

Parish Meeting Prayers

For use in April, 2020

Introduction

Leader Jesus' resurrection from the dead wasn't just a shock for the disciples of Jesus, it is also hard for us to believe. Yet we do. Our faith is rooted in a life that never ends. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Opening Prayer

All God our Father, by raising your son Jesus you opened for us the way to eternal life. Increase our faith in his resurrection so that we proclaim his hope by the way we live each day. We ask this through Jesus in the power of his Spirit. Amen.

Word of God John 20:19-23

Reader A reading from the Gospel of John (Pause for silent reflection)

Optional: Discuss these questions in two's or three's. *The reading is on the reverse side*

1. What experiences have increased your faith in the peace that Jesus brings?
2. Jesus breathed on his disciples to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. When have you received an awareness of the gift of the Holy Spirit?

Response (From John 20:19-23)

Side 1 Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

Side 2 Let us celebrate the gift of peace that Jesus has given us through his Spirit dwelling within each of us.

Side 1 "As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

Side 2 We renew our commitment to continue Jesus' works of love and forgiveness.

Side 1 "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Side 2 May we live out Jesus' command to forgive one another just as he has forgiven us.

Petitions Individuals add intentions to remember here.

Closing Prayer

All Alleluia! "The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes." Alleluia!

John 20: 19-23

On the evening of that first day of the week,
 when the doors were locked where the disciples were,
 for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them,
 “Peace be with you.”

When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side.
The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again,
 “Peace be with you.
 As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,
 “Receive the Holy Spirit.
 Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them,
 and whose sins you retain are retained.”