

EXPANDED EDITION

for Sunday or midweek online worship gatherings

**A Sacred Meal for a Dispersed Community available to the
Church of New Hampshire
Eastertide 2021**

Acknowledging that we are not in the same physical space in the same way that Jesus gathered in the Upper Room with his disciples on the night before he suffered, we come together nonetheless via online technology. We do so out of the spiritual yearning for closeness expressed by our Savior who said, "I have eagerly desired to share this Passover with you before I suffer." (Luke 22:15)

Participants are invited to have a candle and ceremonial food prepared and laid out on a table. Bread could be flatbread, crackers or challah; drink could be wine, grape juice, cider, water.

This service may be led by a priest, deacon or lay worship leader.

Opening Sentences *(Participants are invited to light a candle here if they choose)*

On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it. *(Psalm 118:24)*

Leader: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Confession of Sin

(From Inga Abbey Worship Book)

Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty.

Silence may be kept.

Leader: Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness: to the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

People: May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

Leader: Amen.

People: Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness: to the ways I wound my life, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

Leader: May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

People: Amen.

or this *(From the Book of Common Prayer)*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The leader says

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

A deacon or lay person using the preceding form substitutes "us" for "you" and "our" for "your."

Collect of the Day

Hymn or Song of Praise

Taize music and songs about light might be particularly appropriate. Worship music created by music directors from NH churches can be found by going to <https://www.nhepiscopal.org/worship-liturgy> or NH Episcopal YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/c/NHEpiscopal>, check back often as content is updated frequently.

The Word of the Lord

(from the lectionary for the day)

Scripture Readings *(can be found here: https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/daily_readings_anytime.php)*

Homily

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

Prayers *(Suggested Weekly Prayers - See Appendix below)*

Collect

Agape Meal

Reading: Luke 22:14-20

When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table. And he said to them, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. For I tell you, I will not eat it again until it finds fulfillment in the kingdom of God." After taking the cup, he

gave thanks and said, "Take this and divide it among you. For I tell you I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes."

The Leader now offers the following prayers.

Prayer for Bread

Leader: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Creator of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth; you have fed us with the bread of life in the Body of your Son. Feed us now with your presence among us and your presence in your Word. As grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

Prayer for Drink

Leader: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Creator of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine; and you refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of Jesus Christ, crucified yet risen. May the time come quickly when we can share that cup again, even as you are with us now in our very thirst for you. Glory to you for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

If you are having a full meal following this service, you may bless the food with this prayer:

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Leader: Jesus said, "When two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there among them.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Participants now eat their food and drink their drink)

Hymn *(Optional music here while people eating and drinking)*

Closing Prayer:

(From Iona Abbey Worship Book)

All: O God of life, of all life and of each life,
we lay our lives before you;
we give our lives to you
from whom nothing in us is hidden.

You are before us, God, you are behind.
You are around us, God, you are within.

O God of life, O generous Spirit,
renew us with your life,
tonight, tomorrow and always. Amen.

or this (From the Book of Common Prayer)

The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Blessing

Dismissal

Leader: Let us bless the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Appendix I - Prayers of the People (for Eastertide):

- Suggestion 1 -

Prayers of the People Great Fifty Days of Easter

These prayers are adapted from a version used by St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Evanston, IL

Rejoicing in the mighty acts of God who has delivered us from sin and death through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Let us lift our voices and pray,

Leader: Risen Lord,

People: Hear our Prayer.

Let us give thanks to God for the multitude of blessings showered upon us:

For our lives and for those whom we love,

For the beauty of this home God has created,

For our families and our friendships,

That each of these blessings may become a gift of service in Christ's name,

Let us pray to the God of Life.

Leader: Risen Lord,

People: Hear our Prayer.

Let us pray for the Church, that it may carry forward the redemptive works of God:

For the many lay people who serve the church,

For our clergy and bishops,

And for all who serve the world through the church.

For all those who gather in worship and prayer.

Leader: Risen Lord,

People: Hear our Prayer.

Let us pray for all the baptized, especially the newly baptized, that the joy of Easter may ever grow within them, and that the Spirit may guide them in lives of active faith.

Leader: Risen Lord,

People: Hear our Prayer.

Let us pray for the nations and peoples of the world, that the powers that oppress and destroy may be transformed through loving action, And that justice, peace, and prosperity be lifted up.

Leader: Risen Lord,

People: Hear our Prayer.

Let us pray for those who are sick, those who suffer, those who struggle: and who have died especially during this pandemic time:

That the hope born of the Resurrection of Christ be a gift of peace, acceptance and renewal, And that through their struggles they may come into closer communion with the God who redeems and restores.

Leader: Risen Lord,

People: Hear our Prayer.

The leader adds a concluding collect.

- Suggestion 2 -

Litany

Leader: We gather today, with a desire to know your Presence among us.

People: On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it. *(Ps. 118:24)*

Leader: Surrounded by illness, your presence is with us as we mourn our dead;

People: On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: We know our loneliness and discomfort are held in your loving hands;

People: On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: We cannot see the way that lies ahead;

People: On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: Yet, we know you make a way in the Wilderness;

People: On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Leader: Assure us that you are doing a new thing among us through the resurrection of your son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

People: On this day the Lord has acted; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

(Perhaps a final collect including the opportunity to pray for particular persons, and express thanksgivings)

- Suggestion 3 -

Suffrages B, Morning Prayer, Rite II, BCP 98:

- V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;
- R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.**
- V. Day by day we bless you;
- R. We praise your name for ever.**
- V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;
- R. Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.**
- V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;
- R. For we put our trust in you.**
- V. In you, Lord, is our hope;
- R. And we shall never hope in vain.**

The Officiant then says one or more of the following Collect