

Easter ~ ABC

(At the Easter Vigil) In the radiant splendor of this most holy night, let us pray to the God whose mighty deeds we have seen in the deliverance of God's people through the resurrection of Jesus Christ saying: *Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.*

(On Easter Day) On this day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad as we pray to the God who raised Jesus from the dead, saying: *Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the Church, especially Michael our Presiding Bishop and Kevin our bishop, that we may be signs of Christ's light for all who have lived in darkness, of hope for all who know pain and suffering, and of love for all who have been rejected. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For this parish family, gathered to eat and drink with the Risen Lord, that we may be strong in faith, confident in hope, and abounding with love for God and neighbor. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For the newly baptized, that they may always keep the light of Christ burning in their lives. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For all those who live in places of war, violence and unrest, that with all God's people they may live in freedom and safety. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For all who suffer in body, mind or spirit, remembering especially that they may encounter the Risen Lord who brings hope and healing. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

For those who have died, remembering especially..... that they may live forever with Christ in the glory of the resurrection. ***Alleluia! Lord, hear our prayer.***

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Mary the God-bearer and all the saints who have borne witness to the Risen Christ, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. ***Alleluia! To you, O Lord, we give praise and glory.***

Celebrant: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light: hear the prayers we offer in the hope of eternal glory and grant that we who have received new life in baptism may live forever in the joy of the resurrection. Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God, now and always, and unto the ages of ages. ***AMEN.***

Some Easter Customs

The Great Fifty Days begins with Easter Day and concludes on the Day of Pentecost.

The seven weeks that span the time between Jesus' resurrection and the sending of

the Spirit are sometimes called “a week of weeks.” Historically this was also the time when all the mysteries of the Christian faith were revealed to the newly baptized. During this time the lectionary texts help us explore the mysteries of faith expressed in sacrament, word, and life lived for others.

The Easter Greeting “*Alleluia! Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!*” is used at the beginning of all liturgies and before the sermon.

Alleluia (from the Hebrew *Halleluya* for “praise God”) is restored to the liturgy and is used frequently as a superlative expression of triumph, thanksgiving and joy.

The Paschal Candle symbolizing the light of the Risen Christ burns at all services through the Day of Pentecost.

Christ Our Passover (*the Easter Canticle, BCP, p. 83*) may be used as the Invitatory Canticle at Morning Prayer and as the Hymn of Praise at the Eucharist. (*WLP 880* is a metrical version to a familiar tune)

The Penitential Order may be omitted.

Standing for Prayer was the universal position for prayer until late in the Middle Ages. The Council of Nicea (*AD 325*) forbade kneeling for prayer on Sundays and during the Great Fifty Days of Easter