



## Homegroups Online

29th April 2020

### *Bless the Lord O my soul*

*At a time of isolation these online gatherings are precious.  
Online groups work best when one person speaks at a time.  
Perhaps before you start, nominate one person for each  
prayer or reading, and mute your microphone when not  
speaking.*

### A prayer of St Benedict

O gracious and holy Father,  
give us wisdom to perceive you,  
diligence to seek you,  
patience to wait for you,  
eyes to behold you,  
a heart to meditate upon you,  
and a life to proclaim you,  
through the power of the spirit  
of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

### Opening Prayer

Blessed are you, Lord God of our salvation,  
to you be praise and glory for ever.  
As once you ransomed your people from Egypt  
and led them to freedom in the promised land,  
so now you have delivered us from the dominion of  
darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of your risen Son.  
May we, the first fruits of your new creation,  
rejoice in this new day you have made,  
and praise you for your mighty acts.  
Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

### Greeting.

*Each person can in turn introduce themselves, and say  
where they are now and briefly describe how your day has  
been.*

### Gathering Silence

That this evening may be holy, good and peaceful,  
let us pray with one heart and mind.

*Silence is kept.*

As our evening prayer rises before you, O God,  
so may your mercy come down upon us  
to cleanse our hearts  
and set us free to sing your praise  
now and for ever.

**Amen**

### The Easter Anthems

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us:  
so let us celebrate the feast,  
not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness:  
but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.  
Christ once raised from the dead dies no more:  
death has no more dominion over him.  
In dying he died to sin once for all:  
in living he lives to God.  
See yourselves therefore as dead to sin:  
and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Christ has been raised from the dead:  
the first fruits of those who sleep.  
For as by man came death:  
by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;  
for as in Adam all die:  
even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

### 1 Corinthians 15

Death is swallowed up in victory.  
Where, O death, is your sting?  
Christ is risen from the dead,  
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.  
The trumpet will sound  
and the dead shall be raised.  
We shall not all sleep,  
but we shall be changed.  
Death is swallowed up in victory.  
Where, O death, is your sting?

### Reading - Psalm 103

1 Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.  
2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his  
benefits  
3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your  
diseases,  
4 who redeems your life from the Pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,  
5 who satisfies you with good as long as you live  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.  
6 The Lord works vindication  
and justice for all who are oppressed.  
7 He made known his ways to Moses,  
his acts to the people of Israel.  
8 The Lord is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
9 He will not always accuse,  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.  
10 He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

11 For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear  
him;  
12 as far as the east is from the west,  
so far he removes our transgressions from us.  
13 As a father has compassion for his children,  
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear  
him.  
14 For he knows how we were made;  
he remembers that we are dust.  
15 As for mortals, their days are like grass;  
they flourish like a flower of the field;  
16 for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,  
and its place knows it no more.  
17 But the steadfast love of the Lord is from  
everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,  
and his righteousness to children's children,  
Bless the Lord, O my soul.

*Take turns saying what strikes you in this passage, and  
what questions you have. What do you need to remember  
to bless the Lord for?*

## Prayers

*Give each person a chance to speak about their anxieties,  
and anything they would like prayer for.*

## Collect for the Day

Almighty Father,  
who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples  
with the sight of the risen Lord:  
give us such knowledge of his presence with us,  
that we may be strengthened and sustained by his  
risen life and serve you continually in righteousness  
and truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
Amen.

## The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

## Closing Prayer

*St Patrick's Breastplate*

Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me.  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in the words of friend and stranger.

**Amen**