

Easter Week 1
Monday

Morning

Intro

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Welcome to the practice of the daily office.

Silence

Easter is a reminder that God is in the business of finding what is lost, fixing what is broken, and bringing life from death. This is certainly a helpful reminder in this season of uncertainty. In this first week of Easter, let's ground ourselves in the presence of the risen Lord as we pause in the morning, midday, and evening for silence, scripture, and prayer.

Let's begin in silence.

Take a deep breath.

Remember, right now, you are in God's loving presence.

Psalm 139 says tells us there is no place we can go to escape God's loving presence.

Take another deep breath.

God is closer than the air we breathe.

Take two minutes of silence now to rest in the presence of the Lord.

Scripture

Now, I invite you to read the Word of God from John 20:19-23.

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Listen to this passage again. Is there a word or a phrase that stands out? Is the Holy Spirit drawing to your attention any particular part of this passage?

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Consider what God has for you in this passage. Listen to the Lord. Take a moment to reflect on what is God saying to you in this text today.

Now take a moment and respond to God in prayer.

Lord, breath on us today. May we know your presence and receive the peace of your Holy Spirit. Amen

Mid-day

Silence

We pause now in mid-day. Perhaps much has happened already today, or maybe the day has begun slowly. However, this day is unfolding. Let us begin our mid-day prayer in silence. Take a deep breath. Remembering what Paul says, "In God we live and move and have our being."

Take another deep breath.

Take two minutes of silence now to rest in the presence of the Lord.

Midday Prayer

I invite you to pray this prayer written by Walter Brueggemann.

Christ is risen!

We give thanks for the gift of Easter
that runs beyond our expectations,
beyond our categories of reason,
even more, beyond the sinking sense of our own lives.

We know about the powers of death,
powers that persist among us,
powers that drive us from you, and
from our neighbor, and
from our best selves.

We know about the powers of fear and greed and anxiety,
and brutality and certitude.
powers before which we are helpless.

And then you – you at dawn, unquenched,
you in the darkness,
you on Saturday,
you who breaks the world to joy.

Yours is the kingdom...not the kingdom of death,
Yours is the power...not the power of death,
Yours is the glory...not the glory of death.
And we give thanks
for this newness beyond our achieving.
Amen.

Evening

Silence

This evening we pause once again to recognize and rest in the loving presence of God. Take a deep breath.

In Matthew 28, Jesus promised, “surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Take another deep breath.

Take two minutes of silence now to rest in the presence of the Lord.

Resurrection Prayer

Easter is a reminder that our God delights in redeeming what was lost, restoring what is broken, bringing life from death. Tonight, would you consider where you long for new life. What area of your life feels broken, in need of resurrection?

Perhaps it is some struggle.

Is there a need for healing someplace in your life?

Maybe there is a broken relationship.

Do you live with regret over something in your past, or are you anxious for the future?

Pause now and consider, where are you longing for new life?

Would you take a moment and share your desire with God? Talk and listen. Have a conversation with the Lord now.

God, thank you for your gift of new life. May we live in the joy of resurrection. May we know your presence, and may we rest in the peace of your Holy Spirit tonight. Amen.