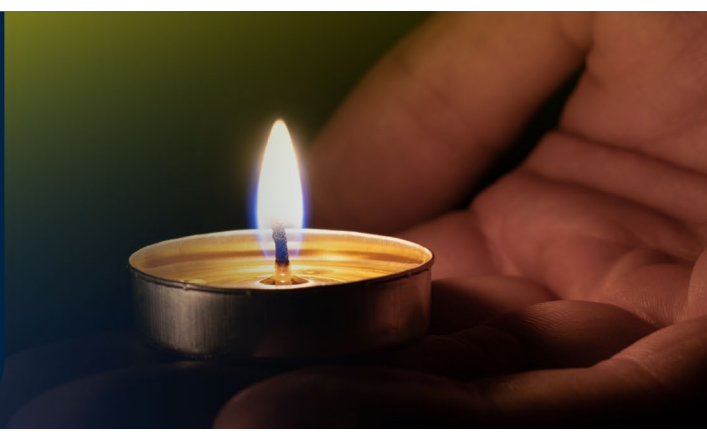
The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



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Respond

Ignatian imaginative prayer

Leader: Sit quietly in your chair, become aware of your breathing and the sounds in the room you are in and gently close your eyes. Imagine you have joined the people who have followed Jesus, and you are now entering into the closed room where the disciples are hiding. What do you notice about the room and the people in it?

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews

What do you see? What do you hear? What is the mood in the room?

Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side.

How do you feel when Jesus enters the room?

Focus on your breathing and consciously breathe in the peace of Jesus and breathe out your worries and fears.

He said to them again, 'Peace be with you'.

Sit with this peace Jesus is giving you- relax in this peace.

The disciples were filled with joy

Notice your feelings.

Spend a few minutes in quiet prayer, praying for peace to those people and situations you are aware of that need peace the most.

Go Forth

Leader:

Loving God may this Easter season bring us closer to you so we may share your love and peace with all those we meet.

Pope Francis tells us that "with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again."

[Source](#)

Let us go forth in the peace of Christ.

All: God, guide us on our journey as 'Pilgrims of Hope.'

Extinguish candles and pause.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



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Thursday

Today's Daily Prayer – Receive the Holy Spirit.

Preparation: Choose readers and someone to light the candle,

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of God present in the word, in each other and in ourselves. Take a few slow, deep breaths to help us to focus on this moment. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer. Sound a singing bowl, a bell, or a chime to begin.

The Sign of the Cross

Leader: As we gather together in God's presence, let us make the Sign of the Cross.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Light candle and pause.

Leader: As we light this candle let us open our hearts and minds to light of God shining through the gospel and the warmth of its message for our lives today.

Listen

If possible, the scripture passage is to be read from a lectionary or a bible, which could be put in an honoured place. Readers are to read slowly and clearly when proclaiming the word of God and treat the text with reverence.

Leader:

Today we will continue to focus on the Gospel from the Second Sunday of Easter.

Reader:

A reading from the Gospel of John.

'As the Father sent me,
so am I sending you.'
After saying this he breathed on them and said:
'Receive the Holy Spirit.
For those whose sins you forgive,
they are forgiven;
for those whose sins you retain,
they are retained.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

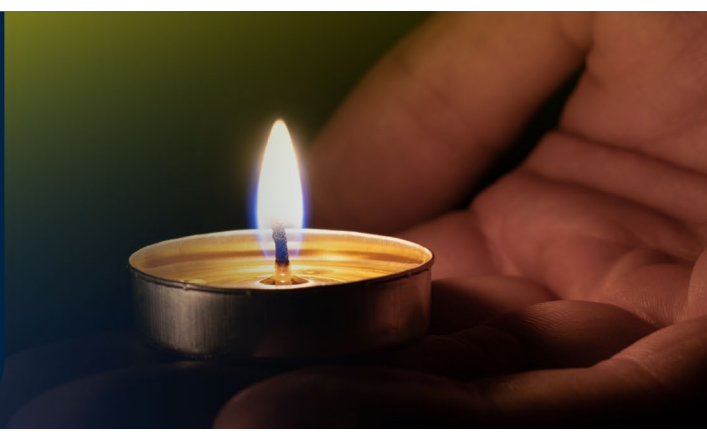
(Pause)

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



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Respond

Take a moment to sit with the words we have just listened to.

'Receive the Holy Spirit'.

Jesus gave the disciples the Holy Spirit.

Being aware of the Holy spirit present in your life changes everything.

Today is the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker. The earthly father of Jesus whose whole life changed because he listened to and followed the promptings of God. He is told in scripture that God spoke to Saint Joseph through his dreams- when he was quiet and still. Pope Francis refers to this as 'resting in the Lord'. We too can rest in the Lord and *'receive the Holy Spirit'*



<https://pixabay.com/photos/bird-dove-peace-animal-flying-7143567/>

Go Forth

Leader: Loving God, help us to be open and available to notice the gentle murmurings of Your Holy Spirit in our lives. Teach us to slow down and value the quiet moments and pace rather than being caught up in busy schedules and constant activity.

Pope Francis tells us that "with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again."

[Source](#)

Let us go forth today open to be more aware of the graces of each day.

All: God, guide us on our journey as 'Pilgrims of Hope.'

