

Daily Prayer

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



Readings: Acts 13: 14, 43–52; Psalm 99: 1–3, 5; Revelation 7: 9, 14–17; John 10: 27–30.

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...

St 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

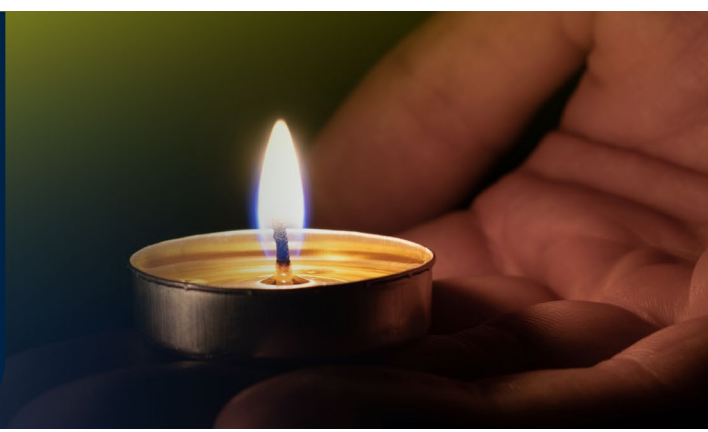
The following daily prayers can be used in their entirety or adapted to meet the needs of the audience. The prayers are drawn on the Sunday readings, so you may use any of the prayers on any day, although special focus will be given to Feast days, Solemnities, and days of special cultural significance. 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 Easter.

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>My sheep listen to my voice</i>	Gospel, lectio divina. World Day of Prayer for Vocations
Tuesday – White	<i>We are his people, the sheep of his flock</i>	Psalm, reflection
Wednesday – White	<i>Christ beside me</i>	Saint Patrick's Breastplate, reflection
Thursday – White	<i>Hunger and thirst no more</i>	First reading, Prayers of the Faithful Our Lady of Fatima
Friday – White	<i>Alleluia, Alleluia!</i>	Gospel acclamation, sign of peace

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

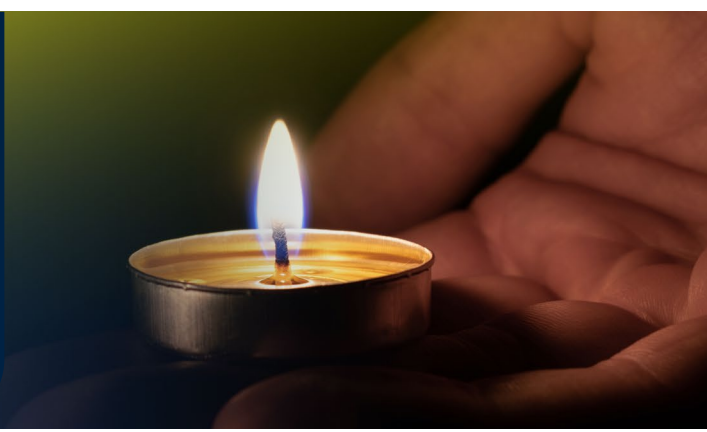
Suggested Teacher Background for the Readings

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



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Monday

Today's Daily Prayer – My sheep listen to my voice.

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 let us gather for prayer. We light a candle to symbolise our belief that where we have gathered in his name, Jesus is here in our midst. *(Pause. A candle may be lit)*

All: Jesus is with us!

Leader:

Let us become aware of our breathing.

Our breath is the gift of life from God and our breath can be a prayer.

Let us close our eyes or look down as we listen to our breathing.

We can slow down our breathing by counting in our minds to three on the *in* breath and then to three on the *out* breath.

Our breath is a gift from God.
Breathe in the peace of God.
Breathe out the peace of God to others.

