

## PRAYERS AND READINGS FOR 7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

In the name of the Father + and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### INTRODUCTION

*Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, for forty days we have been celebrating with joyful hearts the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, his bursting from the tomb and his defeat of the power of sin and death. He appeared to his disciples many times and told them about the kingdom of God.*

*Today we recall how he left this earth and returned to his Father, ascending into heaven to take his throne over all dominions and powers. Seeing we have a great high priest who has passed through the heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us offer him the praise worthy of his name:*

### GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.*

Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.*

We worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.*

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.*

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.

*Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.*

Amen.

[This setting written by Andrew Parnell  
for St Alban's Abbey, 24th June 2006]

Let us pray that our risen and ascended Lord will lead us to eternal life:

O God the King of glory,  
who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ  
with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven:  
we beseech thee, leave us not comfortless,  
but send to us thine Holy Spirit to comfort us  
and exalt us unto the same place  
whither our Saviour Christ is gone before;  
who liveth and reigneth with thee,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

ACTS 1:6-14

So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven?



Father of the fatherless, defender of widows, God in his holy habitation! God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners to songs of welcome, but the rebellious inhabit a burning desert. *Sing to God, sing praises to his name!*

O God, when you went forth before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, The earth shook and the heavens dropped down rain, at the presence of God, the Lord of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel.  
*Sing to God, sing praises to his name!*

You sent down a gracious rain, O God; you refreshed your inheritance when it was weary. Your people came to dwell there; in your goodness, O God, you provide for the poor.  
*Sing to God, sing praises to his name!*

Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth; make music in praise of the Lord; He rides on the ancient heaven of heavens and sends forth his voice, a mighty voice.  
*Sing to God, sing praises to his name!*

Ascribe power to God, whose splendour is over Israel, whose power is above the clouds. How terrible is God in his holy sanctuary, the God of Israel, who gives power and strength to his people! *Sing to God, sing praises to his name!*

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

*HOMILY*

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION*

On this day that the Lord has made  
let us give God the glory  
and pray for the people he has redeemed....

...So make us worthy of everlasting joy  
in the fellowship of Blessed Mary,  
St John the Baptist and all the saints  
in the glory of the kingdom,  
where you live and reign,  
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Looking for the coming of his kingdom,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is  
in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And  
forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who  
trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the  
power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*NOTICES*

## BLESSING

God the Father,  
who has given to his Son the name above every name,  
strengthen you to proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord.

God the Son,  
who is our great high priest passed into the heavens,  
plead for you at the right hand of the Father.

God the Holy Spirit,  
who pours out his abundant gifts upon the Church,  
make you faithful servants of Christ our King.

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

Waiting expectantly for the promised Holy Spirit,  
go in the peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

*ALLELUIA, SING TO JESUS!*

*recorded remotely by the Choral Scholars of St Martin-in-the-Fields  
in their homes, and edited together.*



1     *Alleluia, sing the Jesus!*  
*His the sceptre, his the throne;*  
          *alleluia, his the triumph,*  
          *his the victory alone:*  
*hark, the songs of peaceful Sion*  
          *thunder like a mighty flood;*  
          *Jesus out of every nation*  
*hath redeemed us by his blood.*

2     *Alleluia, not as orphans*  
          *are we left in sorrow now;*  
          *alleluia, he is near us,*  
*faith believes, nor questions how:*  
*though the cloud from sight received him,*  
          *when the forty days were o'er,*  
*shall our hearts forget his promised,*  
          *'I am with you evermore'?*

3     *Alleluia, bread of angels,*  
*thou on earth our food, our stay;*  
          *alleluia, here the sinful*  
          *flee to thee from day to day:*  
          *Intercessor, Friend of sinners,*  
          *earth's Redeemer, plead for me,*  
*where the songs of all the sinless*  
          *sweep across the crystal sea.*

4 Alleluia, King eternal,  
thee the Lord of lords we own;  
alleluia, born of May,  
earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne,  
thou within the veil hast entered,  
robed in flesh, our great High Priest:  
thou on earth both Priest and Victim  
in the Eucharistic feast.

William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

Tune: HYFRYDOL

*Dix's father was James Dix, a surgeon with literary interests, whose publications included a life of the poet Thomas Chatterton (1752-1770), after whom he named his son. William attended Bristol Grammar School: after a commercial training, he became the manager of a marine insurance firm in Glasgow. On retirement, he returned to south west England, where he lived at Cheddar.*

*Dix was a prolific writer of hymns and devotional works. In early life he sang in the choir of St Raphael's, Bristol, a church opened in 1859. It was for St Raphael's that he wrote his first hymn collection, *Hymns of Love and Joy* (1859). This included the Epiphany hymn 'As with gladness men of old', which, like several of Dix's religious works, was written during a period of ill-health. Collections of hymns and poetry by Dix included *Altar Songs, Verses on the Holy Eucharist* (1867), in which 'Alleluia! sing to Jesus' was first published. 'As with gladness, men of old' was included in the *First Edition of Hymns Ancient & Modern* (1861) and 'To thee, O Lord, our hearts we raise' is a standard hymn for harvest.*

*Dix also rendered existing translations of several Greek and Ethiopian hymns into English verse.*

*Alleluia, Sing to Jesus, was included in the Appendix (1868) to the First Edition of Hymns Ancient & Modern, with the tune ALLELUIA, specifically written for it by Samuel Sebastian Wesley (click here to compare - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ca5m9V7OEFE>). It has also been closely associated with HYFRYDOL since being set to that tune in The English Hymnal (1906). Since its original publication the hymn has appeared in over forty hymnals. The first verse was originally repeated at the end.*

*It is modelled on the Alleluia hymns of ancient liturgies and breviaries, but is far more than a simple hymn of triumph. Interwoven with the cries of acclamation which begin the first and third lines of each stanza are lines expressing the significance of the Redemption, the Ascension, the power of faith and the Eucharist. Specific biblical sources include Mark 16:19 and Luke 24:49-53, which refer to the Ascension, Hebrews 3-9, which discusses Christ as High Priest, and Revelation 4:6-11 and 5:9, which relate to the worshippers around the throne and the redemption by Christ's blood. Christ's promise to remain with his followers comes from Matthew 28:20 and the phrase 'living bread' is from John 6:50-51.*

*Extracted from Sheila Doyle. "William Chatterton Dix." The Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology. Canterbury Press. Web. 23 May. 2020.<<http://www.hymnology.co.uk/w/william-chatterton-dix>>.*

Extracted from "Sheila Doyle. "Alleluia! sing to Jesus." The Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology. Canterbury Press. Web. 23 May. 2020.<http://www.hymnology.co.uk/a/alleluia!-sing-to-jesus>

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