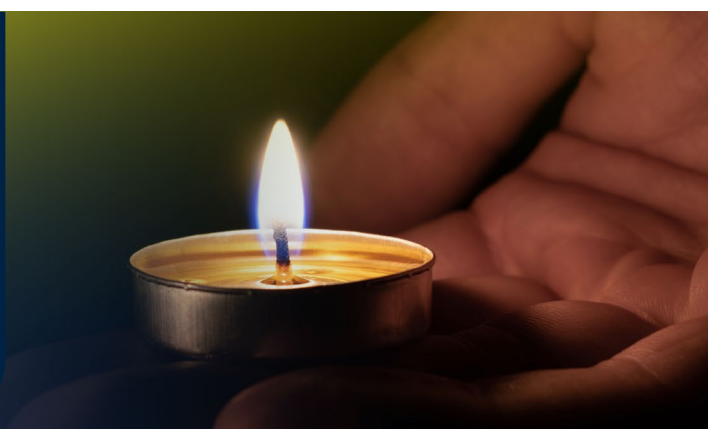
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All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



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Readings: Acts 5:12-16, Revelation 1:9-13, 17-19; John 20:19-31.

Friday

Today's Daily Prayer – Doubting Thomas.

Preparation: Choose readers and someone to light the candle.

Gather

Remind those present to turn phones to silent, close computer screens, sit quietly and prepare for prayer by becoming aware of God present in the word, in each other and in ourselves. Take a few slow, deep breaths to help us focus on this moment. There may be special occasions or specific intentions that those gathered may wish to include in today's prayer

Leader:

As Easter people, let us gather for prayer. *(Pause. A candle may be lit.)*

All: May we know and recognise the light of Christ.

Leader:

Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God ...

Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of each other ...

Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of ourselves ...

Let us take time to STOP and simply breathe ...
Be aware of our breath...

Notice the pattern of our 'in' breath and our 'out' breath...

Slow down our breathing as we remain in silence and stillness ... *(Pause 30 seconds)*

Let us make the Sign of the Cross slowly and mindfully, being aware of the movement of our hands and the words that we are saying.



<https://pixabay.com/en/praying-prayer-hands-application-614374/>

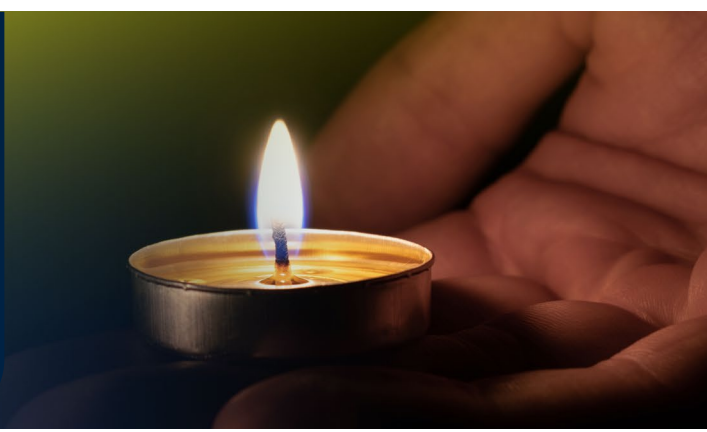
The Sign of the Cross

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



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Background

Leader:

The readings this week have focused on belief in the Risen Christ and how that affects how we live our lives. If we believe it should make a difference. Let us listen to the continuation of the Gospel from the Second Sunday of Easter and hear about Thomas the disciple and his belief.

Listen

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.'

Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him:

'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Respond

Leader:

Confident of Jesus' love, and strengthened by the Holy Spirit, we turn to God with our needs and the needs of the world.

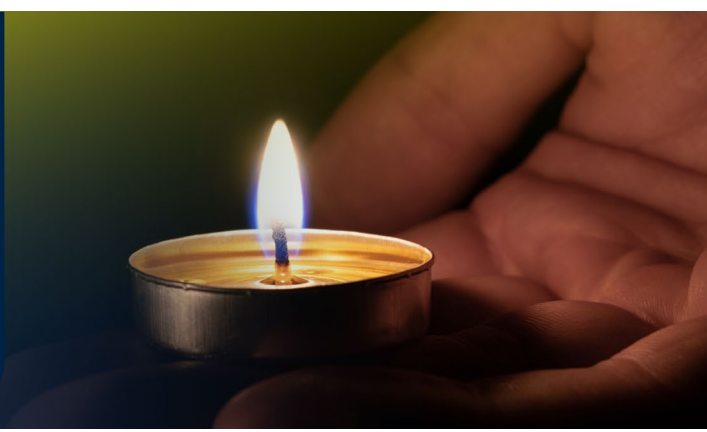
Reader: That the church will be a sign of Christ's presence. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.



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Reader: That the nations will put aside hatred and seek peace. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That those who have no faith will come to know the love of Jesus. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That our school will always place its trust in the risen Lord. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

(Pause)

Leader: Lord God, you sent your Holy Spirit to us. We ask you to hear our prayers through Jesus Christ. I promise to turn my life around. Amen.

All: Amen.

Go Forth

All: Loving God, help us to remember your promise to be with us always, to guide us in our lives and bring us closer to you. In this special time of Lent, strengthen us in times of trial, and help us to trust in you with all our hearts, so that we may continually rejoice in your blessings. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son, who is your promise of new life for us.

(Pause)

Leader: Let us pray for God's blessing.

May we be Easter people who believe in Jesus and follow him. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: Alleluia, Alleluia

Leader: May God's mercy fill us.

All: Amen.

Leader: Pope Francis tells us that "with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again." [Source](#)

Let us go forth from here strengthened in the love and peace of the Risen Lord.

All: God, guide us on our journey as 'Pilgrims of Hope.'

Extinguish candles and pause.

All: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