Let us close our eyes to make the Sign of the Cross slowly and mindfully.
... *(Pause 30 seconds)*

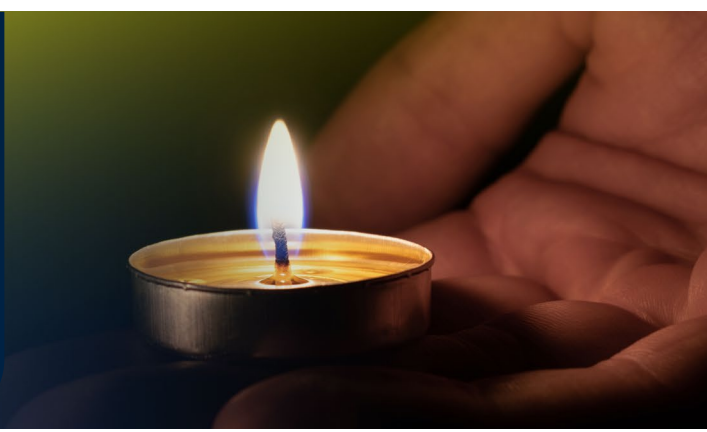


All: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen



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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 Word of God.

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of John. *(Pause)*

Jesus said, 'The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life; they will never be lost, and no one will ever steal them from my hand. The Father, for what he has given me, is greater than anyone, and no one can steal anything from the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

(Pause)

Respond

Lectio Divina

Leader:

Still your body ... feel your feet on the floor ... sit upright in your chair ... slow down your breathing.
(Pause)

Listen to the Gospel, which will be read slowly and reflectively for a second time.

(Ask a reader to read the gospel for a second time, slowly and reverently.)

Notice which words or phrases that are really speaking to you.

Stay with these words and let them sink into your heart ...

What are they saying to you? What meaning do they have in your life? *(Pause)*

Let your heart speak to God and respond in prayer to the words you have been meditating on.

Take time to rest peacefully in the loving presence of God.

Take this word or words with you for the day as a reminder of God's infinite love for you.



Shepherd and sheep. ©David Padfield, and the Lumo Project (CC BY-NC-4.0)
<http://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/shepherds-sheep>



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Go Forth

Leader:

Let us pray for God's blessing. Go in peace.

All: Christ is risen. Alleluia!

Leader:

Christ is risen. Let us go in faith and joy

All: Christ is risen. Alleluia!

Leader:

Gracious God, give us hearts full of faith so we may enter this day full of peace and joy and truly be 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 told us that "with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again."

[Source](#)

Let us go forth this Easter season knowing the risen Lord walks with us.

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 - We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

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.

We light a candle to symbolise our belief that we have gathered in Jesus' name. (*Pause. A candle may be lit.*)

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

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 Fourth Sunday of Easter. Let us prepare ourselves to pray.

(Choose two readers: one to read the main text and one to lead the group in the response.)

Reader 1: We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

All: **We are his people, the sheep of his flock.**

Reader 2: Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Come before him, singing for joy.

All: **We are his people, the sheep of his flock.**

Reader 1: Know that he, the Lord, is God.

He made us, we belong to him.

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

All: **We are his people, the sheep of his flock.**

Reader 2: Indeed, how good is the Lord,

eternal his merciful love.

He is faithful from age to age.

All: **We are his people, the sheep of his flock.**

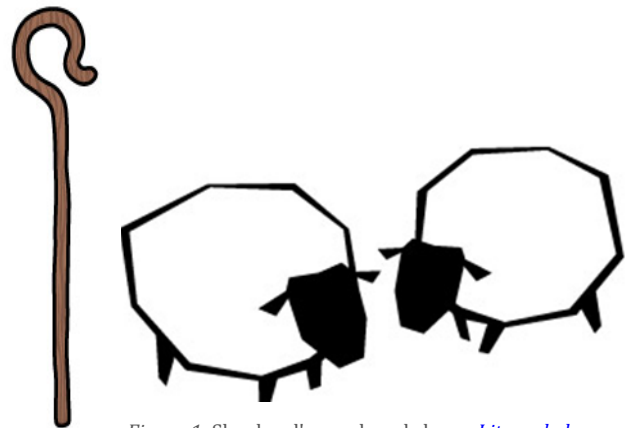
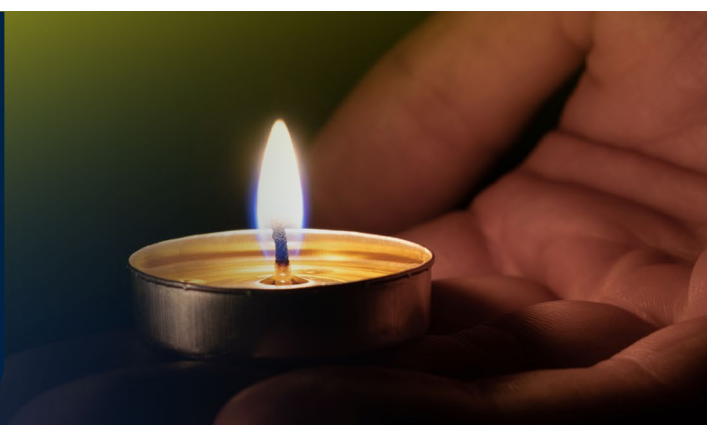


