

During this time, we aren't able to hold services in our church buildings, or open them for private prayer. But we can stay united through our Bible reading and prayers at home, following together the progress of the Church's year. On this day – often called Passion Sunday – we start to think in a more focused way on Jesus's journey to the Cross.

*We begin this Passion season with this assurance that beyond Good Friday there will be Easter – Jesus declares 'I am the resurrection and the life'.*

*Part of John 11*

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.

Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.'

Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.'

26 March 2020

Almighty God, you bring your chosen people together in one communion, in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. We rejoice in your light and your peace with your whole Church in heaven and on earth.

*Lord of mercy, Lord, hear us.*

Give your faithful people pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve you with a quiet mind.

*Lord of mercy, Lord, hear us.*

Give us strength to meet the days and years ahead in the joyful expectation of eternal life.

*Lord of mercy, Lord, hear us.*

Give to us who are still in our pilgrimage, and who walk as yet by faith, your Holy Spirit to lead us in holiness and righteousness all our days.

*Lord of mercy, Lord, hear us.*

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross, we may triumph in the power of his victory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.