

PRAYING DURING THE EASTER SEASON

The followers of Jesus are filled with joy.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let us pause and in joy remember
that our Risen Lord Jesus is here with us. Alleluia!

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I will care for you as My own, says the Lord.

Isaiah 40

Like a shepherd he leads his flock;
in his arms he gathers the lambs,
carrying them in his bosom,
and leading the ewes with care.



John 10: 11-21

I am the Good Shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me, just as God Who sent Me, knows Me and I know God. I lay down My life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold, I must bring them also, and they will listen to My voice. There will be one flock and one shepherd. For this reason God loves Me, because I lay down My life in order to take it up again.

Prayer

Gather together Your sheep, Lord,
in all the places where they have been scattered
during the mist and darkness.
Lead them to good pastures,
let them rest in good grazing ground.
Those who are lost-search out;
those who have strayed-bring back;
those who are wounded-bind their wounds;
those who are sick-cure;
those bearing young-watch over them;
all of Your sheep-keep them safe in Your flock.

Reflection

If we pray and act in the manner of Jesus the Good Shepherd, then we are already coming to a deeper understanding of all of our brothers and sisters, and to more compassion and generosity towards them, and especially towards those who are like lost sheep, those with whom nobody falls in love, and who first need great love, encouragement, and respect before we can expect from them a satisfying response.

(Bernard Haring, *Prayer: The Integration of Faith and Life*)

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Remember My abiding presence, says the Lord.



Luke 24: 35-43

The two companions of Jesus told what had happened on the road and how He had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. While they were talking about this, Jesus Himself, stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at My hands and feet, see that it is I Myself. Touch Me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have." And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He took it and ate it in their presence.

Reflection o Saint John Baptist de La Salle

On this day Jesus Christ enters the upper room where the apostles have gathered after His resurrection.

The doors were all shut to symbolize that all approach to a soul that does not live a renewed life, a life of grace, is closed to all interior action of the Spirit of God and has only human and natural impulses to act. This is the result of blindness of spirit and hardness of heart that sin brings about in us. It makes persons who are quite enlightened about the things of this world lose all understanding of, and all openness to, what concerns God and His service.

Prayer

O God, You call us to the banquet table of Your Eucharist that we may realize our union with You. You overcome our lack of faith with everlasting fidelity. God is our life and our salvation, grant that we may always recognize You in the breaking of the bread and learn again and again the message of Your Christ, that You are a God of love. We ask this in the name of our Risen Savior. Amen.



I will bless you because you do not see but still believe, says the Lord.

John 20: 24 - 29

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, 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, the 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. 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 but yet believe."



Reflection

It is OK to have doubts and to have questions. It is OK to doubt whether there is a God, whether Jesus was truly the Son of God, whether there is a heaven or hell. All of these things are natural and God knows that. Why do people believe? We have not put our finger in the nail holes in Jesus' side and feet. We have not seen him alive from the dead. We have never even seen Him alive before He was crucified. Why then do we believe? Because we have been blessed, our believing is a gift from God. What exactly has Jesus given us? He has given us "eyes to see and ears to hear".

Hymn

We walk by faith and not by sight; no gracious words we hear
of Him Who spoke as none e'er spoke but we believe Him near.

We may not touch His hands and side, nor follow where He trod;
yet in His promise we rejoice, and cry "My Lord and God."

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief, and may our faith abound;
to call on You when You are near, and seek where You are found.

That when our life of faith is done in realms of clearer light;
we may behold You as You are in full and endless sight.

(Marty Haugen, 1984, GIA Publications, Inc.)

Intercessions

**Risen Lord Jesus, we call out Your name in joy;
We are Your people redeemed by Your blood.
Shepherd us, O God, beyond our wants, beyond our fears.**

**Jesus, our Good Shepherd,
You made us, we belong to You;
we are Your people, the sheep of Your pasture.
May we always be attentive to Your word and follow You faithfully.**

Lord Jesus, You came to do the will of the Father,
and in death You were raised up to glory.
Have mercy on those who despair of meaning in life and give us hope.

Compassionate Lord Jesus, You healed, consoled and assured others
in their times of need and trial.
May Your life inspire us to be people of compassion and mercy
to those around us.

Jesus, You are our Light and Promise,
hope of all who believe in You;
Through our daily dying to ourselves
may we transform our lives evermore into Your likeness.

Eucharistic Lord Jesus, You always nourish and sustain us;
May we become more appreciative of Your living among us
and spend time in Your Eucharistic presence.

Glorious Lord Jesus, You rose from the dead
and appeared to Your mother and Your friends.
Bless our families, friends and benefactors
and all who show us Your love and mercy.

The Blessing

May the Lord bless you in your loneliness.
May the Lord console you in your grief.
May the Lord calm you in your anxiety.
May the Lord forgive you in your guilt.
May the Lord be with you in your despair.
May the Lord give you His mercy and peace.
May the Lord fill you with His joy.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Saint John Baptist de La Salle
and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
Fill us with Easter joy as you behold the face of God.

Live Jesus in our hearts. Forever!