Figure 1: Shepherd's crook and sheep; [Liturgyhelp](#)



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Respond

Leader:

Let us respond by sitting quietly for a few moments with the words of the psalmist ... *(Pause)*

How do these ancient words connect with the experience of your daily life? ... *(Pause)*

Reflect on what you can do this week to share Christ's merciful love with your family and your community. *(Pause)*

Share your response with others present.

Go Forth

Leader:

Merciful Lord, open our hearts so that we may receive your steadfast love.

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

Let us go forth sharing the light of hope and Easter joy 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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Wednesday

Today's Daily Prayer - Christ beside me.

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.

Light candle and pause.

<https://pixabay.com/photos/candle-light-a-candle-light-flame-1750640/>



Leader:

As we light this candle today let us be reminded that the light of Christ burns in us all.

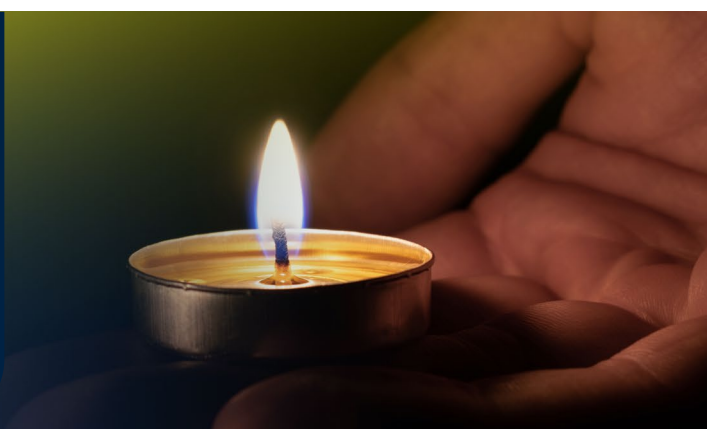
Help us to honour this sacred dignity that we all possess in our words and actions.

May this Easter season be one of renewal and refreshment where God's love and peace flourishes in our community.



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The Sign of the Cross

Leader: I invite you to join me as we make the Sign of the Cross.

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

Listen

Leader: Today we will listen and pray with the prayer of Saint Patrick's Breastplate

Watch

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGHWiAGpIP0>

The words in this prayer calmly reassure us that the risen Christ is present in every dimension of our lives. We are surrounded and protected by the same risen Christ who came back and visited the disciples assuring them of his peace, love and forgiveness.

*The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice.
I know them and they follow me.
I give them eternal life;
they will never be lost.*

Saint Patrick's Breastplate is a powerful way prayer of reminding us to be constantly of aware of Jesus' presence in our lives – to listen to his voice, to follow him – to feel safe and secure in his eternal love.

Respond

Leader:

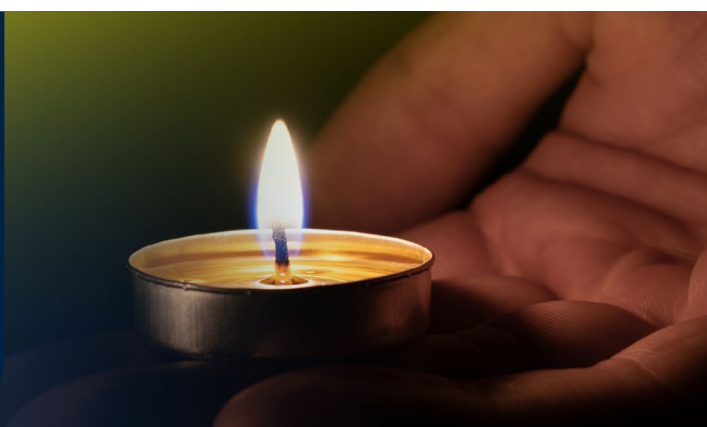
Sit quietly for a moment and reflect on what you heard and saw in the video.
Where do you see Jesus in your daily life?

