

Thursday

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 listen with me to the Word of God.

Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

Again Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Take care of my sheep."

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you

and lead you where you do not want to go.” Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

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.