If comfortable, you are invited to share your response with the person next to you.



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Go Forth

Leader:

Loving God, your generous and abundant love is surrounding us every day.
Thank you for all that you give us. You are always there for us, if we but look.
Help us to open our eyes and to see you beside us before us behind us and may we acknowledge
Your presence in our lives as walk each step of our lives closely with you.
Pope Francis told us that “with the Jubilee, we start a new life, a new phase... we begin again.”

[Source](#)

Let us go forth open to live our lives walking in the light 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.

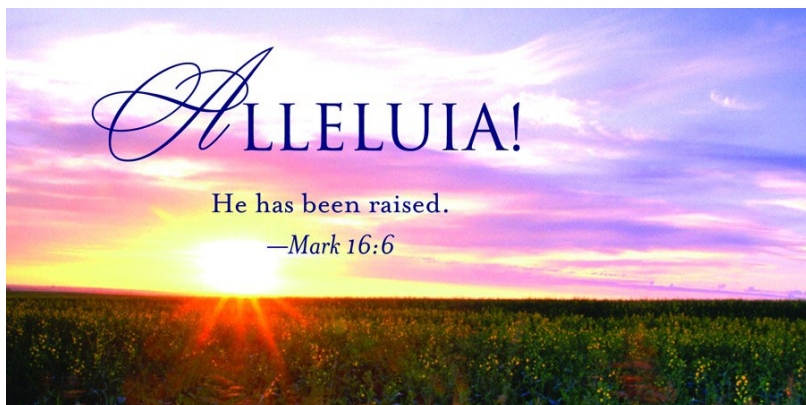
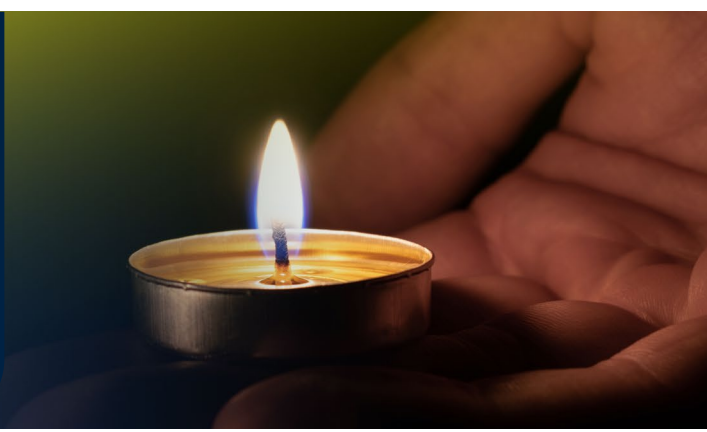


Figure 2: Easter alleluia clipart, http://worldartsme.com/easter-alleluia-clipart.html#gai_post_62945_easter-alleluia-clipart-1.jpg



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Thursday

Today's Daily Prayer – Hunger and thirst no more.

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.

The Sign of the Cross

Leader:

As Easter people 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 be reminded of the eternal light of Christ, the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, Christ, yesterday and 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: In the reading from the Acts of the Apostles for the Fourth Sunday of Easter, we hear the response that God makes to those who practise the works of mercy.

(Pause)

Reader:

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat;
for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

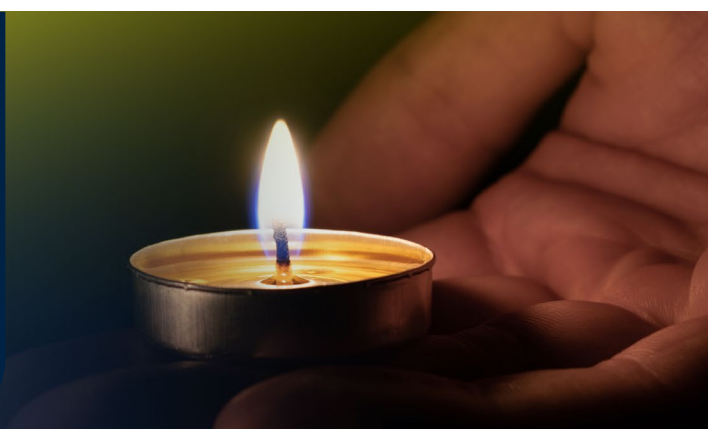
The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God



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Leader:

We will respond with prayers of intercession that reflect the Corporal Works of Mercy.
Merciful God, we come with hearts that are open and trusting. We place our prayers before you.

Reader:

For all who hunger and thirst for nourishment:
May God comfort them in their suffering.
Merciful God, hear us.

All: Merciful God, hear our prayer.

Reader:

For the poor and the homeless:
May God wipe away every tear from their eyes.
Merciful God, hear us.

All: Merciful God, hear our prayer.

Reader:

For all who are sick and in prison:
May God guide them to the springs of the water of life.
Merciful God, hear us.

All: Merciful God, hear our prayer.

Reader:

For all of these prayers and for those
that are deep within our hearts ... *(Pause)*
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.



Figure 3: Jesus appears to the disciples.
<http://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/jesus-appears-disciples/> © Lumo Project. Used with permission. (<http://www.LumoProject.com>)

Go Forth

Leader:

Loving God, we ask for your blessing.
May we go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Alleluia, Alleluia!

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 sharing the Easter light of hope through acts of mercy and kindness to others, especially those in need.

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

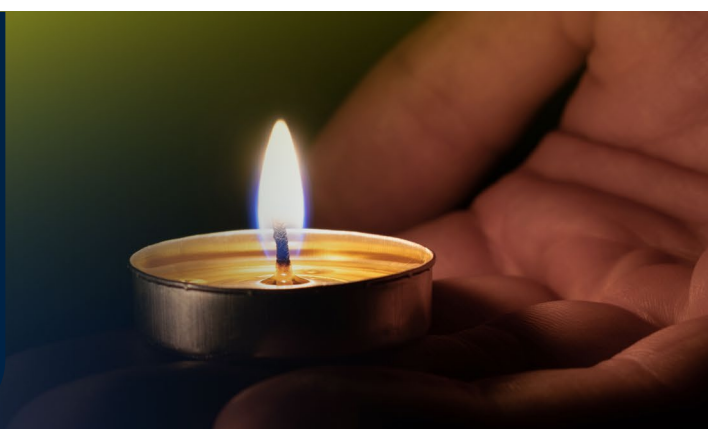
Extinguish candles and pause.

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



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Readings: Acts 13: 14, 43–52; Psalm 99: 1–3, 5; Revelation 7: 9, 14–17; John 10: 27–30.

Friday

Today's Daily Prayer – Alleluia, Alleluia!

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 we come together today to pray as an Easter people let us light the candle remembering that Christ is our eternal light and salvation, always there to show us the way and warm our hearts with God's love.

Light candle and pause.

The Sign of the Cross

Leader:

I invite you to join me as we make the Sign of the Cross and begin our prayer together.

(Pause)

All:

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

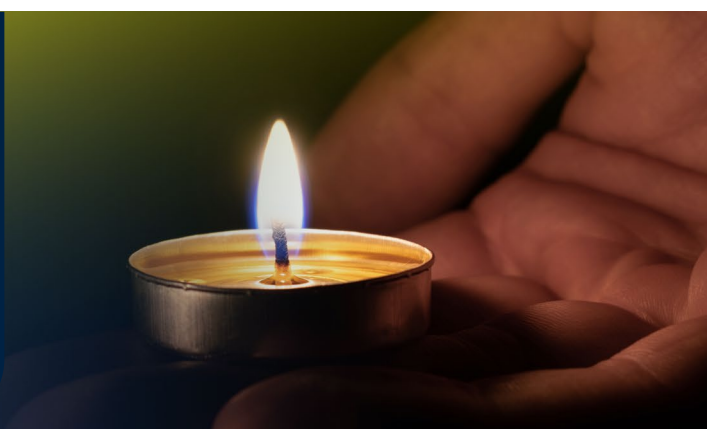


<https://pixabay.com/photos/bible-mercy-love-forgiveness-2422571/>



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Listen

Leader:

Today we will acclaim the Gospel.

Reader:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord.

I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Alleluia

(Pause)

Respond

Leader: We respond by offering each other the sign of peace.

Go Forth

Leader: Let us pray for God's blessing.

May we go in peace.

All: **Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

Leader: Christ is risen indeed!

All: **We will go in faith and joy! Alleluia!**

Leader: Christ will go with us.

All: **Amen! Alleluia!**

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

Let us go forth sharing God's peace and hope 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.**

